

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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The Epiphany of the Lord 5th January 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)



*“We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord”*

Bright Morning Star, your light has come, and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago, may we be drawn to you and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 4 th	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	Saturday before the Epiphany
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (Blessing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	The Epiphany of the Lord
Sun 5 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 6 th	No Mass today		Monday after the Epiphany
Tue 7 th	9.30am	Special intention	Tuesday after the Epiphany
Wed 8 th	9.30am	Monica Summerville	Wednesday after the Epiphany
Thu 9 th	9.30am	Marie Spicer	Thursday after the Epiphany
Fri 10 th	10.30am	Requiem Mass: James Ormisher	Friday after the Epiphany
Sat 11 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	Saturday after the Epiphany
	6.00pm	For the Parish	The Baptism of the Lord
Sun 12 th	9.30am	Jean Dowse	

First Saturday of the month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 4 th		G Hopkinson		P Cook		Not open
Sun 5 th		R Conboy		S Schofield		Not open
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 11 th		G Kellett		J Hothersall		Not open
Sun 12 th		B Cook		M Gardner		Not open
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	

Last weekend – attendance: 109, collection £577.57 – thank you!

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

What light and why did it need to come?

It needed to come because of the *thick darkness that covered the earth and its peoples.*

The darkness of unbelief, the darkness of despair ... that life has no purpose or that God has deserted his people. A darkness that blots out all sense of hope; for what is a life lived without hope?

Humanity was deeply in need of something that would shed light on the meaning of life: why do I exist when I might not have done; why does anything exist when it might not have done ... what is the purpose of **my** life ... of **my** existence?

These are age-old questions that have beset humanity for as long as humanity has been able to reflect upon its existence ... that is to say ... not only to *know*, but to know that it knows.

Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the only one who can shed his light upon those questions, for in him lies the ultimate answer to the ultimate questions of *why anything rather than nothing.*

The Magi represent all who seek the truth and they could not contain their joy when the star led them to that truth ... to the one who would describe himself as the *Way* the *Truth* and the *Life*.

They fall upon their knees and worship him because, as Pope Francis reflects: worship is an act of love that changes lives. He adds that their gifts of gold tell him (the Christ Child) that nothing is more precious than he is. The ascending smoke of the incense: that only in union with him can our lives rise up to heaven, and that the balm of the myrrh reminds us of his presence in the marginalized and suffering.

The light that drew the Magi to itself is the same light that draws you and me too and will continue to draw all who seek an answer to the mystery that is existence and life.

I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark any longer. (Jn 12:46)

So, on this, the feast of the *Epiphany*, let us follow the example of the Magi and lay our most precious gift before the Christ Child ... the gift of a heart, open to receiving and giving his love.

Reflections

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. (St Francis de Sales)

With prayers and blessings for the New Year.

Fr Raphael.

MASS ON FRIDAY is at **10.30am** – Requiem Mass for James Ormisher.

FOODBANK COLLECTIONS 2025 – there is a list at the back of church with dates for this year – please sign up if you can help. Thank you!

THERE IS A 'FOXTON BOX' AT THE BACK OF CHURCH for any donations of items such as hats, scarves, toiletries or sleeping bags. They will be taken down to the Foxton Centre on a regular basis. It will make a real difference to peoples' lives and, given that the average age of people without a home or roof is 43 years, you may even begin to help change that.

The first **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME MEETING** is **THIS THURSDAY, 9th January**, at 6.00pm in the Parish Room.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION opens on 13th January and is available until 17th March. More details at: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/confirmation-programme>.

PLEASE PRAY for John Towers, Mary Griffin and James Ormisher who have died, for those who are sick or housebound including Alan Thompson, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 4 is number 1, Joan and Peter Kitchen.

The new year for the club has started so subs are now due. You can pay for the full year (£50) or in blocks of 10 weeks (£10, 5 times over the year). Payment can be by cash, cheque (payable to Brindle Books) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer – see Lesley or Mick for the account details. New members are always welcome – again, please see Lesley or Mick or leave your name and contact details in the bookshop with your subs.

BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY – limited places available. Open 8.30am-3.30pm. 15 & 30 hour government funding for 3 & 4 year olds accepted. All local primary schools served. Contact: 07956242409 or email nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk.

DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE we are asked to pray for Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

TEA AND COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday mornings. Please come along – you'll be very welcome.

Bidding Prayers for the Feast of the Epiphany 2025

PRIEST: Father, on this day, you revealed your divine Son as the Saviour of all people. We ask you to hear the prayers we make in faith.

READER: Let us pray for the Church – that, like the Star of Bethlehem, she may be a light that draws people to Christ. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for the victims of war and famine and hope that peace and justice will eventually reign throughout the world. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for our world suffering from the effects of climate change. May all of us try to help in small ways to lessen this. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for our Parish Community – that we may have the faith and humility of the Wise Men to seek and follow Jesus in our daily lives. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for ourselves. We ask the Lord to help and guide us in the New Year. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the sick, elderly and housebound of our parish, for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur around this time. Lord in your mercy...

Let us ask Mary to join her prayers with ours as we say together: Hail Mary...

Let us now pray in silence for our own intentions.

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.