

**THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF HEREFORD,
HR4 8QS AND
ST.BEDE THE VEN. KINGTON, HR5 3DW
URGENT PRAYERS**

THE LORD'S EPIPHANY



THE PARISH

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The Website:www.thomasandbede.com **Go to the
website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now
manages the website (01568.708723).**
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NEW Zoom ID 356 505 3411. Passcode: x55Ftu

SERVICES

Sat. Jan.03 Mass of THE EPIPHANY K'ton 6.00
Sun. 04 Churches Together Epiphany celeb.
Weobley Methodist Ch. 9.30am.
MASS OF THE EPIPHANY 11.00
Int. Catharine Williams R.I.P.
Mon. 05 Mass 10.00 Weob. St.Thomas Becket
Tue. 06 Feast of Epiphany. Mass, Weob. 10.00
Wed. 07 Mass of Octave. K'ton. 10.30
Thu. 08 NO Mass
Fri. 09 Mass, Weob. 3.00
Sat. 10 Mass of the Lord's Baptism
Sun 11 THE LORD'S BAPTISM.

N.B. The actual feast of the Epiphany is Tuesday
January 6th but as it is such an important feast, I
am celebrating it on the preceding WEEKEND.
I will also celebrate it on Tuesday Jan. 6th.

URGENT PRAYERS

For all the people killed or injured in the fire in the
dance hall in Gstaad, Switzerland.

For a miracle in Ukraine to save the country for its
people.

That the peace initiative brokered by Pres. Trump
for Gaza and Israel will hold.

For the immediate release of remaining Israeli
Hostages. That the political leaders of Israel and
members of Hamas will begin to obey God's fifth
commandment: "Thou shalt not kill". For the
survival of Gaza and the native Palestinians and
that these peoples may have the right to decide
their own future,

For the people in Hong Kong caught up in the
terrible fires.

That our young people will be drawn away from
every kind of crime and violence, and drawn to a
commitment to good deeds.

PARISH INTENTIONS

For those in our parish or known to us who are
sick or in need of special prayers: John & Vicky
Tanner, Graham Vaughan, Melita Denaro, Vivian
Brooke, Claire Burrows, Sarah Murkin, Roger Nichols,
Bill Davies, Kath Morgan, Tricia Carter, Louise
Wright, Kim Williams, Frank McNally, Brian
Tanswell, Bob Best..

For parishioners, relatives and friends recently
dead: Roger Kerrigan,

We remember those of our parish whose annivers-
aries occur at this time: Raymond Doherty (Sa.'73).,
Jan Dragosz (Sa.2006), Millie Coyne (nee Powell)
(S.), Joseph Cury (S.'68), Myfanwy Edwards (M.),
Mary Teresa Ryde (WE.2008), Elizabeth Kerr
(W.2018), Hugh Giblin (F.'91), Emily Kerrigan (F.),
John Elliot-Smith (F.), Diana Hamilton-Gardiner
(Sa.'72), Samuel Cochrane (Sa.'92).

For King Charles III and Queen Camilla. May
they always set the highest standards of leadership
for our country. For Andrew Mountbatten-Winsor
that he may find a new life of grace. We also pray
for our government, especially our Prime Minister,
Sir Keir Starmer and his cabinet. May they govern
with integrity following the religious beliefs and
social needs of our country. And we pray for the
leaders of all the other countries of the world,
esp.President Zelenski of Ukraine and conversion
of the Russian leaders.

PARISH BIBLE READING GROUP (*lectio divina*)

Will restart this week on Wednesday Jan. 7th.

2.00pm in the Parish Room, Weobley.

Contact Andy Palfreman

(palfremanandy@gmail.com) or see Fr. Simon

SERMONETTE FOR THE LORD'S EPIPHANY Year B.

EPIPHANY is from a Greek word meaning 'to shine out'. The season of Christmas is a two-part celebration. Firstly there comes the humble and lowly birth in the stable of a hotel in Bethlehem, attended only by mother and father and a few shepherds with possibly a few animals. This is Luke's portrayal of how our salvation began. Secondly, there is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, that this child will be manifested to the whole world for he is to be the saviour of the world. This is Matthew's portrayal of the beginning of our salvation, that all nations will come to the saviour.

FIRST READING: from the prophecy of Isaiah (Ch.60, vv.1-6)

God always brings light out of darkness, good out of evil. The prophet tells of a light shining over the earth which was not there before. Over darkness will shine a great light. This light is to lead the way for the gentiles to come to the saviour, for salvation is not just for the Jews, as they had always thought. This is a truly revolutionary text. "Lift up your eyes" and see all the peoples coming towards you.

Our Responsorial Psalm echoes this prophecy, telling us that "all nations will fall prostrate before the Lord." This the beginning of a new age.

SECOND READING: from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. (Ch.3. vv.2-6)

Here is Paul, a former Pharisee and strict Jew, preaching about God's grace (a key word with Paul) or God's free gift making known the mystery of God's free love being made known to the Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. Now it is made known to the Gentiles (imagine!) so that they (we) may become partakers of God's promise to the Jews now fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: from the Gospel of Matthew. (Ch.2, vv.1-12)

Here we have Matthew's account of what Luke has told us of the birth of the Christ. It is very different. For Matthew is a Jew and he has come to see Christ's birth as the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies, notably that of Isaiah which we have just heard. The story is embellished with the sinister politics of the time involving the thern political king, Herod Agrippa, a puppet Jewish king put in place by the Romans to keep the Jews quiet. Herod is deeply insecure, threatened by the Romans if he does not keep law and order, threatened by his own Jewish people many of whom were seething with disquiet and every kind of religious faction.

STOP PRESS: Coming up.

VERY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO GAVE ME CARDS AND GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS. AS USUAL, YOUR GENEROSITY WAS OVERWHELMING. YOUR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION CAME TO A GENEROUS £542.42.

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK OVER NEW YEAR. Lots of cold, underfed people around).

START YOUR DAY WITH MILLIONS THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD WITH "PRAYER OF THE CHURCH".

KEEP PRAYING FOR LIFE

for the defeat of the proposed Assisted Suicide bill.(Local M.P.s: Ellie Chowns voted in favour of the Bill. Jessie Norman against. Go to work on Ellie Chowns. House of Lords vote: 33% for, 67% against.

ABORTION UP TO BIRTH.

Please email info@righttolife.org.uk to express your views on Tonia Antoniazzi M.P.'s amendment to allow abortions up to 37 weeks (i.e. birth). "Thanks" – the babies.

Or email Tonia Antoniazzi at tonia.antoniazzi.mp@parliament.uk

IMAGINE IF JESUS HAD BEEN ABORTED!