

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

THE LORD'S EPIPHANY



Orthodox icon of the magi and Jesus' Baptism.

Parish Priest, Fr.SimonMcGurk,O.S.B

St. Thomas' Presbytery, Weobley, HR4 8QS

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Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Patrick Lobo (Belmont Abbey) on 07568 669 300 or 01684.574658

Parish Councillors: Fr.Simon, Tricia Carter (Chair), Sarah Nichols, Frank McNally, Charles de Rohan, Julie Gander, Patricia Stuart. **Finance Cttee:** Joanna Helme, Pat Roberts, Peter Hereford. **Patricia Stuart.** **Book-keeper:** Keith White

The Website: www.thomasandbede.com Go to the website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now manages the website (01568.708723). triciacarter2691@gmail.com

COVID & FLU: Please take all normal precautions,

Weobley Mass will continue to be Zoomed.

Zoom ID:768 558 1521 and Password:1rZ7LU

SECOND WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sat. Jan.04 Mass of Sunday, Kington 6.00p

Sun. 05 LORD'S EPIPHANY

C.T.W. ecum.service, Weobley Methodists. 9.30,

Mass, Weobley 11.00 *Int. Catharine Williams R.I.P.*

Mon. 06 Mass, Weob. 10.00 - feria

Tue. 07 Mass, Weob. 10.00 - feria

Wed. 08 Mass Kington 10.30

Thur. 09 NO Mass

Fri. 10 Mass, Weob. 3.00. Feria

Sat. 11 Mass of Sunday, Kington 6,00pm.

Sun. 12 THE LORD'S BAPTISM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS CATHARINE WILLIAMS

Hereford Hospital last Thursday morning. You will recall that on the Sunday before Christmas we all celebrated Ken and Catharine's 50th. wedding anniversary

Also: 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, Sheila Mundy, Catherine Williams, Claire Burrows, Sarah Murkin, Roger Nichols, Bill Davies, Alethea Lavington, Sarah Williams, Gaytree Wrigley, Catherine Gaynor, Kath Morgan, Jackie Adamson, Peter & Wendy Hereford..

For parishioners, relatives and friends recently dead: Pat Walls, Catharine Williams.

We remember those of our parish whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Also for King Charles III and Princess Kate at this time of concern over their health. May our King always set the highest standards of leadership for our country. **We also pray for our new government, especially our Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer and his cabinet.** May they govern with integrity following the religious beliefs of our country. And we pray for the leaders of all the other countries of the world, esp. President Zelenski of Ukraine **and for conversion of the Russian leadership.**

That a humane and Godly outcome may result from our Parliament's decision on 'Assisted dying'.

HUGE THANKS

To all of you who came in such numbers to Christmas services, to those who gave me cards and those who gave me presents, toxic or otherwise.

Your Christmas offering came to just short of a thousand pounds. A record?

Be assured that, if these were not always reciprocated, they were mightily appreciated

SERMONETTE

In physical terms the Christian mystery is illustrated mainly by LIGHT. St. John emphasises this in the first chapter of his gospel. Speaking of the Word he says: *"In Him was light, and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it"*. The Epiphany is literally a feast of "shining out", shining out to the nations, shining out from the hearts that bear it (in ourselves and from ourselves). .

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

Chapter 60 is very near the end of the prophecy of Isaiah. The book, written over time by several authors as they lived through the horrors of the Babylonian conquest and captivity, comes to a joyful conclusion prompted by the conquest of Babylon by King Cyrus of the Medes and Persians, who restored Israel to its homeland. We have only to picture the joy among those in more recent reliefs from conquest like the Soviet Union in 1989 to see and understand the joy felt by those Israelites being released from Babylon. What they saw, as the prophet says, was "light" and the courage to see again.!

SECOND READING from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (Ch.3, vv. 2-6)

For Paul, the mystery of light and of Christ's revelation is very often referred back to his own conversion on the road to Damascus when the Lord took away his sight. From this darkness he came to see the full meaning of the mystery of Christ, especially that He has come to make himself known to the Gentiles.

GOSPEL according to Matthew (Ch.2, vv.1-12)

Much of the nativity narrative which we have been hearing comes from Luke, a gentile convert. Today we hear Matthew, a Jew who has been overwhelmed by his encounter with Jesus. Luke's version of the birth of Jesus is beautiful and domestic; Matthew's version is dramatic and outward-looking, towards the threat of what John would have called "darkness", in the form of the local king, Herod who feels threatened by what he is hearing. Living in darkness and threat he resolves to plunge into the darkness even to murdering the "light of the world".

Further notices...

STILL SOME NEW MISSALS LEFT AT £13.

Next in our Deanery "Horizons of Hope" series.

"RECEIVING THE SYNOD"- What it means for the future of the Church.

SECOND SESSION, Saturday January 18th 2025. 'Implementing the Synod;'. Full day. 10.00-4.00. at Belmont Abbey. (Bring packed lunch)

Talks and discussion led by Dr. Austen Ivereigh, official observer at the Synod.

EPIPHANY SERVICE at WEOBLEY METHODIST CHURCH: Next Sunday, Jan 5th. 2025, 9.30.

REFURBISHMENT OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, WEOBLEY

This will begin on Monday January 13th and will take 2+ weeks.

There will, therefore, be no Masses in the church on Sundays January 19th. and 26th.

See the Website for Sunday February 2nd.

For the Sundays when we are out of the church extra Masses will be celebrated at St. Bede's, Kington on the Sunday mornings at 10.30.

COMING SOON: THE COMMUNITY SHOP. Empty your cupboards and wardrobes, etc...

