



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 7th
January 2017

Mass Book: Page 118

This Term at St Elizabeth's

The word *epiphany* is formed from two Greek words *epi-phaneō* meaning to make manifest or to show. In today's feast the gifts born by the Wise Men reveal to us the nature and mission of Christ. They give us an insight into what will happen in his life. The Scriptures also tell us that as he grew up "Mary pondered all these things in her heart". In other words, what is revealed in mystery still had to be appropriated through knowledge and experience.

This academic term, for logistical reasons, we are not running Alpha in the parish. Alpha offers *evangelisation*, a chance for people to recognise Christ and begin a real relationship with him. Evangelisation leads to *discipleship* which is our lived relationship with the

Lord. It is our personal appropriation of Christ by our knowledge of the faith, our fellowship, and our prayer and sacramental life.

This term, therefore, we would like to offer all our parishioners the chance to examine what it means to be a disciple and to find ways of growing as disciples. Later this month we will start the Discipleship Course which will articulate a vision of what it means to be a Catholic Christian. In Lent we are planning *house groups* whereby people can get together at times that suit them in order to study and reflect on some aspects of Christian life. Finally in March we will be offering a Bible Weekend whereby we will be given the tools we need to come to grips with the Word of God and to use it to

develop our prayer life. Places on the Discipleship Course and the Bible Weekend are limited so we strongly recommended booking as soon as possible. You can do this through ChurchSuite or by texting a specific code (the details are overleaf).

For the Lent House Groups please use the application forms at the back of the Church.

Later this month we are going to repeat the Gallup Survey that we last did in January 2016. At that time 48% of our parishioners were very unhappy with the parish and felt alienated from it. Repeating the survey helps us quantify any progress we may have made since then and also discern areas of parish life that we need to develop further. We hope you will all take part.

Lent Study Groups

We would like to offer the opportunity for parishioners to get together during Lent for some study groups. The great thing about them is that they are hosted in people's homes and can therefore take place on different days and at different times. This Lent we will use materials available to all our parishioners on the **Formed** website.

Please let us know if you would like to take part in a group. There are application forms at the back of Church.

Christmas

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your kindness and generosity this Christmas. We had a total of 788 at our Christmas Masses and the Christmas offering came to just under £7,000 - which was twice as much as last year. Nearly £4,000 of that was Gift Aided which means that the parish should benefit by a further £1,000!

I am very grateful to you for all your cards, gifts and messages of support. Thank you very much.

Discipleship Course

The Discipleship Course is designed to offer in six sessions an overview of how the Christian life develops and is shared with others. The Discipleship Course will begin on Tuesday 23rd January and will run for six consecutive Tuesday evenings (except 20th February). During the course we will look at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, how we grow in discipleship, what the Church means by evangelisation, and practical ways of sharing our faith with other people.

We need you to register for the Discipleship Course as places are limited. You can do so on ChurchSuite or by texting "QN8F3 Disciple" to 60777. (It is important to include the quotation marks).

Bible Weekend

Catholics are notoriously bad at reading the Bible despite the fact the Church encourages us to do so and St Jerome famously taught "ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ".

The Bible Weekend runs from the evening of Friday 16th until lunch on Sunday 18th March.

This weekend will give us an introduction to the Bible, helping us navigate it and understand how we can use it to deepen our prayer life. This one-off course is a must for all our parishioners!

We need you to register for the Bible Weekend as places are limited. You can do so on ChurchSuite or by texting "QN8F3 Bible" to 60777. (It is important to include the quotation marks).

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

The next Parish Surgery will be on 8th January 2018. Parish Surgery is the time to see the parish priest without needing to make an appointment. It is also the time to make initial enquiries about baptisms and weddings. It takes place in the parish office from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. People are asked to access the office via the Church, where they can wait as everyone is seen on a 'first come first served' basis.

Confirmation

We are planning a major overhaul of the way we prepare young people for confirmation here in the parish. In order not to disadvantage those young people who are currently eligible to receive the sacrament we will be running a transition course this year and the bishop has agreed to come in May to administer the sacrament.

We therefore invite any young person in Year 8 and above who attends Mass regularly at St Elizabeth's to apply for this year's course. This is only open to young people already attending Mass at St Elizabeth's. Other young people will be invited to join the new system when it begins.

Coffee Bar

The Coffee Bar in the crypt after the 9.30 Mass will re-open this Sunday, January 7th. We look forward to seeing you there. With your support we were able to raise £872 in 2017 for CAFOD (including £32 from the second-hand book stall).

Homeless Winter Shelter

Can you help us welcome and cater for our homeless guests who will sleep in the crypt on a Monday night from next month. There will be an induction meeting for volunteers on Wednesday 10th January at 7.00pm in St Matthias Church, Church Road, TW10 6LS. Please contact the parish office if you would be willing to help join a rota with a commitment of just two hours.

Homeless Shelter Collection

Our night shelter for the homeless will run on Monday nights from 15th January until 2nd April (Easter Monday). Part of our commitment is to provide a meal for our guests. Next Sunday there will be a second collection to buy the food. We hope this is a way for more parishioners to be involved in supporting the project. Don't forget that if you pay tax you can use the blue Gift Aid envelopes so that the parish can recover any tax you may have paid on your donation.

ConneXions

ConneXions is our group of volunteers, here to respond to the needs of fellow parishioners. They now have a dedicated telephone number for any parishioner who needs help: 0 7 9 2 5 2 8 8 6 5 1

Natural Fertility Matters

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit www.naturalfertilitymatters.com or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£413.50
Not Gift Aid	£565.03
Total	£978.53

To avoid seasonal fluctuations and to help us budget it greatly helps our parish finances if you take part in our **Planned Giving** scheme. For more information please email:

giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	79
Sun. 9.30am	65
Sun. 11.00am	108
Sun. 5.30pm	65
Total:	317

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday
5.30pm

The Epiphany of the Lord
Taina Gallagher & Family

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
O'Connor Family (Int.)
Canon Eugene Dolan RIP

Monday
12.00am

The Baptism of the Lord
Sylvester Ryan RIP

Tuesday
12.00am

Feria
Ondrej and Zofia Hucko RIP

Wednesday
9.00am

Feria
Clare and James Moon (30th
Wedding Anniversary)

Thursday
7.00pm

Feria
O'Connor Family (Int.)

Friday
10.00am

St Aelred of Rievaulx
Joe Henry RIP

Saturday
5.30pm

Our Lady
Barbara Fytton & Family

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Second Sunday
Pro Populo
Eileen Rayel (Int.)
Joshua Dawson

Please Pray For:

Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, Gaye Delanghe, Raymond and Marie Toal, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson.

Parish Contact Details:

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Email Addresses:

Parish Office:

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Planned Giving

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