

Ephesians 3.1-12

Following the Ascension, the early church had to organise itself, and consider who was actually eligible for membership. In this reading, Paul is clearly laying out what the new congregation will look like, and his reasons for it. He realizes that he is the 'Apostle of the Gentiles', just as Peter came to be the 'Apostle of the Jews.' Nevertheless, Paul states that these two groups are not to be separate congregations, but one in the Body of Christ. Ask yourself how differently you might treat new members of your congregation in comparison to people who have been in your church for a long time. Paul teaches us that the Church views these people as completely the same under the eyes of God. Everyone who comes to God in faith is worthy of this mystery.

Saints & Heroes

The 'Three Wise Men' and Epiphany House Blessings

Many sermons will be preached today about the 'three wise men', magi, or kings, whose visit to the infant Christ we commemorate at Epiphany. Traditionally these men have been known as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and their initials have been inscribed on lintels alongside other symbols at this time of year inviting God's blessing on the house for the new year, in our case 2019. Conveniently, C, M and B are also the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, meaning 'Christ, bless this house.' May the prayers of these strange exotic figures, who were the first Gentiles to worship our Lord, surround us as we begin this new year afresh with Christ, whose blessing on our homes we are encouraged to seek.

'That I too may go and do him homage'



We hear in the Gospel that 'Herod was frightened'. Fear is a powerful emotion: it can misguide us into the most terrible mistakes. The magi were not guided by fear; they were guided by the star of hope and they came with an open seeking heart and mind. Their way was the opposite to fear. Herod's fear resulted in innocent death – fear is the enemy of life. One thing is clear as the child is a few days old; his life is precarious and it is only faith, hope and love that will protect and nurture him. At the beginning of this New Year ask the Lord to banish all fear and causes of fear in your life. Remember 'perfect Love casts out fear.' In these forty days of celebrating 'God with us' seek a renewal of trust in him who is 'the Day Spring on High', the 'Morning Star' the one who 'the nations seek.' Go, too, and do him homage.

Prayers to Remember

Almighty and everlasting Lord,
you made known the incarnation of your Son
by the shining of a star,
which led the wise men to behold and adore your majesty.
Grant that the star of your righteousness
may always shine in our hearts,
and that, as our treasure,
we may give ourselves and all we possess to your service;
through Christ our Lord.

Gelasian Sacramentary



FORWARDINFAITH

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THE EPIPHANY

(Page 154 in the Missal)

Welcome to our services today

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Benediction at Holy Trinity

WEEKDAY MASS

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Wednesday 9th 7.30pm at Holy Trinity

(7pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

NEXT SUNDAY - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Benediction at Holy Trinity

Psalm Response:

HT: Kings, O Lord, people and nations fall prostrate before you.

AS: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Cantor: We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

(Alleluia is repeated after the Gospel reading.)

201 CLUB is again supporting Step by Step, an ecumenical project to support young homeless persons in the area. Cost is £12.00 a year, where half of the money raised goes to Step by Step and the other half in prize money. See Sue Evans (01276 32816) for any further information required.

HAMS - our men's group, will start the New Year meeting on **Monday 14th January** in Trinity Hall at 8.15pm. Greg Watts will be speaking on his New Zealand experience. Greg has visited New Zealand on a number of occasions to visit family there.

SUNDAY EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION - has resumed at 6pm at Holy Trinity. You'd be most welcome if you were able to augment the congregation, why not give it a try!

EXPOSITION - the 7.30pm Mass on Wednesdays at Holy Trinity is preceded by a period of Adoration as the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the Resurrection Chapel altar from 7pm. Why not take this opportunity of spending some quiet time with Our Lord.

WANTED, YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS - for recycling for charity, there is a box at Holy Trinity for this purpose.

URGENTLY REQUIRED people to deliver the **BLACK-WATER BUZZ** every month to the following roads in Blackwater area - Vicarage Road, Toad Lane, Parkhill Road, Parkhill Close, Beech Drive, Orchard Close, Fernhill Lane & Fernhill Close. The last three roads near the New Inn. Please see either Tony or Sue Evans if you are able to help.

HOLY TRINITY FLOWER ROTA 2019 - please put your name on the new rota in the porch if you would like to arrange the flowers. Help and guidance will be given if needed. Please see Diane Brown for further information.

BRUNCH COMES TO HOLY TRINITY - Sunday 13th January 12.45pm - Marian and Marion will be serving brunch in Trinity Hall. All welcome. Please join us. Minimum donation £5 per person. Lifts from AS provided.

2019 WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE - 2nd - 5th September please see Pauline Scott for further details.

WALSINGHAM CELL - will meet on **Saturday 19th January**. Mass is at Holy Trinity at 6.30pm followed by a bring and share supper. Everyone as always is very welcome it would be good to see you.

TEA AT TWO AT ALL SAINTS' - has resumed after the Christmas break and meets from 2pm - 4pm. As the New Year begins why not come and join us for tea, great cake and conversation. Just turn up and meet friends old and new, we look forward to seeing you.

WEEKLY SHEET ITEMS - should be sent by Wednesday morning to pauline_scott@icloud.com thank you.

