

# CATHOLIC WIGHT

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE ST. BONIFACE DEANERY ISLE OF WIGHT

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Otherwise known as the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, this great solemnity marks the occasion when startled mysterious noble figures “from the east” come in adoration to the infant Christ. The first visitors were Hebrew shepherds, worshipping the Good Shepherd, and these kingly visitors, the Magi, or Wise Men, come to adore true Wisdom, the divine King.

God’s purposes now extend beyond the Old Testament people to the nations of the world, and often the Magi are represented as hailing from different continents. So begins the first of the three Epiphany mysteries, the others being the Baptism of Christ (next Sunday, the end of Christmastide) when the Lord’s divinity is revealed at the river Jordan, and the Marriage at Cana (this year, the Gospel for the following Sunday) when Christ’s glory is manifested forth as water blushes before its Creator and becomes heart-warming wine.

The “kings” bring costly treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh, each with mystic meaning. Tradition gives names to the Magi: Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar – not that Scripture specifies three – and a much more recent addition is Artaban, in *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, written by Henry van Dyke in 1895. This “fourth” Magus sets out later, and throughout his life, seeking the Christ, spends all his treasures in acts of charity to people in desperate need – the lesson being that he finds, and adores, Christ the King in the face of others.

After their adoration of the infant Christ, the Magi return “to their own country by another way”, to avoid the murderous Herod who considers Christ a rival King. This reminds us that an encounter with Christ should never result in our simply going the same way again, not retracing our steps, but travelling to our eternal home with Christ who is The Way.

Fr Jonathan

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13. Rcf. 11  
*All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

### PARISH OFFICES

**Cowes & East Cowes** The Presbytery, 22 Terminus Road, Cowes PO31 7TJ  
 01983 292739 jredversharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Ryde & Bembridge** Presentation House, 55 High Street Ryde, PO33 2RE  
 01983 812127 stmarysryde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**South Wight** 7 Atherley Road, Shanklin PO37 7AT  
 01983 867610 southwight@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Totland/Newport** The Catholic Presbytery, 96 Pyle Street, Newport, PO30 1EU  
 01983 522027 stsandstc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parishes:** Cowes • East Cowes • Newport & Totland • Ryde & Bembridge • South Wight  
**Schools:** Holy Cross • St Francis • St Mary’s • St Thomas of Canterbury • St Saviour’s • Christ the King

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568

Clergy

**Emergencies Only:** 07845 426081

Fr Jonathan Redvers Harris - [jredversharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jredversharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Steven Restori - [srestori@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:srestori@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Nishan Edward - [medward@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:medward@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Stephen Vooght - [svooght@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:svooght@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Gary May - [stsandstc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stsandstc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN YEAR C**

**The Epiphany of the Lord** – Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12.

**The Baptism of the Lord** – Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22.

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** - Is 49:3,5-6; 1Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34.

**VOCATIONS** "They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What gift can you offer Christ? If He is calling you to a vocation that serves the Church, He is asking for the gift of your life to serve His people. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869

**THANK YOU** Our priests would like to thank everyone, for their generosity, gifts and cards this Christmas and to wish you all a joyous and peaceful New Year with many graces & blessings for 2025.

**A SHORT CHRISTMAS PRAYER** Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Amen

**CRIB OFFERINGS** This year, at the request of Bishop Philip, we will be donating crib offerings to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION – JANUARY** Pope Francis invites us to pray **For the right to an education.** Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME** Throughout the month of January, we give special honour to the name of Jesus. St Paul wrote to the Philippians: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:10-11). We hold the name of Jesus in special reverence. The very name of Jesus is a prayer.

Please pray for everyone who is sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick.

Please pray for the sick and homebound of our parish communities.

For those who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Please remember to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE** South Wight Parish will be holding an Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 5pm at the Sacred Heart Church followed by refreshments. Many thanks to the Catholic Women's League for organising the service.

**USED CHRISTMAS CARDS** (and other used greetings cards throughout the year) are very gratefully received by St. Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde. Thank you.

**ORGANIST AT ST MARY'S** It is with sadness that Leo Boucher the organist at St Mary's has had to stand down due to ill health. I would like to thank Leo for his 6 years of voluntary service to the church. Please keep him in your prayers.

**SUNDAY ORGANIST** St Mary's is looking for a volunteer to play the organ for masses at St Mary's on a Sunday and a few other times in the year. If you can help or offer assistance please contact Fr Steven or St Mary's Office.

**IOW CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY** You can keep up to date with the Island's Catholic history by visiting their website and downloading their recent newsletter. <http://www.iow-chs.org>

**KEEP IN TOUCH** To receive the Island newsletter by email please send a blank email to [iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) putting 'email newsletter' in the subject line.

**ISLAND PASTORAL COUNCIL** Our single Island Parish will require a new name – the Bishop has invited the Committee to suggest 3 names. One suggestion is "Holy Spirit". Others to be discussed at future meetings – parishioners are invited to submit suggestions. NB With regards to the name of the new parish, we cannot use any existing dedication e.g. Sacred heart, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Wilfrid or St Boniface etc We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on the Novena of Prayer, held around the different churches on the island, and on the whole Island Mass at Christ the King. Your views will help us improve what we arrange in future. Here is the online feedback form: <https://forms.gle/RE8wbTJBho5FXed99> or as an alternative, find paper feedback forms at the back of the church and once filled, give it to the priest. Thank you.

**ST MARY'S COMMUNITY GROUP & SVP TEA PARTY** The next tea party is on Monday 6 January 2025 1400-1600, St Therese Hall, Presentation House, High Street, Ryde. Come for tea and a chat. Car parking is available at the back of the church. If any homebound parishioner needs transport, contact the Parish Office 01983 812127

**THE TEA AND CHAT CLUB** will be meeting again in St Saviour's Holy Family Centre, Totland every Monday 1400-1600. Please come and join us, bring a friend if possible and enjoy a lovely cuppa with a biscuit, friendly chat and a game of bingo or HOY!, all for the bargain price of £1. For more information please contact Ita Malia 756017. We're looking forward to seeing you.

**SHANKLIN CENTERING PRAYER GROUP** The next meeting of the will be held at 1745 on Wednesday 8 January in the hall at Sacred Heart Church. The group is open to everyone and no previous experience of Centering Prayer is necessary. Each meeting will include 20 minutes of silent prayer. Time will also be given to sharing and encouraging each other in the practice of Centering Prayer. We finish at 1845.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** Next meeting will be on Saturday 11 January at 1100 at the Sacred Heart Hall, Atherley Road, Shanklin, PO37 7AT. New members are most welcome. Feel free to bring lunch for after the meeting. Catholic women with a Catholic voice, Caring with love.

**FAMILY SESSION** Saturday 11 January 1500-1700 at Verbum Dei. Family friendly faith activities, time to socialise and time of prayer. All ages and stages welcome.

**PLEASE PRAY** for everyone who is sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick. Please pray for the sick and homebound of our parish communities. For those who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Please remember to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

### **SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS**

Dee Becker 01983 812127 [safeguarding.ryd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.ryd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Vince Grant 07958 491023 [safeguarding.totnew@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.totnew@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Mike Green 07761 122382 [safeguarding.newp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.newp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Angela Hewkin 01983 867610 [safeguarding.iowsw@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.iowsw@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Liz Hopkins 07714 675756 [safeguarding.easc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.easc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Peter Ricks 01983 292782 [safeguarding.cow@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.cow@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CONFESSION TIMES**

Ryde: Saturday 1730-1800 Quarr Abbey: Saturdays 1000-1030 Newport: Sunday 0900-0930 & 1600-1630 Totland & Cowes: during Eucharistic Adoration. Any by request

**KEY TO CHURCHES ACROSS THE ISLAND FOR MASS TIMES**

**P:** Perpetual **F:** Foundation

**OLR** St Mary's, Ryde PO33 2RE **OLW** Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Ventnor PO38 1NL  
**SDE** St David's, East Cowes PO32 6DP **SMB** St Michael's, Bembridge PO35 5RA  
**SHS** Sacred Heart, Shanklin PO37 7AT **SPS** St Patrick's, Sandown PO36 8NE  
**SST** St Saviour's, Totland PO39 0HE **STC** St Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes PO31 7TJ  
**TCN** St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport PO30 1UH

(\* Eucharistic Adoration starting one hour before Mass and opportunity for Confessions followed by Holy Rosary at SHS & OLW, and for half-an-hour or so, without the Rosary, at SDE and STC.

**Saturday 4 January** *The Epiphany of the Lord, solemnity [transferred]*

1700 OLW For David RIP and all family members living and dead  
 1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 5 January** *The Epiphany of the Lord, solemnity [transferred]*

0900 SMB Rt Rev John Hine RIP  
 0900 SPS Eleanor Vize RIP  
 0900 STC Elzbieta & Stanislaw Bugay RIP  
 0945 TCN Dominic Fitzpatrick RIP  
 1100 OLR Beryl Restori RIP  
 1100 SDE Pro Populo  
 1100 SHS All Parishioners Living and Dead  
 1200 SST Lily Kelly, Sally & Jimmy RIP  
 1700 TCN  
 1730 STC (No Mass this evening)

**Monday 6 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

1000 STC No Mass Today  
 1200 OLR Mgr John Baptist Cahill P  
 1200(\*)TCN No Mass Today

**Tuesday 7 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

1000 SMB O'Halloran, Lush & Wisbey RIP  
 1200 STC  
 1200(\*)TCN No Mass Today  
 1200 SPS Ada Rieu P

**Wednesday 8 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

0945(\*)SDE  
 1100(\*)OLW Jean-Marc Hue RIP and all family members living and dead  
 1200 OLR Funeral of John Bowker RIP  
 1800(\*)STC

**Thursday 9 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

1100(\*)SST No Mass Today  
 1200(\*)STC (Latin) May Agnes Clarke RIP

**Friday 10 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

1200(\*)STC No Mass Today  
 1200 OLR Lucy Fletcher P  
 1200(\*)TCN No Mass Today  
 1200(\*)SHS Sr Carmel Maria L.S.U. 70 Years

**Saturday 11 January** *The Baptism of the Lord, feast*

1700 OLW Allan and Norah McLeod RIP  
 1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 12 January** *The Baptism of the Lord, feast*

0900 SMB Fr Michael Cronin RIP  
 0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead  
 0900 STC Joan Mulhearn RIP  
 0945 TCN  
 1100 OLR Michael McCarthy RIP  
 1100 SDE Pro Populo  
 1100 SHS Michael McCarthy RIP  
 1200 SST Lily Kelly, Sally & Jimmy RIP  
 1700 TCN  
 1730 STC (No Mass this evening)