



5 January 2025

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Year C)

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Mt 2:11)

Faith in Focus

### Taking the tree down

Did you have a Christmas tree, and, if so, how long did you keep it up? Just until Boxing Day or did you leave it for the whole 12 days of Christmas?

Epiphany has become associated with the end of the Christmas season, with vacuuming up all the pine needles from the carpet, carefully storing the lights and decorations back in the loft and finding a safe place for wrapping paper that will come in handy next year. Yet the feast of Epiphany isn't really about endings. It's about beginnings.

The word "epiphany" is from the Greek word that means "showing, display or manifestation". When the wise men arrive from distant parts with their gifts for Jesus, the gospel is letting us know that the glory of God, in the baby, is being acknowledged by people from the ends of the known earth. God's glory is being made manifest.

We can easily fall into the old trap of thinking that this feast is about the past, about events that happened 2,000 years ago. Of course, that's only part of the picture. All feasts are about today, not just the past. But how are we to understand Epiphany?

Quite simply, each of us today is being called to be an "epiphany" for the world. By celebrating this feast we ask God to unite us with Jesus, as shining examples of Christ's love for the world. We ask that we

may be so close to Jesus that we become stars leading others to get to know God's Son.

So the feast of the Epiphany, like all feasts, looks to the future. When the baby was born in Bethlehem, God revealed his eternal plan of salvation and showed us how to live so that we might enjoy everlasting life. Jesus is the light of the world and by following him humanity is able to be refashioned and renewed in God's image.

This too is our future. Are we prepared to live in a way that brings light to others? To "display" the type of God we have? To let people see God's glory? In a nutshell, are we ready not only to celebrate the Epiphany in church but also to "be" an epiphany of God in the world?

### Votive lamps

This week, at Holy Name, the votive lamps burning either side of the Blessed Sacrament are for the **intentions of Peter Barnicle and Archie Wilson.**

This week, at Our Lady & St Philomena, the votive lamp burning before the relic of St Philomena is for **a special intention for the Bloomfield family.**

**Family of parishes:  
Blessed Sacrament, Holy Name and  
Our Lady & St Philomena**

Archdiocese of Liverpool  
Parishes of Holy Name and  
Our Lady & Saint Philomena

**Clergy:**

Fr Mark Fairhurst, Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Afaako, Assistant Priest

Based at: Holy Name Presbytery, Moss Pits  
Lane, Fazakerley, L10 9LG

Telephone: 0151 476 0289

Email: [holyname@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:holyname@rcaol.org.uk)

Facebook: HolyNameandStPhilomena

[www.holynamestphilomenas.wordpress.com](http://www.holynamestphilomenas.wordpress.com)

*Serving the Churches of:*

**Holy Name**, Moss Pits Lane, L10 9LG

**Our Lady & Saint Philomena**, Sparrow Hall  
Road, L9 6BU

**Parish office at Holy Name:** Open Monday,  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00 am  
to 12.30 pm, and 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

**Baptisms:** By prior arrangement.

**Confessions:** Holy Name on Saturday from  
5.30 pm, Our Lady & St Philomena on  
Wednesday from 6.30 pm or by request.

**Funerals and Marriages:** By arrangement.

**Rosary:** Before each weekday Mass.

**Novena:** After Wednesday evening Mass at  
Our Lady & St Philomena.

**Exposition:** Holy Name, Thursday at 9.15 am

**Visits to sick and housebound:** Please  
contact the parish office.

**Hospital visits:** If you wish to see a priest,  
please let the hospital staff know.

**Mass requests:** Please complete the pre-  
printed envelopes and place in the Mass  
intention box. Please also specify the reason  
for the intention, i.e. lately dead, anniversary  
etc. For a particular day, please request early.  
To enable more Mass intentions to be said in  
the parish and not sent away, the Mass may  
be shared unless you request otherwise.

**Newsletter notices:** Please e-mail to  
[holyname@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:holyname@rcaol.org.uk) or hand in to the  
Parish Office by Thursday morning.

**Repository:** Open before and after Mass.



Archdiocese of Liverpool  
Registered Charity Number 1199714

## Readings at Mass

Scan the QR code for the Mass readings.

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



## Psalm response

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate  
before you, O Lord.

## Thank you

Your offerings this week total £993.11 and  
Christmas offerings of £1,670.57.

## Baptism

Congratulations to Jude Stephen Preston  
who receives the sacrament of baptism at  
Our Lady & St Philomena on Sunday 5  
January.

Congratulations to Saffron Aoife-Belle  
Shiel who receives the sacrament of baptism  
at Holy Name on Sunday 5 January.

## Welcome

We welcome George Peter Clint and Noah  
Ace Anthony Wong to Mass at Holy Name  
this weekend as they will receive the  
sacrament of baptism on Sunday 12  
January.

## Thank you

Thank you to all parishioners of Our Lady  
& St Philomena and Holy Name for your  
gifts, cards, kind messages and generosity  
over the Christmas period.

Thank you to everyone who helped make  
our first Christmas celebrations at Our Lady  
& St Philomena and Holy Name so  
prayerful and welcoming, including  
cleaning, setting up decorations, the cribs,  
the altar, flowers, singing and lots more!

*Fr Mark and Fr Anthony*

## Arranging a baptism

Information on arranging a baptism is on  
the parish website. The next preparation  
meeting is Saturday 1 February at 11 am at  
Holy Name Church.

## Pope's intention - January

### 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.

## Parish feast day

In the liturgical calendar, the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, though we are allowed to celebrate it on the nearest available Sunday. As Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> is the Epiphany and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> is the Baptism of the Lord, we will celebrate our patronal feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

## Pope's Christmas message

The Christmas message from Pope Francis can be read on the parish website.

In his traditional Christmas Day message, Pope Francis underscores that 'the door of God's heart is always open' and calls on us to return to the heart that 'loves and forgives us,' allowing us to be reconciled with Him.

## Return to school

This week we welcome back our staff and pupils at Our Lady & St Philomena and Holy Name schools for the beginning of the Easter term. We pray that they may have a blessed and grace filled 2025.

We also wish the staff and students at Archbishop Beck secondary school all the best for year ahead.

## Awakening convention

AFCM UK invite you to a day of spiritual renewal including Holy Mass, confession, talks, healing services, praise and worship on Saturday 25 January from 9 am to 4 pm at the Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich, B70 7JW. Coach travel available.

For more information see noticeboards or contact Justin (a parishioner in our parishes) on 07990 623054 or visit <https://afcmuk.org>

## First Communion

First Communion preparation is taking a break and will restart later in the new year. Details will be announced in the newsletter, parish website and Facebook page.

## Numbers galore

Numbers are 17 and 43. Rollover.

## New Archbishop: An invite

From the executive of the Archdiocesan Synodal Council:

The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. As you may know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool.

You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church!

There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on

Thursday 16 January at St Mary's Leyland, PR25 1PD (7 pm - 9.30 pm) and, Saturday 18 January at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30 am - 1 pm)

Each gathering will be the same - so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting. Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly, we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

This is open to all members of our community here in the Archdiocese. To reserve a place at one of the meetings please fill in the online form in the link

<https://bit.ly/ASCMeetingAOL>

If you are unable to take part in person, but would like to take part in the Saturday meeting by Zoom, please follow the link below on Saturday 18 January

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=GbHwdzCo42YoaRMvIIq8GgZBz5M5NW.1>

Day	Time	Church	Intention
<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>			
Saturday 4th	5.30 pm	<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	Christmas intention
Sunday 5th	9.30 am	St Philomena	People of our Parishes
	9.30 am	Hospital	Kitty Sharrock, RIP
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Christmas intentions
Monday 6th			No service
Tuesday 7th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Ann Miller, RIP Special intention to St Jude
Wednesday 8th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Angela Ross, lately dead Teresa Reeves, lately dead
	6.30 pm	<i>St Philomena</i>	<i>Confessions until 6.50 pm</i>
	7.00 pm	St Philomena	Claire Smith Benson, 14 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Michael Gerard, RIP
Thursday 9th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Jacqueline Hughes, lately dead Diane Gadsby, lately dead
Friday 10th	10.00 am	St Philomena	Francis Allmary, RIP Neive White, RIP
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Holy Name</b>	<b>Funeral: Joan Derby, RIP</b>
<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>			
Saturday 11th	5.30 pm	<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	People of our Parishes Monica Matthews, 4 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of death
Sunday 12th	9.30 am	St Philomena	Cathy Frackleton, anniversary Richard Hartless, lately dead
	9.30 am	Hospital	Mr Paul Gavin, RIP
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Pelica family, thanksgiving Kathleen Davies, lately dead
<p>We remember in our prayers those who have died recently Joan Derby, Richard Hartless. May they rest in peace</p>			

**Name of parish** Holy Name 148

**Name and address of your own bank** **To** The Manager  
**Address** .....

**Please pay to**

**Bank name** HSBC plc  
**Address** 99-101 Lord Street  
LIVERPOOL  
L2 6PG

**Sort code** 40-29-12

**Parish bank account number** **for the credit of**  
**Account name** 148 Holy Name Presbytery  
**Account number** 91543830

**the sum of**  
**(in words)** .....

**(in figures)** £.....

**commencing** .....

**Delete as applicable** **and thereafter** monthly/annually

**until you receive further notice from me/us in writing**

**Please insert the title and number of**  
**your own bank account** **and debit my account accordingly**

**Account name** .....

**Account number** .....

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....



**LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE**

**Name of parish**

Our Lady and St Philomena 168

**Name and address of your own bank**

**To**

The Manager

**Address**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Please pay to**

**Bank name**

HSBC plc

**Address**

99-101 Lord Street  
LIVERPOOL  
L2 6PG

**Sort code**

40-29-12

**Parish bank account number**

**for the credit of**

**Account name**

168 Archdiocese of Liverpool  
St Philomena V M Presbytery

**Account number**

61544446

**the sum of**

**(in words)**

.....

**(in figures)**

£.....

**commencing**

.....

**Delete as applicable**

**and thereafter**

monthly/annually

**until you receive further notice from me/us in writing**

**Please insert the title and number of  
your own bank account**

**and debit my account accordingly**

**Account name**

.....

**Account number**

.....

**Signature**

.....

**Date**

.....



**LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE**

Croxteth Drive | Liverpool | L17 1AA | [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

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