

Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

## St. Joseph's Parish

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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Robert Devaney

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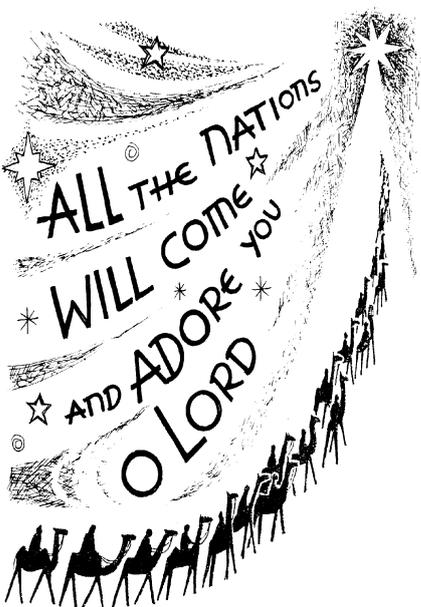


## Newsletter

**4th January 2015**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

One thing that marks out our season of Christmas that we can all agree on is that it is a season of giving or gifts. In fact, it would be nigh on impossible to imagine Christmas without 'gifts'. But for any gift to be real and valid there need to be three components: the gift itself, the giver and the one receiving it. This may seem pretty obvious but the giving of presents, as we may have experienced ourselves, can often 'go wrong'. Sometimes the gift can be inappropriate, at other times it can be presented in the wrong circumstances and sometimes the recipient fails to even recognise the 'gift' as a present at all. It is the latter point that can prove the most disappointing. Not a few parents may feel this disappointment when their baptised children, after reaching adolescence, no longer wish to take a part in the regular Sunday Eucharist. A common, but erroneous, perception of the parent is that they have 'failed' in some way. But, of course, they haven't. When an infant is baptised he or she is baptised into the faith of their parents, where the theological virtues of faith, love and hope need to play a part. We need to realise, however, that baptism is a pure gift and, whilst we can leave a present on the doorstep of the recipient, such a present won't be recognised as such until the 'householder' opens the door! In other words, the recipient must play their part also (including children). The Epiphany is the true manifestation of GIFT because the gift of God Himself is reciprocated by the three magi who themselves offer, albeit inadequate, appropriate gifts to the Infant King. The magi (representing the Gentile world) have 'opened their doors' and allowed the gift to be seen, recognised and lived authentically, where giver, gift and recipient are united as one.



Services	This Week	Events
<p>6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass: Mary Reidy</i></p> <p>10.00am <i>Mass: People of the Parish</i></p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass: Peter Power</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 4th January <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> <b>Solemnity</b> <i>Psalter Week 2</i></p> 	<p>Coffee and Tea after 10am Mass Mike and Anne</p>  <p>6.00pm Youth Group</p>
<p><i>No School Mass</i></p> <p>7.00pm <i>Novena to Our Lady</i> <i>Mass: Sr. Josephine Leahy</i> RIP</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> 5th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p>8-9.00pm Dancing</p>
<p>9.10am <i>Rosary</i></p> <p>9.30am <i>Mass: Sr. Marguerite de Jesu</i> Shine RIP</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> 6th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p><i>School Term begins</i></p> <p>10.00am Tuesday Club</p>
<p>7-8.00pm <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> <i>for private prayer</i></p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> 7th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p>9.30-11.30am Art Group</p> <p>7.45pm Whist</p>
<p>5.00pm <i>Reception of the body of Patty</i> <i>Desay</i></p> <p>7.00pm <i>Mass: Private Intention</i> S and WM</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> 8th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p>Church Cleaning - Team 1 <i>No Music Group</i></p> <p>7-8.00pm Weight Watchers</p>
<p><i>No Morning Rosary</i></p> <p><b>11.00am</b> <i>Requiem Mass: Patty Desay</i></p> <p>12.30pm <i>Burial at Milverton Cemetery</i></p> <p>7.00pm <i>Novena to the Sacred Heart</i></p>	<p><b>Friday</b> 9th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p>4-6.00pm Karate</p>
<p>9.15am <i>Morning Prayer</i></p> <p>9.30am <i>Mass: Private Intention</i></p> <p>10-10.45 <i>Exposition and Adoration</i> <i>Sacrament of Confession</i></p> <p>6.30pm <i>Mass: Private Intention</i></p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> 10th January Christmas Feria</p>	<p>9.00-10.30am Slimming World</p> <p>1-4.00pm Hall booked</p>
<p>10.00am <i>Mass: People of the Parish</i></p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass: Catherine Kelly RIP</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 11th January <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> <i>Psalter Week 1</i></p>	<p>10.05am Children's Liturgy</p> <p>Coffee and Tea after 10am Mass Choir Group</p> 
<p>Collections £337.82</p> <p>Banker's Orders (weekly average) £100.46</p> <p><i>Many thanks for your donations</i></p>	<p><b>Last Week</b> <b>28th December</b></p>	<p>Attendance: 221</p> 

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# Announcements

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## OUR SICK

David Harwar, Roy Stanford, Enda McSharry, Marie Kelly, Seren Robertson, Eileen Hiorns, Patricia Robinson, Brian McCann, Rory and Peggy O'Rourke, Edna Hales, Sue Cleary, Shelagh Price, Jenny Bamber, Sue Day, Michael Gallagher, Miceal Murphy, Pauline Jenkins, Hugh Williams

<b>Warwick Hospital</b>	Margaret Handy
<b>The Lawns</b>	Bert Brind
<b>Clarence House</b>	Winifred Galvin
<b>Eversleigh N. H.</b>	Mollie Benson
<b>Clarendon Manor</b>	Mary Jenkinson
<b>Stratford</b>	Monty Jenkinson
<b>RLS Nursing Home</b>	Bernie & Robbie Burns

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## Anniversaries

Katherine Underhill, Michael James Dorgan, John Stephen Ruby, Peter James Johnson, Salvatore Viviani, Margaret Brown, Janis Berganis, Enid Young, John Joseph Crowley  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord*

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## Baptism

### Phoebe Grace Cleaver

Sunday 4th January 2015 at 12 Noon

### Maeve Eden Berry

Sunday 1st February 2015 at 12 Noon

### Ruben Thomas Edwards

1st March 2015 at 12 Noon

## Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be on Monday 26th January at 7.45pm in the Holy Family Room

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## Crib Offerings

Crib offerings this year are being donated to the Whitnash Children's Centre, supporting local families having a very difficult time. The baskets of gifts were collected for distribution but there is *the usual box for Crib Offerings, also for the centre, which will be left until next Sunday 11th., after which the offerings will be sent off when the crib is taken down.*

## Recently Deceased

John McMahon, one of our parishioners, died last Thursday night after prolonged illness. We offer our sympathies and condolences to all his family.

*May he rest in peace and may the Lord give comfort to all who mourn him*

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## Catholic Today

This is our Diocesan newspaper, coming out each month, an allocation being sent out to each parish in the Birmingham Diocese. Please help yourself and take one home, before they have to be disposed of, prior to the next edition.

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## Diocesan Directories

All the 2015 Birmingham Diocesan Directories which were available in the narthex last week were sold. They contain a great deal of useful information, from a variety of statistics to the contact details of all our parishes, religious institutions (schools, homes etc.) under the care of the diocese. It would be possible to order more if you would like one - please let Fr. Bob have your name.

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## Our Liturgy in Ordinary Time

As we move into 2015, our Sunday readings are taken from Year B. The readings at weekday Mass will be taken from Year 1.

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## Lollipop crossing

The school has recently learned that the Council has approved the lollipop crossing for the top of Ashford Road and recruitment is now underway.

If you are interested in this position please see the posters in the Church or on the noticeboard outside the school.

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## Next Week—11th January 2015

### Eucharistic Ministers:

**6.30pm Vigil**  
**10.00am**  
**5.00pm**

Daniel Woolley, Stephen McFadden  
Myrna Harwar, David Harwar, Adam Borley  
Kim Kearns, Sheila Price

### Readers:

Honor Hynes  
Kate & Ella Graham  
Bernard Bergonzi

31 Jan/1st Feb 2nd Collection: Catholic Education Service  
1st Feb 6.00pm Parish Council, HFR  
28th Feb 7.30pm Skittles Evening

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### Parish Boundaries

Our archdiocese of Birmingham has an interesting and informative website that strives to keep up to date with faith and other issues. It is well worth a visit. For a couple of years now, it has carried a clear and colourful map of, not only the archdiocese, but the deaneries and the individual parishes as well. Knowing where our parish boundaries lie can be useful, not necessarily in connection with what church we should attend regularly (parishioners can and do travel to neighbouring churches—it's a wonderful variety) but in the matter of baptisms and marriages a knowledge of the parish within which your home lies is important.

Just go to:

[www.tinyurl.com/diocesemap](http://www.tinyurl.com/diocesemap)

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### 200 Club

The 200 Club team will be collecting the January 'subs' at all Masses this weekend.

It would be an opportune moment to decide to join!

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### Newspapers

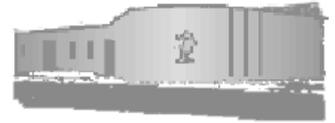
For some time now we, as a parish, have ordered only a very small number of weekly Catholic newspapers. In fact, recently we've received only two Heralds and two Universe and sometimes these go, whilst other weeks leave us with unsold papers. It is assumed that this sort of number reflects our current demand for Catholic newspapers so unless any parishioners particularly require one of these newspapers we can maintain the 'status quo'. Do let Fr. Bob know if you feel there are insufficient papers for sale and our order can be revised.

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On a related matter to the above, there seems to be a consensus that the table in the narthex has become very cluttered with so many periodicals/ missionary material/cards etc. It would be sensible to keep only moderate numbers of these and to regularly clear outdated ones. The rack next to the "library" is also crowded. **Suggestions welcome**

**P.S.** Do just take any of the many calendars lying around.

## Parish Centre



### Weekly Events (during normal time)

**Monday:** Dancing  
**Tuesday:** Tuesday Club  
**Wednesday:** Art /Choir/ Whist Drive  
**Thursday:** Music Group / Weightwatchers  
**Friday:** Karate  
**Saturday:** Slimming World  
**Sunday:** Youth Club

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### Clear out

A new year, a new resolution, but do we stick to them. I shall make an effort. I think it would be the correct time to have a thorough clear-out and tidy of the sacristy area including confessional and flower arranging room and cupboards etc. but I can only do this with the help and advice of concerned 'parties'. There is no point in keeping what we don't need or use, so, sacristans, flower arrangers, cleaners and other interested groups, let me know if you can help me in the '*big decisions of what to keep and what to throw*'. Many thanks, Fr. Bob

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### Children's Liturgy and Toddlers

St. Joseph's is fortunate in having a very committed Liturgy Group and pre-school team who help out on Sundays of school term times. It is of great help to parents of children of varying ages, in allowing the youngsters to be introduced to the Gospel in a way and approach that suits their ages. The team welcomes parents of the pre-school children to accompany them into the Holy Family Room. If you would like to join either one of the teams as a regular helper please approach Fr. Bob.

