

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Feast of the Epiphany
7th January 2024

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Happy Christmas and Happy New Year

Yes it is still Christmas! Well at least for the rest of today as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany before returning to Ordinary Time of our general readings, Masses and prayers next week. So our Christmas decorations and crib are still here in church. There is always a great debate in families and others about when to take down your Christmas decorations and crib at home. Some argue for twelfth night which is either 5th or 6th of January - depending on when you start counting the 12 nights of Christmas! More commonly you could say Epiphany and the visit of the kings which allows for the 6th of January anyway.

Another possibility that is observed by some churches is to at least keep the crib up until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord/ Candlemas - that's not until 2nd February! I think we can settle on today and I intend to take my crib down later and in all honesty most of my other decorations are already packed away.

The arrival of the kings (or wise men/women) mark the completion of our nativity scene. Joining the Holy Family and the shepherds we see the world gathered to greet the Christ child - people of faith and none, all nationalities, rich and poor, powerful and excluded - ALL on their knees faced with the gift of Light. Let us allow that Christmas light shine in our hearts and our world as we complete our Christmas season and enter into the new year with hope.



Advent and Christmas Services Thanks

As ever we have enjoyed wonderful Advent and Christmas services, activities and celebrations in our parish. There are many people who have helped in all sorts of ways to make these such special times of celebration, community and prayer. Thank you to all who have helped.



Christmas Mass Collections

Thank you for your generosity this Christmas to our collections. £558.86 was donated to be split, sending half to CAFOD's emergency Palestine Appeal and half to Ethiopia to support the Sisters of Charity's work in supporting women victims of sexual assault in the Tigray conflict. This is a real sign of Christmas solidarity and sharing the joy and light of Christmas with those most in need.

Peace Sunday (14th January)

Once again we approach Peace Sunday at a time of increased war and tension. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues, as do conflicts around the globe. The conflict in Palestine and Israel has erupted once more into terrible violence and suffering with thousands dying, injured and displaced. Peace Sunday is the time when we are especially asked to pray for peace but of course this is always part of our prayers. The purpose of Peace Sunday is to highlight this need for ongoing prayer and also action to call for peace.

Next week there will be a second collection to support the work of Pax Christi, the official church agency for peace. Archbishop Malcolm is the President of Pax Christi and he asks us to support their work. Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade. Supporting its members and the church, Pax Christi produces resources on peace and nonviolence issues, organises events and vigils, represents the Catholic church in the peace movement and works with

young people in both schools and churches. More information can be found at <https://paxchristi.org.uk>



**PAX
CHRISTI**

International Catholic Movement for Peace

Masses & Services

Week Starting Sunday 31st December

Weekend 6th/7th January - Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Deceased Priests of the Parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the Parish)

Tuesday 9th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Philip Norris)

Wednesday 10th January

9.15am Mass at St JF (Our Parish Schools)

Thursday 11th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Hayden Family and Friends)



Next Weekend 13th/14th January - Peace Sunday

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Maureen Vale)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the Parish)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Re Gifting for Nugent

At Christmas we sometimes receive a gift that was given with love but it is something we will never use or just don't want, or we get two of the same thing. It may be a toiletry set that we don't use, two separate gifts of a pair of slippers or just a gift that we know we will never use.

A great way of continuing the spirit of the Christmas gifts is to pass them on to Nugent, where they will be sold in the charity shop or used directly in their services. I think it's a great way of honouring the original gift giver and continues the joy of Christmas.

Also at this time we have received new gifts and sometimes are sorting out space in our cupboards and shelves and now have donations of clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc.

So once again please bring in your unwanted gifts and good quality spare items and we will donate them to Nugent. Just hand them in at the back of either church and we will arrange for a general central collection by Nugent.



An Epiphany Prayer

God of abundant gifts,
Show us where you want us to pour out our gifts
in celebration of your life all around us.
When we see the darkness and fear it is too great,
fix our eyes on your light.
Help us to walk in the way of the Magi,
following the star to places
where you are breaking into our broken world
Amen



Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Les Orritt, Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, Loretta McDonnell, M. Rivi, Thomas Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph Cameron, Sharon Whitting, Rowan Sanderson, Karen Duffy, James Murphy, Betty Stewart, Elizabeth Jones, Marie Shepherd, Eileen Hayden



Parish Safeguarding Representative

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives is

Jan Box 0151 548 5268

Please make contact if you have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in our parish.