

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church, Leigh Park

The Epiphany of the Lord 7th January 2024

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth charity number 1199568

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Our Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-michael-and-all-angels-leigh-park/>

Scriptures for Year B, the Year of Mark

The Mass Proper is on page 114 of the Parish Mass Book Prayer of the Church Week 2



The Three Wise Men, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, 6th Century

An Epiphany Prayer *O God, Who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and great of every land that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be brought into captivity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen*

Isaiah 60:1-6 The prophet Isaiah cheers the returned exiles with a vision of a restored city which will become a beacon of light for all the nations.

Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6 The second reading expresses the theological meaning of today's feast: God invites Jews and Gentiles to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12 Three Gentiles pay homage to the Christ-child, while the Jewish leaders rejected him.

The Catholic Grandparents Association meets at 10 am on Tuesday 9th January in church.

Catholicism Come and learn about the Church & its history at 7.30 pm on Friday 12th January at Sacred Heart, Waterlooville: a short video by Bishop Robert Barron & an enlightening conversation.

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick, anxious or in particular need.

Parish BACS details Lloyds Bank [CDP Leigh Park St Michael](https://www.lloydsbank.com) 30-93-04 Account number: 00882004

Our Liturgies this week

Reconciliation: in the half hour prior to Mass.

Saturday 6th January Liturgy of the Day

5 pm Reconciliation

6 pm Mass for the Parish



The Magi Henry Siddons-Mowbray 1915

Sunday 7th January

The Epiphany of the Lord

10 am Mass Marie Cooper on her birthday

Monday 8th January Baptism of the Lord

Canon Gerard is away for a few days.

10 am Prayer Group meets

Tuesday 9th January Feria

Ordinary Time resumes: Week 2

10 am Catholic Grandparents meeting

Wednesday 10th January Feria

10.30 am Adoration

Thursday 11th January Feria

Friday 12th January St Aelred

10 am Mass Helen Shipman RIP

Saturday 13th January

5 pm Reconciliation

6 pm Vigil Mass Greta Powderley RIP

Sunday 14th January

10 am Mass for the people of the Parish

Catholicism: want to know more?

On Sunday 28th January at 4 pm in St Michael's you are invited to come along with Any Questions! This could be helpful, especially if you *are hoping to become a Catholic, have thoughts or questions following Alpha, are a parent wanting to answer children's questions or just want to reflect on what we believe.* Canon Gerard & Deacon Nick appreciate hearing your questions in advance at:

gerardflynn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Val Perry RIP, and for consolation for Tony and the family. Val's Requiem Mass will be at 10 am on Friday 26th January. *Eternal rest grant unto Valerie, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen.*

First Holy Communion 2024

On Sunday 14th January after 10 am Mass we meet to outline our programme.

Keith Myers writes: *On this feast the Church celebrates the manifestation, or epiphany, of Christ to the Nations, the Gentiles, in the persons of the Magi, also known as the Wise Men or the Three Kings. In earlier times, this feast combined two other manifestations; that which took place at the Lord's Baptism, and that which took place in Cana at the Wedding feast. This is still the custom in Eastern Christianity. Click this link to find out more: [Want to know the history behind the Feast of the Epiphany?](#)*

Christmas Draw Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. The total raised was a magnificent £919.50. **Unwanted Christmas Gift Sale** Please feel welcome to donate any unwanted gifts you have to the Parish! A sale will be held on the weekend of 27th/28th January. A box is available in the working sacristy. Thank you.

"Everyday I say to myself, today I will begin."

St. Anthony the Great

The Hallow App sends daily thoughts.

[Hallow - The #1 Catholic Meditation, Prayer & Sleep App](#)

We are updating our **Book of Remembrance**. If you have a name of a deceased loved one that you would like added please send, to office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk by Friday 2nd February, the name, date of death and age at death. We ask for a contribution of £18 per entry.

Ten-Year Plan



Remember the Ten-Year Plan? It's a while since we reported on it and where it is now. You may remember that we set up a Pastoral Area Council to study the draft plan at the request of Bishop Philip. All our parishioners in the Pastoral Area were invited to contribute, comments and submissions were collated, and a conference was held which nearly a hundred people attended. The results of these consultations suggested a direction of travel for addressing the requirements of the plan locally.

The aim of the plan is to provide for the future mission of the Church by anticipating its needs into the next decade when the challenges of clergy numbers, secularisation, a loss of the sense of a Christian underpinning to our culture's moral and ethical framework will make themselves increasingly felt. How the Church responds to these challenges will be crucial to its fundamental mission commanded by Jesus himself to bring the Good News of salvation to the world in which we live. This is the basis of our Diocesan Mission to bring people to Jesus Christ through his Church.

The Pastoral Area Council, formed and commissioned from the conference, discussed the plan and its various aspects in a series of meetings, and smaller groups took into consideration how the plan could be implemented in terms of future organisation and provision of pastoral care, liturgical and sacramental provision, financial arrangements, disposition of property, growth of prayer and spiritual life, development of lay ministries, and so on. As requested by the bishop, the findings of these discussions were presented to him last July in the form of a report. Before he went away on sabbatical leave, he responded very positively to the report and its recommendations.

We are now in a position to present the report to parishioners across the Pastoral Area for their consideration. To this end, we will be supplying copies of the report online and as hard copy next weekend for everyone to read, reflect on and respond to. There will be a number of opportunities to meet with the Pastoral Area Council to give your reaction to the report and to ask any questions or clarifications on what it proposes. The meetings will also offer an occasion to see what might happen in the next phase of implementation. There will be three meetings in different parts of the Pastoral Area so that parishioners may choose which is most convenient for them to attend. Please make a note in your diary:

Saturday 3rd February, St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park, 10–11.30 am

Monday 19th February, Sacred Heart, Waterlooville, 7-9 pm

Monday 26th February, St Joseph, Havant, 7-9 pm

Deacon Nick will minister this year in all of the various parishes which currently make up Havant Pastoral Area, the new Parish-to-be. We will see less of him and hear fewer of his great homilies. However, he will return to us at various times. Please pray for all the people and clergy of our Pastoral Area as we progress towards making real the plan **You Will be My Witnesses.**

