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Tuesday: 1 - 3.30pm Thursday: 1 - 3.30pm Friday: 2 - 4pm

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## The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Congratulations to Fr Thomas who celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his ordination last Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January. We are so grateful for his ministry, support and friendship since he arrived last year.**

### Page 115

### Isaiah 60: 1-6

### Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

### Matthew 2: 1-12

The first reading from the old Testament prophet Isaiah is chosen as at the end it mentions non-Jews bringing gifts in homage to the God of Israel, the Messiah, reflecting the Magi bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. He consoles the Jews, who at the time of writing were in exile, with the promise of the restoration of a "New Jerusalem" from which the glory of their Messiah becomes visible even to the pagan nations. "*Arise, shine out, Jerusalem for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you. The nations come to your light*".

In the second reading from St Pau's letter to the Ephesians in what is now Turkey he affirms the mystery of God's plan of salvation in Christ. Paul explains that the plan of God included both Jews and Gentiles, fellow heirs, part of one body, sharing "*the same promise made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel*".

In Matthew's gospel we have the story of the Epiphany and the visit of the Magi. Epiphany means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Jesus is revealed to the shepherds representing his appearance to the Jews while Jesus is also revealed to the Magi representing his manifestation to the Gentiles. The Magi were not kings, but wise men or priests from the East who interpreted dreams and other signs. They were scholars who studied many things including the movement of stars and were advisors to their king and most probably were from Babylonia or Persia. There is no mention of their number but three is used by tradition as there were three gifts. Gold represents the kingship of Jesus. Frankincense is a symbol of divinity. Myrrh is used to prepare the dead for burial and is in anticipation of the death of Jesus. Jesus is the *Light of the World* and we must not just admire the light but take the light of Jesus with us and be people of the light, an example of His message. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> St Andre Bessette</b> Born Alfred Bessette, a very frail child in Canada in 1845 to a poor large family, 4 of whom died in infancy. Orphaned when age 12 and taken in by another family who sent him to school for a short time. Developed devotions to <i>St Joseph</i> and the <i>Passion of Christ</i> . With little education worked at many types of manual jobs but was too physically weak to sustain them. Parish priest recognised his sanctity and devotion. With the help of the Archbishop of Montreal, he managed to get Alfred accepted by the Holy Cross Brothers in Montreal as Brother Andre. Too weak to do other tasks he was made doorkeeper and porter at a school for boys in Montreal. He dreamt of building a chapel in honour of St Joseph on a nearby mountain. Gained a reputation for curing sick with prayers and devotion to St Joseph.
9.30 am Mass	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
6.30 pm Mass	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January St Wulsin of Sherborne</b> Born about 935 in London. A monk at Glastonbury Abbey under St Dustan Then Abbot of Benedictine community at Westminster. It became a centre of learning with its austere living leader which pleased King Edgar. Due to his success made the Bishop of Sherborne in Wessex the largest diocese in the west of England. Was also Abbot of Benedictine Sherborne Abbey. Reform brought a more spiritual and austere life style for monks and clergy helped by King Ethelred. Developed Sherborne Abbey in keeping with architectural and musical reforms from the Benedictine Cluny Abbey in France. Music then became an important part of the liturgy of the Mass. Died on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 1005. Buried in Sherborne Abbey.
10 am Mass	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> St Adrian of Canterbury</b> Born in 635. A Berber from North Africa. Refused appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury but asked by Pope Vitalian to accompany Theodore of Tarsus to Britain who took the post. Adrian was delayed by a tyrannical and racist Frankish Mayor near Paris. On his arrival appointed abbot of monastery of St Peter and St Paul at Canterbury (later St Augustine's). He was a scholar and teacher in Anglo-Saxon England noted for Biblical knowledge. Made Canterbury a major centre of learning. Students became bishops and archbishops. Worked well with Archbishop Theodore to spread the use of music in Anglo-Saxon liturgy in parishes across the country. Introduced feast days of important Italian saints into Church calendar. Venerable Bede recorded "Never had there been such happy times as these since the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain". Died about 710, aged about 75. Buried in Canterbury monastery.

<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> St Bernard of Coleone</b> Skilled shoemaker born 1605 in Sicily during its occupation by Spanish mercenaries. Taught to be a skilled swordsman. Became a soldier with a short temper. Involved in duels. "The best blade in Sicily". He protected the weak especially women against the Spaniards. He severely injured a professional assassin who lost his arm in a duel. In later life befriended him. Became Capuchin Friar and observed severe penances. Helped the sick and poor and had a love of animals. People brought sick animals to him for cure. Died on 12 <sup>th</sup> January 1667. Huge funeral due to his fame as a swordsman who fought for the poor and weak.				
<b>10 am Mass Mercy Devassy RIP</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> St Margaret Bourgeoys</b> Born 1620 at Troyes on the River Seine upstream from Paris. Helped to teach poor children in the town as a canoness attached to local Convent. Not interested in joining the Congregation of the Notre-Dame attached to the monastery in the town as they were an enclosed Order only educating rich girls who could afford to board within the cloisters. Rejected by the Carmelites and the Poor Clares. Continued to educate the poor and gathered a group of young women to help her which became an unenclosed religious community which upset religious authorities. Invited to start a school in Canada by the governor of Ville-Marie, later to be Montreal. Margaret started schools and gathered a community of young women to help her. She founded schools for poor girls, vocational schools, boarding schools for richer girls and missions and schools for Native Americans in Montreal and Quebec. Formed her community into the <i>Congregation of Notre Dame</i> which gradually grew in strength and influence. Died 1620 aged 79.				
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> St Aelred of Rievaulx</b> Born 1110 in England at Hexham, the son of a priest. Educated at cathedral school at Durham. Spent several years at the court of King David I of Scotland and rose to the rank of <i>Master of the Household</i> . Age 24 he left to become a monk at Rievaulx Abbey, now in Yorkshire. Became novice master and remembered for his great tenderness, patience and friendship. Helped found new monastery as Abbot of Revesby Abbey. He was then appointed Abbot of Rievaulx and in charge of eventually 5 daughter monasteries for the rest of his life. Prolific writer on spiritual friendship, history and the life stories of St Edward the Confessor, St Ninian and his friend King David I of Scotland. Considered one of the finest writers in England in the Middle Ages. Had a reputation for his inspirational sermons and advice to abbots and the monastic communities. In his last years was a heroic example as he suffered a succession of infirmities. Died 12 <sup>th</sup> January 1167. Shrine created at Rievaulx Abbey.				
<b>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> St Hilary of Poitiers</b> Hilary was born about 310 a pagan in Poitiers and was married with a daughter. Family converted to Christianity. Church Council in 325, called by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, declared Arianism a heresy. Hilary was elected Bishop of Poitiers in 350 and was known as "Hammer of the Arians" but he had compassion for the heretics hoping they would change to orthodox views. Gentle, courteous and friendly person whose theological writings even today are engaging. Bishop of Arles and the new Roman Emperor Constantine II became Arians and sent Hilary into exile. Pope Liberius in 358 capitulated to Roman Emperor and became an Arian leaving Bishop Hilary the sole champion of orthodox beliefs in Western Church. In exile he had time to compile many theological works opposing Arianism. The important documents worried Arians so they let him free to return to his diocese hoping the work running his diocese would stop him writing. His journey back was an orthodox campaign and made many converts. With Martin of Tours made Gaul a bastion of orthodox opinion. Called Synod of Paris in 361 and agreed Nicene Creed. Synod of Italian bishops in 364 confirmed Arianism a heresy. Died 367 worn out by his struggles. Great Doctor of the Church.				
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>				
<b>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</b>					
<b>Your prayers are needed for the following people</b>					
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley			

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

**Fr Thomas wishes to thank all those who donated towards his Christmas gift of £684.70**

The final total is made up of: Envelopes: £385 (Gift Aid: £96.25). Loose plate: £162.20. Online: £33 (Gift Aid: £8.25)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 10am-4pm: Retreat: St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester: The Great Story of Jesus**

Start the New Year with this retreat delivered by Sr Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community. Refresh and reboot with a renewed appreciation of the core of our faith: the gift of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to animate our lived faith. This may appeal to all who want to reflect more deeply on Jesus and how his life relates to our lives. Please apply to Liza Nahajski for a place and more details: [lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – 1pm to 3 pm**

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

**Parish collection for last weekend 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December**

Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£57.00	£14.25	£155.24	£242.54	£51.98	£521.01	---	---	---	<b>£521.01</b>