

Entrance

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Antiphon Wis 18: 14-15**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading**Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12**

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance. "From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20**

Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates he has blessed the children within you.

2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command.

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees.

Second Reading**Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

Gospel Acclamation**cf. 1Tim3:16**

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

Gospel**John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion**Antiphon Cf. Jn 1: 12**

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, we humbly ask you, that, through the working of this mystery, our offences may be cleansed and our just desires fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.

Homily

3rd January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year B

Dear friends, on Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany; the word Epiphany means revelation or manifestation or showing. We remember the three wise men who came from afar in the East, searching for the newborn Christ-child; they followed the light and were guided by the star by which the mystery of the Christ-child was revealed to them. When they found him they recognised him as someone very special, their Saviour, and they paid him homage and offered him wonderful gifts of great treasure.

The Feast of the Epiphany emphasises that Christ was born for all people, no matter who they are. God doesn't favour any one individual or one particular group, he sent his Son into the world for all and he revealed himself to the whole world through the Magi, the three wise men.

Jesus is a light for everyone and he made salvation available to all; the birth of Jesus broke down all barriers that existed between Jews and Gentiles and the Feast of the Epiphany brings all people together and breaks down any barriers or divisions that may exist today.

Jesus was born into poverty – in worldly terms; Jesus had nothing, he came in poverty and vulnerability. I think as we focus on the crib once again this weekend it makes us more aware of our riches and of what we have in so many different ways. I know I have said to you before as we look at the poverty, the weakness, the simplicity and the ordinariness of the Christ-child it must affect us as we open our hearts to him.

The Magi laid before Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – and through their generosity and giving they received much more. As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this week and as this New Year begins, what is the treasure, the gold, frankincense and myrrh that we lay before the Christ-child?

After the celebration of Christmas, the Epiphany helps us to grasp more deeply the gift that has been given to us. Christmas and the Epiphany invite us to live our Christian faith in new ways. We are called to be more open particularly to those who are fragile and vulnerable, weak and poor and in this way we share our love, hope and joy with others.

Once again let us bow down before the Christ-child and adore him Christ the Lord.

Happy New Year to you, your families and loved ones, with love and prayers as always.
God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Ps – Masses for the Epiphany this week will be at 6.45pm on Tuesday (Vigil) and 9.30am on Wednesday.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

3rd January 2021 – Christmas, Year B

This Christmas we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus as we offer our prayers to the Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: joined together in faith and prayer may they draw closer to the Lord this Christmas time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are struggling and finding Christmas difficult; may we support and help them through our love, care and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all victims and survivors of abuse: may we listen attentively to them and help them find healing and peace in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those affected by the coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poor in our world this Christmas; may we put our faith into action and be generous in sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace this Christmas and an end to injustice, war and violence everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones this Christmas; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

God our loving Father,
As we celebrate the birth of your Son,
we ask you to hear the prayers that we offer
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

3rd January 2021 – Christmas, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and

I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.