



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS

Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
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Rev Gerard Kelly

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**If you would like
to receive this news-
letter electronically,
then please email me.**

Feast of the Epiphany



7th January, 2024



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's Facebook Page](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Feast of the Epiphany gives us permission to hold on to, and extend, our Christmas celebrations—the story is still incomplete while the wise men are yet to arrive at the scene of our Saviour's birth. I'm reminded of children who, at the end of an exciting day, find every excuse to stay up a little longer because they don't want the day to come to an end!

The wise men, travelling from afar, symbolise the universal significance of the birth of Christ—God's plans, once understood as confined to the protection and development of the people of Israel, are now revealed more fully. The God of surprises is at work again revealing that he is never selective or exclusive in his munificence. All are welcome!

It is a characteristic of authentic love is that it must be made known and shared—across space and time, across generations and cultures. Love is not concerned with judgements and boundaries but seeks to build bridges and embrace difference. In the Incarnation, God himself broke out of eternity and entered into the limitations of time where he fully embraced a humanity which had distorted itself through sin.

The wise men from the mysterious East recognise the birth of a new king. They don't see his crown, his palace, or his kingdom but, seeing beyond the manger, the stable, and the poverty, they offer him a king's welcome, bowing before him and lavishing him with precious gifts. Their eyes of faith have been opened and they express their desire to be included in the unfolding Christmas story.

The time will come when the wise men will have to move on from their mystical moment at the manger and return to the familiarity of their own country. But now, they are prepared to travel along different paths as the Lord instructs them.

Can we learn from the story and example of the wise men? Do we too need to set out on a journey of faith more decisively and courageously? Do we need to journey on with more determination to arrive at that place where we want to give everything to what, or to whom, we have found? Are we prepared to live differently after our encounter with the Lord? And we too are called to return to the routines of our normal life, but not forgetting all that we have seen and heard!

May I pray God's blessing on all those who live in our parish, and on all who will visit us in the coming year.

Fr Gerard

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 8th January, 2024

Monday 8th Jan	Tuesday 9th Jan	Wednesday 10th Jan	Thursday 11th Jan	Friday 12th Jan	Saturday 13th Jan	Sunday 14th Jan
Baptism of The Lord MASS 10.00am C.C.	MASS C.C. 10.00am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS & Exposition 10.00am C.C.	MASS C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Children's Church: C.C. - Carmel & Molly H.S. - Sarah K, Suzanne K, Irene

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 7th Jan	Zechariah Javed	Jeremiah Javed
Next Sunday: 14th Jan	David Zycinski	Luke Mendoza

POUND DRAW

£10.00 Siobhan Welch

£10.00 Sarah Ellison

£10.00 Sheila Pollard

£10.00 Michael Taylor



£102.00 towards Parish Funds, thank you!

So ends the Pound Draw for 2023!

The FINAL AMOUNT RAISED FOR THE PARISH THIS YEAR is:

£5,674.00

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL WHO HAVE JOINED IN THE DRAW TO MAKE THIS FANTASTIC RESULT; WE'LL TRY TO MATCH IT NEXT YEAR, thanks again.

If you not sure how to join in The POUND DRAW, have a word with Fr Gerard or Monica and they will put you in touch with one of the team that runs it.

You can't win it if your not in it!!!

Ian Dempsey PD, SJS, CC, HS, OD!!

Director



CHURCH COLLECTION

31st December: £383.90

Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w

Thank you!

BAPTISM

This weekend, we welcome **Jacob Mark Keating**, son of Glenn and Charlotte Keating, and grandson of Helen Keating. May Jacob always know the love of God in his family and in the parish community.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jan 7th Mary A Jennings (2002)

Jan 8th Gerald C Kelly (2002)

Jan 9th Annie Halstead (2005)

Jan 10th Rev Thomas Baron (1972)

Jan 13th Alfred Allen (1940)



We pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, that the Lord will receive them into the fullness of his resurrection life!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Gibbons, 11th anniv, 5th Jan.

Michael Gibbons, 8th anniv, 5th Jan.

Mary Anne Jennings, 22nd anniv, 7th Jan.

Duffy & Firman Families.

Brian Dunne, died recently.

Introduction to Catholic Life and Teaching

Tomorrow, Saturday 6th January is the next meeting for those who are interested in reflecting afresh on their faith. The meeting will take place at Sacred Heart presbytery at 9.30am. We do have a couple of newcomers to the Church, but it's good for them to know that they are joining an enthusiastic and engaged community. This week, we will be reflecting on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We might need to shake off some negative understanding of this most valuable way of meeting Jesus! Do feel welcome to come along.

