



The Brilliance in Our Stars



As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it's a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewed purpose. The Feast of Epiphany, celebrated in early January, offers us a profound opportunity to contemplate the journey of the Three Wise Men, whose quest for truth and wisdom led them to the Christ child. Their pilgrimage is a reminder that true fulfilment and happiness are often found in the most unexpected places, not in the outward trappings of success, but in the quiet moments of revelation and connection.

In our own quest for happiness, we may find ourselves, like the Magi, following the bright and shining stars of worldly aspirations—be it the perfect relationship, career, or lifestyle. Yet, as many have discovered, these external pursuits might not lead to the lasting contentment they promise. Instead, happiness is an inside job, a skill and an attitude that must be developed, much like the journey of the Wise Men who were guided by faith, curiosity, and openness.

To cultivate this inner contentment, we can start by wanting what we already have. Just as the Wise Men appreciated the humble setting where they found the Holy Family, we too can choose gratitude for the blessings in our own lives, fostering a sense of peace and satisfaction. A daily practice of reflection and thanksgiving can dramatically shift our perspective, as research in psychology suggests, increasing our happiness and well-being.

Moreover, kindness, both to ourselves and others, mirrors the generosity of spirit shown by the Magi who offered their precious gifts. Kindness creates a ripple effect, binding us closer to one another and fostering a community infused with goodwill. By replacing harsh judgments with compassion, we can build connections and embrace each other's imperfections with grace.

As we navigate the responsibilities of adulthood, as serious as they may appear, it's crucial to remember the value of play and relaxation. The Wise Men's journey, though arduous, was also a venture grounded in joy and discovery. May we, too, carve out time for leisure and creativity in our daily lives, fuelling our happiness and well-being.

None of these transformations would be possible without mindfulness, which allows us to pause, become aware of our state of being, and choose our responses intentionally. It is the inner compass that guides us, much like the star that led the Wise Men, to moments of personal epiphany that illuminate our path.

Let this new year be one where we follow those guiding stars of gratitude, kindness, play, and mindfulness, discovering a deeper, more enduring happiness within ourselves and our community. In doing so, we honour the spirit of the Epiphany and embrace the divine within and around us.

Thanks a Million

As we reflect on the beautiful Christmas celebrations, we are filled with gratitude for all who contributed to making them truly special. Our heartfelt thanks go to our altar servers, whose dedication and reverence enriched each Mass. To our readers, thank you for bringing the Word of God to life with clarity and passion. We are grateful to our Eucharistic ministers for their commitment to serving the community with grace and love.

The choir, with their angelic voices, moved our hearts and lifted our spirits, creating an atmosphere of joy and reverence. Your hard work and talent did not go unnoticed. To our talented florist, your beautiful arrangements added a touch of heavenly beauty to our sacred space, enhancing our worship experience.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment and for sharing your gifts in service to God and our community. Together, you made our Christmas celebrations truly memorable.

Beginning of the First Communion Programme 2025



We are delighted to announce the beginning of this year's First Communion Programme 2025, starting this weekend. We warmly welcome all the children who have joined us on this beautiful journey of faith. May they be richly blessed as they prepare to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the parents for their unwavering support and dedication to their children's spiritual growth. Your involvement is invaluable, and we are grateful for your commitment.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous catechists, whose dedication and kindness make this programme possible. Their tireless efforts and loving guidance are truly inspiring.

As we embark on this spiritual journey, we kindly ask for the prayers and support of our entire parish community. Your spiritual encouragement will uplift and strengthen these young souls as they deepen their faith.



Supporting Our Parish: An Expression of Gratitude



God has bestowed upon us. Through giving, we worship and mirror the selfless love of a "give-first" God. When we invest in what God cherishes, we actively contribute to building His Kingdom and relish the joy of sharing in His abundant love.

Ways to Give:

- **Giving Stands:** Use the newly installed 'Giving Stands' at the church's entrance.
 - **Online:** Donate via PayPal on our website.
 - **Standing Order & Gift Aid:** Request forms or find them on our website.
 - **Legacy Gift:** Consider including us in your will or trust to support future church endeavours.
- Thank you for your continued support in nurturing our beloved parish.

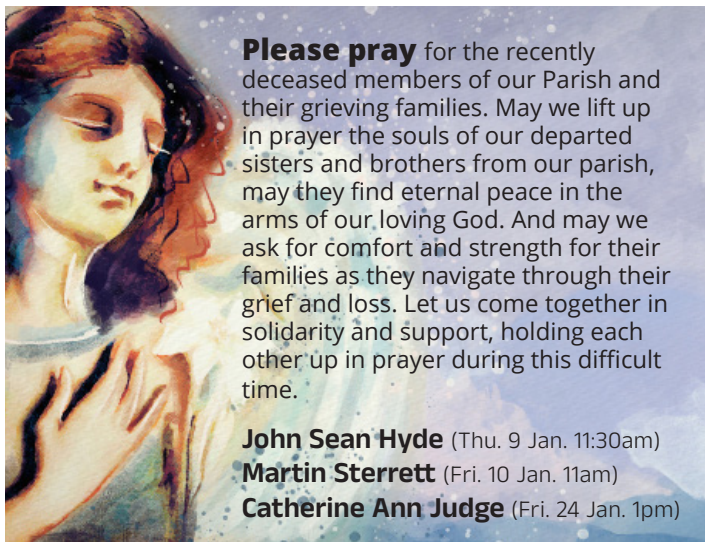


With heartfelt gratitude, we are delighted to share the results of the December draw, which was graciously held on January 2nd at the serene Monastery. This month, we were blessed with 99 entries, and we extend our warmest congratulations to our fortunate winners:

- **£400:** **Salome Golding (76)**
- **£100:** **Anne-Marie Duffy (165)**
- **£50:** **Nick Sharp (166)**

At St. Joseph, our vibrant community flourishes because of your incredible generosity, for which we are deeply grateful. Our faith encourages us to give joyfully, reflecting the priorities of our hearts, rather than out of obligation. When Christ is at the centre of our lives, supporting the church becomes a natural expression of our spiritual dedication. Indeed, we rely entirely on your generous contributions to sustain St. Joseph. Without the kind-heartedness of our community, our parish simply couldn't continue to thrive.

Remember, God doesn't seek your money—He desires your heart. We give as a response to the myriad blessings



Please pray for the recently deceased members of our Parish and their grieving families. May we lift up in prayer the souls of our departed sisters and brothers from our parish, may they find eternal peace in the arms of our loving God. And may we ask for comfort and strength for their families as they navigate through their grief and loss. Let us come together in solidarity and support, holding each other up in prayer during this difficult time.

- John Sean Hyde** (Thu. 9 Jan. 11:30am)
- Martin Sterrett** (Fri. 10 Jan. 11am)
- Catherine Ann Judge** (Fri. 24 Jan. 1pm)

Dearest Friends,

We are profoundly grateful for your generous contributions to last weekend's collection, totalling an impressive £1,558, and for the Christmas offering of £3,180. Your kindness and support empower us to serve and nurture God's Kingdom. Together, we make a significant impact on our community and beyond. May God's blessings shower upon you and your loved ones. Thank you sincerely for your support.



As we embrace the dawn of a new year, we kindly remind our cherished annual members that it is time for your subscription renewal. The contribution remains at £10 per month, and cheques are to be made payable to "St. Joseph's 100 Club."

With profound appreciation, we thank you once again for your unwavering support, which continues to nurture and uplift our beloved parish community.

Mass intentions from 4th January 2025

"I would be disobeying the LORD if I stopped praying for you!" 1 Sam. 12:23

Date	Time	Intention	Category
Sat, 4 Jan 2025	07.00 pm	Missa PP	Intentions
Sun, 5 Jan 2025	08.00 am	Ann Dowling(sick)	Intentions
	10.00 am	Mary McGovern(LD) Linda Warden	Anniversary
	12 noon	Joe Moheney(LD) Tomothy O'Shea, Patricia Murdock	Anniversary
	07.00 pm	FR. Paddy Gill	Lately Dead
Mon, 06 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Lowrie&Veronica Arouino(Intns) Annamma Thomas	Lately Dead
	06.30 pm	Katie&Kieran Duffy(cele.) Jonathan Johnson	Lately Dead
Tues, 07 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Michael & Josie Gallagher	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Souls in Purgatory	Anniversary
Wed, 08 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Lizzie	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Eileen & Patrick Connole	Anniversary
Thur, 09 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Fri, 10 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Sat, 11 Jan 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions

Mass Intentions get fully booked for several weeks ahead. If you would like a Mass said on a particular date or anniversary it is advisable to request it in good time.

Welcome to St. Joseph

God loves everyone. No exceptions.

St. Joseph's Welcomes You. We are here for you!

We Invite you to join us on the spiritual journey as we learn and grow together, and as we seek to help and serve others.

MASS TIMES - Weekdays: 9:30am, 6:30pm, Saturdays: 9:30am followed by adoration until 11am, 7pm Vigil Mass. Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 10am to 10:30am and from 6:30pm to 6:45pm.
Weekdays on request

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Is 60: 1-6, Eph 3: 2-3a. 5-6, Mt 2: 1-12 **Mon:** Andre Bessette, r 1 Jn 3: 22 -- 4: 6, Mt 4: 12-17. 23-25, **Tue:** Raymond of Penyafort, p, 1 Jn 4: 7-10, Mk 6: 34-44 **Wed:** 1 Jn 4: 11-18, Mk 6: 45-52 **Thu:** 1 Jn 4: 19 -- 5: 4, Lk 4: 14-22 **Fri:** 1 Jn 5: 5-13, Lk 5: 12-16 **Sat:** 1 Jn 5: 14-21, Jn 3: 22-30

BAPTISM OF THE LORD Is 40: 1-5. 9-11, Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7, Lk 3: 15-16. 21-22