

# PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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## The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A – 5 January 2014

**Entrance:** *Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion*

**Responsorial psalm:** *All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord*

**Gospel:** *Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!*

**Communion:** *We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord*

### Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

The Syrian King Seleucus II Callinicus is recorded to have offered gold, frankincense and myrrh (among other items) to Apollo in his temple at Miletus, and this may have been the precedent for the mention of these three gifts in Gospel of Matthew (2:11). This episode can be linked to Isaiah 60 and to Psalm 72 which report gifts being given by kings, and this has played a central role in the perception of the Magi as kings, rather than as astronomer-priests. St John Chrysostom suggested that the gifts were fit to be given not just to a king but to God, and contrasted them with the Jews' traditional offerings of sheep and calves, and accordingly Chrysostom asserts that the Magi worshiped Jesus as God. What subsequently happened to these gifts is never mentioned, but several traditions have developed. One story has the gold being stolen by the two thieves who were later crucified alongside Jesus. Another tale has it being entrusted to and then misappropriated by Judas. And another story proposes the theory that the myrrh given to them at Jesus' birth was used to anoint Jesus' body after his crucifixion. There is a golden case purportedly containing the Gift of the Magi housed in the Monastery of St. Paul on Mount Athos. It was donated to the monastery in the 15th century by Mara Branković, daughter of the King of Serbia; they were apparently part of the relics held in Constantinople before the Moslem conquest of that city in 1453, where they had been displayed since the 4th century. After the Athens earthquake of 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1999 the relic was displayed in Athens in order to strengthen faith and raise money for earthquake victims.

### The Long Way Round

The Magi journeyed from the east  
to pay homage to the Christ child,  
in Bethlehem their journey ceased,  
they found the babe with mother mild.

To pay homage to the Christ child  
is what Herod feigned to do, when  
they found the babe with mother mild,  
he'd travel there to worship, too.

What Herod feigned to do that day,  
the kings were warned of in a dream,  
his claim to worship he'd betray,  
with the information gleaned.  
The kings were cautioned in a dream,  
a different journey now their brief,  
with the information gleaned  
the Magi moved-off to the east.



## Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

**The numbers drawn for week 34 were 35, 4, 7 & 49**  
**No winner**  
**Prize money for week 35 is £140.00 and five numbers to be drawn**

Today's second collection: there isn't one

Walking with Kings: a service of carols and readings in celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany; Belmont Abbey, this afternoon at 3:00pm

Benediction: this afternoon at 3:30pm

Funeral Arrangements: the funeral Mass of Mr Simon Williams will be celebrated at 1:45pm on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January at Belmont Abbey. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. *Requiescat in pace*

From the Vicar General: Fr. John Meredith died unexpectedly on 26th December 2013 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. He was sixty three years old and had been a priest for twenty five years. John Paul Meredith was born on 6th April 1950 in Bridgend. He was educated at Cynfig Comprehensive School and went on to further education at Swansea College where he obtained an HND in Business Studies and became a graduate of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. He put this expertise to good use in his fourteen year career as a Buyer for British Steel at Port Talbot. An Anglican by upbringing, he was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church in 1982. Two years later he was accepted for the Diocese as a candidate for the priesthood and undertook his studies at St. Kieran's College Kilkenny. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop John Aloysius Ward on 21st June 1988. He served as an assistant priest in a number of parishes: St. Helen's Barry, St. Dyfrig's Treforest, and St Mary's Bridgend. He was Catholic chaplain at the University of Cardiff from 1994-1998, followed by ten years as parish priest at Cwmbran. In 2009 he moved to Our Lady and St. Patrick, Maesteg. Having obtained a Master of Arts in Theology at Lampeter, he served as Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, a member of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Diocesan representative on the Historic Churches Committee for Wales and Herefordshire. He also served as Dean of North Gwent for ten years. Diagnosed with cancer just six weeks ago, John intended to carry on as normal for as long as possible. He accepted his illness with resignation and faith. Although increasingly fragile, he managed to celebrate two Masses for Christmas for his parishioners at Maesteg. This was typical of his humble, selfless commitment to his ministry.

Funeral Arrangements: the funeral Mass of Fr John Meredith will be celebrated at St David's Cathedral, Cardiff on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00am, followed by burial at Porthcawl Cemetery. *Requiescat in pace*

Funeral Arrangements: the funeral service of Mrs Jeanette Harrall will be held at 3:00pm on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January at Hereford Crematorium. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. *Requiescat in pace*

Tuesday Devotions: Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass, and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary after Mass

White Flower Appeal: the recessional collection next Sunday will be for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. Their stated aims are to affirm, defend and promote the existence and value of human life from the moment of conception, and to defend and protect human life generally; to reassert the principle laid down in the United Nations 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child that the child "*needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.*" to defend, assist and promote the life and welfare of mothers during pregnancy and of their children from the time of conception up to, during and after birth; to examine existing or proposed laws, legislation or regulations relating to abortion and to support or oppose such as appropriate

Crib offerings: are collected for children in the Diocese who are in need. Much work is undertaken by the Diocese for children living with social, familial and educational deprivation. These offerings will help to support that work. The running total stands at £91.00

# Epiphany-tide

## Psalter: Epiphany-tide

Today:

9:30 am Fr Leo Caesar OSB  
11:30 am David Thomas  
6:30 pm

Monday 6 January 9:30 am Mass – David Bellamy  
*Epiphany-tide*

Tuesday 7 January 7:00pm Mass – Lapsed children  
*Epiphany-tide*

Wednesday, 8 January 9:30 am Mass – Lillian Orchard  
*Epiphany-tide*

Thursday, 9 January 9:30 am Mass – Jim Smith  
*Epiphany-tide*

Friday, 10 January 7:00 pm Mass – Con & Ann McGee  
*Epiphany-tide*

Saturday, 11 January 9:30 am Confessions  
*Epiphany-tide* 10:30 am Mass – Harry Sutton

Sunday, 12 January (Baptism of the Lord)

9:30 am Alfred & Catherine Cummings  
11:30 am John Young  
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Cenydd Marrison

### Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Karen Royer, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Katie Balnaves, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Natalie Chadwick, Leo Hornby, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Jason Houten, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Sr Catherine Jackson OP, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Stan Morris, Glyn Matthews, Joan Sheeran, Janet McNamara, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Dr Mike O'Kane, Madeleine Went, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Joe Davies and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Harry Grafen, Simon Williams, Jeanette Harrall, Fr John Meredith and Jim Smith

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of December, including: Lillian Orchard, Walter Jennings, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen Shawcross, Marjorie Sullivan, Ellen Willis, Elizabeth Farley, Ernest Cooper, Patrick Taylor, Margaret Ryan, Jamie McGoran, Winifred Brennan, Catherine Ross, Syd Swann, Eileen Harris, Patrick Lynch, Denise McQuaid, Ronald, O'Connor, Joseph Kelly, Raymond Watkins, Leslie Foulkes, Celia Methven, Reginald Sly, Shirley Walters, Irene Brennan, Jean Chappell, Angelo Moruzzi, Raymond Breeze, Amelia Smith, Jerzy Schmidt, Michał Piwień, Baden Powell, Francis Seymour, Eileen Scott, William Graham, James Jones, Louise Champion and Margaret Dean

A man, down on his luck, went into a church which catered to the "uppity". Spotting the man's dirty clothes a deacon, worried about the churches image, went to the man and asked him if he needed help. The man said, "I was praying and the Lord told me to come to

### Rota Schedule for 10 to 16 January 2014

**Flower Arrangers:** N & C Scottford

**Cleaners:** Wagner family

**Ushers:** 9:30am J Sullivan & volunteer

11:30am J McGowan & J Kelly

6:30pm R & R Seamarks

### Readers:

9:30am A Spanjers

11:30am V Thomas

6:30pm R Maloney

### Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am C Sharland, P King, (F Keogh)

11:30pm E Cotterell, C Mulloy, H Meenaghan

6:30pm C Milsom, J Winter

**Altar Linen:** B Spanjers

### Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 26 stycznia godz 16:00

### Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December came to **£417.74** – thank you



You never listen properly.  
You're gonna be in so much trouble!

*this church." The deacon suggested that the man go pray some more and possibly he might get a different answer. The next Sunday the man returned. The deacon asked, "Did you get a different answer?" The man replied, "Yes I did. I told the Lord that they don't want me in that church and the Lord said, 'Don't worry about it son; I've been trying to get into that church for years and haven't made it yet."*

