**Newsletter for the week commencing 7th January 2024**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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

**First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6**

**Psalm 1-2 Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord**

**Second Reading:  The letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6**

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

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12**

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

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

Next weekend we have the White Flower Appeal with a retiring collection for those who want to support this important work.

Why Is it Called the White Flower Appeal?

The name was originally inspired by the work of the Weiße Rose (White Rose) movement, a non-violent, intellectual resistance to the Nazis in Germany at the height of the Second World War. They became known for an anonymous leafleting and graffiti campaign that lasted 8 months between 1942 and 1943.

In February 1943 Hans and Sophie Scholl, two of the group's core active members, were caught and arrested. Following interrogation, they were tried by the Gestapo and beheaded along with four others. The Weiße Rose and Sophie Scholl have been the subject of a number of films retelling the story of their bravery to new generations.

The White Rose still serves as an example to us of what can be achieved by standing up for what is right.

From the SPUC website.

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/whiteflower>

Fr Behr

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:  :  Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Davidson RIP who died on Christmas Day. Please pray for her husband Peter (they were married for over 70 years) and her family.**

**The date for Maureen’s funeral is January 18 at 2pm.**

**Those ill or infirm:** Paul Lane**,** Peter Crinnion, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:**Mary Jones, John Symons, Howard Wickham, Dorothy Mary Newell, Margaret Salmon, Joyce Thomas, Christine Wood (Anne Bryant’s sister), Julie Elliot, Clemens Heinrichsmeier and Catherine Mellor.

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| **This week’s services (6th- 12th January), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 6th January**Feria | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: Liz** |
| **Sunday 7th January****THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** | 10am Mass  *Joe Venables RIP***Reader: Kathy**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 8TH January**The Baptism of the Lord | 10am Mass *Mark and Family, Living and Departed* |
| **Tuesday 9th January**Feria | 10am Mass  *Kitty Moclir RIP* |
| **Wednesday 10th January**Feria | 10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 11th January**Feria | 9am-10am Adoration10am Mass *Annie and Basil Baldwin* |
| **Friday 12th January**St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot | 10am Mass *Malcolm and Maggie Burrows RIP*10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 13th January**St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: Wendy** |
| **Sunday 14th January****SECOND SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (B)** | 10am Mass  *Clemens Heinrichsmeier RIP***Reader: Suzanne**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 13th/14th January – Sandra** |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to  come to church.

**Children’s Liturgy** at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine is**this Sunday** 7th January, 2024.

Dear All,

Please **“Save this Date”, Sunday 28 January 2024.**It is the date for **Racial Justice Sunday 2024**. On that day, **Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate a Mass at St Georges Cathedral; Time 10.00am** followed by a light refreshment at the upper deck of the Amigo Hall.

**All Parishes, Schools, Chaplaincies, Institutions in the Archdiocese are kindly invited to be part of this colourful celebration** led by Archbishop John as he invites everyone to prayers and actions that will harness the richness in our diversities and route out any form of exclusion in our communities and the wider society.

**Building a Better Marriage:**

Save the date Saturday 3 FEBRUARY 2024 9.30am – 4.00pm

This day, held at Maidstone South parish hall, Bicknor Road, Park Wood ME15 9PS starting at 9.30am until 4pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential - please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or by phone:  07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

**2024 – A year of strengthening our relationship with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.**

When a small rat and a big rat play together, if the small rat finds the big rat has not let him win 30 per cent of the time he stops playing with the big rat. He understands in a rat-like way that the big rat is not following the rules of the game anymore and is using his strength and size to take advantage and give himself rat-like glory.

Humans, of course, have a much finer sense of justice, of right and wrong, of fairness. At the same time, human judgment through original sin is clouded. As Christians and as Catholics we believe that Our Lord Jesus through his words and sacraments can help us achieve real and Godly justice, real fairness. Through him we can make a real difference to the world around us.

We commit wrong time and time again and yet Jesus in the sacrament of reconciliation is always ready to help us steer our lives away from damage to positive things, to loving fully and bringing happiness to those around us and, through prayer, even to those in trouble whose plight of hunger or persecution we know about second hand.

This year, 2024, it is really worth deepening our relationship with the Lord Jesus. Try. Let’s be ready to see if it makes a difference in our lives and to our loved ones. And to the world. Heaven knows how much the world needs an end to all the wars and hatred that rage.

Our Lord only expects us to try to do our best. Trying is the key here. This year let’s try and further deepen our relationship with God. These are some reminders for us all:

* There is no higher prayer than Mass. At Mass, Jesus is present in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul, and divinity. Through prayer great things can be achieved. Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find. The more frequently we attend Mass, the more we pray and not only that, but we receive wonderful graces from God, who is Love.
* Private prayer or praying as a group. There are many types of prayer we can make use of: litanies such as the Litany of the Saints or the Litany of Loretto. Also there is the Rosary and/or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Prayer brings calm. Prayer is talking to God, giving thanks, receiving love and peace. Talking is building a relationship. In prayer God invites us to ask for all that we need and for the needs of our parents, children, friends, the world so full of injustice. What could be more wonderful than strengthening our relationship with the One who made us?
* Receiving Our Lord in the Eucharist after the sacrament of reconciliation is a beautiful gift for the Lord that he will repay with many graces of love, calm and peace of mind. Going more regularly to confession (the sacrament of reconciliation) literally takes weight off our mind. Jesus bears away the burden and sorrow of the wrongs we have done and brings healing and transformation.
* Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a very deep way of experiencing Jesus’ love. It is a great way of gaining calm and a special way of giving time to speak to Jesus from the heart, pouring out our troubles and asking for his help and asking for him to provide solutions.
* Parish life and helping those who need help, good works. Strengthening and being strengthened by your community of those who are like-minded is worthwhile and empowering. Humans are social creatures. We need each other. Let’s not deprive ourselves of being with those we share the greatest treasures in the world with. The greatest treasures are Jesus and the sacraments of the Church as well as the love that his mother Mary gives us, for she is always praying for us, her children.

Let us remember the incredible majesty and might and power of God who made Heaven and Earth. Let us connect with him more deeply in 2024. He wants a deep and loving relationship with us. He wants to shed blessing upon blessing on us, but He needs to hear from us, He needs us to ask. The more we ask, the more He will give. He is very generous.

Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will opened to you.

**Churches Together in Tenterden.**

A very Happy New Year. You are invited to join us for **Breakfast on Saturday 20th January**. Time: 8.15 for an 8.30 start Finish at 10. Venue: St Mildred's Church Hall.

Good Food - a cooked breakfast and good fellowship will be followed by a short service for Christian Unity.

Please book your place on the sign-up sheet in the church porch or with Jolyon by Friday 12th January at the latest so we can confirm numbers with our caterers.

Cost £10 payable on the day.

Looking forward to seeing you.

On behalf of the organising committee, Freddy Farias, Martin Giles, Jolyon Vickers, Lindsay Hammond and Chris Cheesman.