



## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Feria –First Week in Ordinary Time (Yr 1)	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Jacob Stevens' intention
Friday Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
Second Sunday after Epiphany	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am	Mass



**The Big Picture** is an inspirational Bible Course and DVD produced by CAFE to help people find their place in the big picture of salvation history. **St Joseph's in Gerrards Cross** will be running this course over 12 weeks in the New Year in which we will study the Bible from the time of Creation through to the End of Time. We will explore the teaching presented by biblical experts, follow a daily personal reading plan and reflect on this in subsequent group sessions. This is an opportunity to deepen our love and understanding of the Bible. There are two opportunities to join the course which will run on **Thursdays from 12 January to 6 April 2017** in the morning at 9:30am or in the evening at 7:45pm for 8pm. Participants will need their personal copy of "The Big Picture" book, which includes a DVD, priced at £10 available from St Joseph's Parish Office ([office@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.org.uk) or 01753 886581). The book is inviting and full of inspirational quotes with plenty of room to record your personal journey through the bible.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.

## Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection - £239.80

**NEXT WEEK – Second Collection –  
Pax Christi Peace Sunday**

If you would like to begin contributing to our parish through the Gift Aid through numbered envelope or by Standing Order through your bank, please speak with Fr Andy.

**JANUARY 2017 edition of The Vine**

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is available. **It's free of charge!**

**Are you new to the parish?**

If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.  
*All are welcome!*



**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

## VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20S AND 30S)

**Discerning God's Call – 27th - 29th January 2017 - New Cross, London**

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

## About Liturgy

**East and light as symbol:** We all know that the sun rises in the east, but probably most of us don't realise what a strong symbol this has always been, both in Christian theology and architecture.

**Resurrection:** All four gospels mention that it was early in the morning on the first day of the week that they found the empty tomb. Hence, the sun rising in the east is a natural symbol for the resurrection. Morning Prayer, ideally celebrated early in the morning, is a resurrection prayer and has motifs of light and glory as well as praise.

**Second Coming:** From earliest times Christians looked east for Christ's Second Coming, the source of light and new dawning of life.

**Church axis:** Early church buildings were always constructed on an east-west axis; the altar was situated at one end so the assembly, standing facing the altar, faced east. A parallel symbolism of this axis is that as they left the building they left facing west – a symbol of darkness, sin, and evil. This was a constant reminder that the light showered upon them at liturgy was to be taken into a world darkened by sin, that they were to be the light dispelling that darkness.

**Posture:** In the early church it was customary to turn eastward for prayer. During baptisms the elect would face westward to renounce Satan and then turn eastward to recite the Creed.

## 'The Wizard of OZ' – 19-22 January 2017, The Elgiva Theatre

Join The Chesham Bois Catholic Players in following the Yellow Brick Road this coming January. It will include a large talented cast gathered from the surrounding area, great costumes, music and dancing. There will be five performances including two matinees and it could be the perfect post-Christmas show for parishioners and their families.

Friday 13th January is the **20th anniversary** of the founding of **The Good Counsel Network** in the UK, thousands of Lives has been Saved from abortion since then. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Thursday 12th January, the eve of this anniversary. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com) Thank you for all of your support over the last twenty years.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

Preparations are now being made for our local inter-denominational event which will be on 3rd March 2017 at St John's Methodist Church in Amersham. The service has been prepared by Christian women of the Philippines. It usually lasts for one hour starting at 11am and is followed by a shared lunch which is optional. If you would like to take part as a reader, singer, or advisor, please let Elizabeth Beckwith know. Tel. 01494 433363.

**The Art of Dying Well** is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based on the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life it will launch in November – the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead. [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org)

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** Isaiah reminds us that the true wealth of the Jewish people lay in its children. No wealth compares: a lavish procession of camels bearing gold or all the riches of the seas cannot come close to the beloved face of one daughter or son. What parent cannot relate to "your heart shall throb and overflow" at the sight of one's child, especially one who has been threatened, as today's climate of violence has made increasingly frightening? Poor and inferior in many ways, Israel is radiant because of god's presence with her.

**Responsorial Psalm 72:** This hopes of all the world's peoples are ultimately the same: for peace, wise leadership, just government. People around the globe will hear and sing this psalm today in their own languages, a tribute to the magi who came from afar to worship the infant Jesus. This is the feast of inclusivity; no one was unwelcome at Bethlehem.

**Second Reading:** Christians who hadn't been born Jewish must have felt enormous relief to hear this message to Ephesians. They are in no way second-class in the new Christian community. Rather, they are affirmed as coheirs, members of Christ's body, sharers in the promise. What might have been a small, middle-eastern sect can now spread gloriously throughout the world, to everyone.

**The Gospel:** This story of the Magi following the star to find and worship the newborn King, stopping to ask Herod, then continuing to Bethlehem were, overjoyed, they find the child with his mother is deeply familiar, and resonates not only because people have heard it so often. Those in the assembly have also pursued quests, with varying degrees of success. They have looked to their own stars, and may have blundered into palaces of evil along the way. But the Gospel brings hope at the journey's end, a new way of being and a return" by another way."

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH CAFOD

Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help those working to overcome poverty around the globe. CAFOD is looking for people who would like to go into schools to give assemblies, support the two Fast Days a year in the parish or give talks in the parish or at other parishes. All training is provided and travel cost reimbursed. If you enjoy social media and writing you could contribute to our blog and e-news. We would love to hear from you: [northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk) or 01844 274 723.

