



The story of the Epiphany captures the imagination with its rich mixture of mystery and intrigue. Into the Holy Family come 3 wise men from the east, dressed in majestic robes and bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. They had travelled from unknown lands following a star and had experienced the deviousness of King Herod before they were filled with delight in finding the new-born child. After paying homage, they left for home following a different route. The story of the Magi is so colourful, we may overlook its significance and fail to see its deeper meaning. The wise men represent all of us. The journey through desert and mountain following a star reflects our search for purpose and meaning in life which is not possible unless we are guided by faith which enables us to see beneath the

surface of appearances. At the centre of it all is the innocence of a new-born child surrounded by adoration, wonder and mystery who is able to stir the emotions, imaginations and will of all those drawn into his presence. The story is always relevant because God sees to it that people who really search will find him. He will shed light into our darkness and make us new. As Christmas draws to an end, the Epiphany reminds us of our journey into another year, following the individual paths which we alone are to tread. Life is a pilgrimage, a long journey, but we need not necessarily travel it alone, fumbling in darkness in search of our destination. The Epiphany story concerns the wider world and the many varying journeys we have to find and encounter Christ. It calls to us to look and search for the Lord who is in our midst in situations where previously we have been unaware of his presence. He comes to us in people and places we least expect and at times when we are unprepared for his company. God stands in our midst, revealing himself and inviting us to enter into his company and nothing is ever the same again for those who discover his light. The responsibility we have is to let the divine light within us shine through to others. The gospel of love, forgiveness and redemption is not something to keep quiet about but good news to announce to the world.

Masses & Service Times: Monday - Eucharistic Service at 9.00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 9.30 a.m. Thursday - 9.00 a.m. Reconciliations - Saturdays - 12.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Sunday Masses - 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Offertory: £914.23, **Flowers:** £5.67, **Coffee:** £23.20 **Crib Offerings for the Children's Society:** £48.10. Many thanks for your great kindness and generosity.

When we live in the past with its mistakes and regrets it is hard, for Jesus is not there.

When we live for the future with its problems and fears it is hard also, for Jesus is not there.

When we live for the moment it is not hard, for Jesus is with us.

We remember Susan Champagnie whose funeral takes place on Friday at Macclesfield Crematorium. We pray for her family at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

Confirmation 2017 - Our 10.30 a.m. Mass this morning is the Enrolment Mass for Confirmation. We pray for the Candidates, their families, sponsors and catechists during this time of preparation.

Sunday Coffee Rota - We need more volunteers to serve Coffee/Tea and biscuits after 10.30 mass on a Sunday. If you are willing to join the Sunday Coffee Rota, please come to the Hall after 10.30 a.m. mass and put your name on the list that is on the hatch door.

Churches Together in Handforth - There will be a Churches Together United Service on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Lacey Green Pavilion (off Clough Avenue), Lacey Green. Everyone is welcome.

Church Lottery - November winner - B Cann, December winner - J Scrafton, both won £50.

God Bless You All

Fr. William O'Riordan

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. W. O'Riordan 01625 522776. **Permanent Deacon:** Rev. B.T. Chrisp 01625 251047.

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Parish Rep. Child Protection: 01625 252108. **S.V.P.:** 07749 453776.

Hall Co-ordinator: 01625 250879 **Organist:** 01625 529041

Parish Website: <http://stbenedictshandforth.mycylex.co.uk>

Your Catholic Primary School is: St. Benedict's situated on Hall Road, Handforth.

For more information please contact the Head Teacher, Mrs Jane Gornell, on 01625 520207