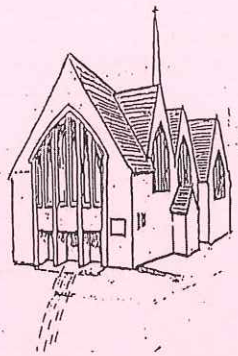


# The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

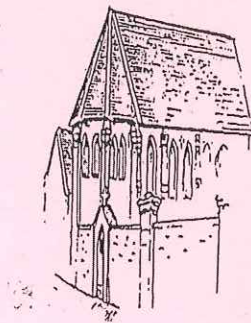


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Head Teacher: Mr. P. Underwood  
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Sisters  
of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
195 Church Rd, E12 6HB  
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## The Epiphany of the Lord & 2nd Sunday of the Year (A) 8 - 21 January 2017

From Fr. Sean,

I managed, in my enforced rest, to watch *The Nativity*, television's latest attempt to retell the biblical stories, but I did so with a great deal of apprehension. Either these end up cloyingly pious for fear of upsetting the faithful or unrelentingly right-on in a desperate bid to be relevant. There is also the problem that we not only know the ending, and every detail of the tale in advance, making suspense a tad difficult; but how do you portray the direct intervention of the divine in human affairs without it being incredible or ridiculous? After all, what does an angel look like? In fact, the makers navigated their way through most of the traps well enough and told the story reasonably well, with enough tension to make a viewing worthwhile. By concentrating on the characters and their relationships with one another there was enough to keep us engaged, because all of us are interested in other people to some extent or another. So we were drawn into the inevitable tension between Mary and Joseph, but also into the young, angry shepherd's struggle to do the right thing. This version, of course, is part of the tradition going back to the Gospels themselves, of interpreting the events of the birth in order to understand what it means in each contemporary setting; and it is welcome to see adults performing which allows us a glimpse of the frightening and dangerous childbirth in an alien and uncaring environment. Ultimately these retellings should lead us to reflect on the birth in our own lives. The world is still peopled by the same characters in our personal lives and in the world beyond. There are still those who wield power with cruelty and selfishness and those crushed by unfeeling oppression; there are still those who insist their way is God's way and therefore the only way, and those open to the freedom of the divine at work in the world. It is not enough for us people of faith to carry on in the same old way, faithful though that may be. It is Christmas and there is a birth: we are called to continue the story.

Services for the weeks beginning 8 & 15 January

*Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed Monday - Friday at 9.00am in the Lady Chapel.*

Sat 7	6.00pm	Sr. Breda Byrne (intentions)
Sun 8	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Phil McGovern RIP
Mon 9	9.15am	William Wells (intentions)
Tues 10	9.15am 5.00pm	Mariadas Family (intentions) Vigil Reception of Body
Wed 11	11.00am	Requiem - Mercy Phillips RIP
Thurs 12	9.15am 9.45am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b> Adoration
Fri 13	9.15am 9.55am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b> School Assembly
Sat 14	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Teresa McGrath RIP
Sun 15	9.00am 11.00am	Fr. Denis Hall RIP People of the Parish
Mon 16	9.15am	Dianne Thomas (intentions)
Tues 17	9.15am	Michael Graves RIP (A)
Wed 18	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 19	9.15am 9.45am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b> Adoration
Fri 20	9.15am 9.55am	Sr. Teresa Allan RIP School Assembly
Sat 21	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sun 22	9.00am 11.00am	Rose Yearwood RIP Bernard Guy RIP

*Monday 9 January is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the last day of Christmas*  
*18 - 25 January is the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity*



Rotas for weekends 14/15 & 21/22 January

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
7.00pm	Please check your email and rotas in the porch and sacristy	Please check your email and rotas in the porch and sacristy	Please check your email and rotas in the sacristy
12.00am			
9.00am			
11.00am			



**Journey of Faith.** Please continue to pray for our four adults who have begun this journey. We resume our meetings on Thursday 12 January at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation.** A number of you have been asking about the programmes to prepare for these sacraments that have been delayed due to my incapacity. I am hoping to make some arrangements in January. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for details when I have sorted them, if you wish to take part.

**Baptism Preparation.** The next baptism preparation sessions will take place on Wednesday 11 and 18 January at 7.00pm in the Community Room. If you have a child under the age of seven for baptism please come and introduce yourself and attend the two sessions. At least one parent must have a baptism certificate and you should bring this with you to the first session. Sessions are for parents only: please do not bring your child with you.

**School Forms.** Last opportunity to sign up in the porch for an appointment if you are applying for a place in a Catholic primary school and wish to have a certificate of practice from me. May I particularly encourage you to apply for a place at St. Winefride's now that 60 places are available, and that for the third year running it is the number one school in Newham. Congratulations to everyone there for giving us a school to be proud of.

**Thank you for your generous offerings  
1 January: £1,649.90**

**Parish Pastoral Council.** A reminder to all councillors that we meet again on Tuesday 17 January in the Community Room. Refreshments available from 7.00pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm, with a promised finish at 9.00pm!

**Prayer Partners.** Thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal to become a prayer partner to pray each day for one of our children in school. We have reached about two thirds of our way to our target of 299 partners. That's a great start but we still have a way to go. Do you come to this church? Do you pray? If the answer is yes then you should be a prayer partner. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church as you leave church today.

*Your prayers are asked for Hannah Falvey who died on Christmas Day and whose requiem mass took place here last week. Hannah made a huge contribution to the life of the Church and local community over many decades, and will be greatly missed. We offer our prayerful sympathy to Danny and all the family at this sad time. May she rest in peace.*

*Please pray also for Mercy Phillips of Shakespeare Crescent who died recently. Her body will be received into church on Tuesday 10 January at 5.00pm and her requiem mass will take place on Wednesday at 11.00am, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery. May she rest in peace, and may all who mourn find consolation.*