



ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

COMBE, DUNS TEW, ENSTONE, GAGINGWELL, GLYMPTON, MIDDLE BARTON,
RADFORD, RAMSDEN, STEEPLE ASTON and STONESFIELD

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2020
Sunday Readings: Year B

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Divine Office week III

Please pray for the sick and the housebound of the parish: Paula Biggs

Second Sunday after Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

Hopefully all went reasonably well for the Christmas celebrations in very different circumstances from previous years. We do know that our vigilance needs to be maintained while the rollout of the new vaccines unfolds. Once again prayer, patience and calmness are called for as we go forward. We continue on our journey through the Christmas season with this Sunday's readings helping us to reflect on the Christmas mystery we are celebrating. The early Church Fathers saw the 'Wisdom' spoken of in the Old Testament reading as a foreshadowing of the coming of the Redeemer, the 'Word made flesh'. St. Paul, reflecting on this same mystery in his letter to the Ephesians, makes a powerful statement: 'Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence...' In a mysterious way The Father has freely chosen us to become his adopted sons and daughters. What an extraordinary act of love! And it is a theme brought before us again in the Gospel as St. John reflects on the deeper meaning as to why Jesus came: 'To all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God'. It is not surprising that with this sort of understanding St. Leo, an early Pope, could write 'O Christian, know your dignity!'

Later this week the Church celebrates another episode which she considers very much part of the Christmas story and that is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany** which is observed on Wednesday, 6th January. Historically, the eastern Christian Churches celebrated the Feast as their main Christmas and they still do. For us in the western Church it is observed as a Holyday of Obligation when Catholics, in more normal circumstances, come together to celebrate Mass. For many that may not be possible this year but the story of the visit of the Magi, or Kings, can be found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-12.

Once again, may I extend my grateful thanks to so many for their kindness and support by way of seasonal greetings and the Christmas Offerings.

Be assured of my ongoing prayers as we move into the New Year ahead hoping we shall be blessed with more joy than tribulation. God bless you all.

Father Tony

St. Teresa's Mass times this week:

Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (followed by exposition on Friday)
9.30am

Wednesday 7pm (followed by exposition)

Sunday 9.15 am – please book in advance by emailing charlburymass@gmail.com

Weekday Mass in St.
Teresa's Monday - Friday.

Sunday Mass at 9.15am
next week. Please book in
advance.
This Sunday's Mass (3rd
Jan) is fully booked.

NEXT WEEK

Monday 4 January
Weekday of Christmas
Mass 9.30am

Tuesday 5 January
Weekday of Christmas
Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 6 January
Epiphany
Mass 7pm

Thursday 7 January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
Mass 9.30am

Friday 8 January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
Mass 9.30am

Saturday 9 January
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass today

Sunday 10 January
The Baptism of the Lord
Mass at 9.15am
(please book)

For Confession at
St. Teresa's, please contact
Fr. Clive

**SAFEGUARDING: If you ever have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact our
Safeguarding Rep Sharnalee Foster on 01608 678731.**

PARISH PRIEST: FR. TONY JOYCE, HOLY TRINITY RECTORY, LONDON RD, CHIPPING NORTON 01608 642703
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