

**ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING**  
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## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (A)

5th January 2020

**IMPORTANT PARISH MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH - THURSDAY 16th JANUARY** (Thursday Week) at 7.30pm IN THE CHURCH. Please read the attached statements from the Diocese and myself on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter and come with ideas for us to take to the Diocese. Many, many thanks to all those who organised and signed the petition and who have shown support in many ways. This meeting is the next step so please support us in it - thank you.

**EPIPHANY** This weekend we end the Great Days of Christmas with the Feast of the Epiphany, uniting ourselves with the Three Wise Men, our ancestors, and dedicating ourselves to be the Lord's Kings of Faith, Priests of Hope and Prophets of Love in this year of 2020 with a special 'Kings' Procession' at the 10am Mass and the Youth Group presenting the 5.30pm Mass. We ask for this Faith, Hope and Love for our journey as a Parish in this year.

**DURING THE WEEK** We continue to celebrate the Epiphany and prepare ourselves to begin our journey to Candlemas next weekend - there are also meetings for the first communion children and youth leaders on Monday, an important 1st Communion Parents Meeting on Reconciliation on Wednesday. Also the Churches Together in Snodland on Tuesday.

**NEXT WEEKEND - CANDLEMAS JOURNEY & SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL** Next weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and end the Christmas season, and begin our journey to Candlemas, joining with Mary & Joseph taking the light of the First Christmas to the Jewish people in the Temple of Jerusalem and the Wise Men taking that light back to their countries and people, to bring the light of this Christmas to root it in the temple of our hearts and Parish and Church on this Candlemas weekend (1st/2nd February). Please take the candle that will be blessed today and the special Candlemas Journey Prayer Sheet to use at home in prayer on these days. This year, again, we make the journey in a special way for our Parish.

We also have the SPUC White Flower Appeal - see special note overleaf.

**FUNERAL OF MONICA UNTER RIP** will take place this Tuesday 7th January at 12 noon here in St. Thomas More Church and we offer Monica, Charles and Angela and their family all our love and support and prayers - also to the families of Christopher Haskins, David Formosa, Dave Stapley, Mary Gallagher, and all who have died recently and all facing illness and challenges in these days.

## MASSES & SERVICES

|                                                                          |    |                   |                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY (Eve of Epiphany)</b>                                        | 4  | 5pm               | First Mass of Epiphany for World Peace - and to drive away hunger, poverty and homelessness in the world                                           |
| <b>SUNDAY<br/>The Epiphany</b>                                           | 5  | 10am<br>5.30pm    | Epiphany Mass (Children's Liturgy & Kings Procession) Parishioners, Family & Friends<br>Epiphany Mass (Youth Group) Parishioners, Family & Friends |
| <b>MONDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                          | 6  | 9.30am            | Communion Service                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>TUESDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                         | 7  | 9.30am<br>12 noon | Holy Souls<br>Funeral Mass for Monica Unter RIP                                                                                                    |
| <b>WEDNESDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                       | 8  | 9.30am            | Deceased Relatives & Friends of the Lobo Family                                                                                                    |
| <b>THURSDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                        | 9  | 9.30am            | Communion Service                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>FRIDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                          | 10 | 9.30am            | Mary Goldsmith - Christmas (Steph & Family)                                                                                                        |
| <b>SATURDAY (Epiphany Octave)</b>                                        | 11 | 5pm               | Philomena Mulcahy RIP                                                                                                                              |
| <b>SUNDAY<br/>Baptism of the Lord<br/>Beginning of Candlemas Journey</b> | 12 | 10am<br>5.30pm    | The Parishioners<br>Matilda & Paul Perera RIP                                                                                                      |

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; May Piddock; Peter and Dee Avery; Pauline O'Toole; Mary Wilmot; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Leo McSharry; Louis Fissenden; Oliver Young; Craig Richards; Diane McSharry; Billy Jones; Laurence Jordan; Dean Herrington; Jacky Seeds; carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

**RECENTLY DEAD:** Baby Francis Blackmore; Bert McLelland; Mary Gallagher; Marie Casey; David Formosa; Ewa Wszolek; Dagmar Müller; Tony Fullwood; Christopher Haskins; also Monica Unter; Margaret Mansfield; Keith Osborne; Dave Stapley; Josie Keen (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Patrick Woods; Clementina Leonard; Daniel McMahon; Lonza Micallef; Sidney McCarthy; Lauren Cressey; Peter Smart; Sharon Barbieri; Ellen Love; Gladys Gollop; Avenna Fry; Elsbeth Douse; Antonio Falcone; Carol Copland; Sarah Love.

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK

|                    |                      |                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY 4</b>  | 10am to 12 noon      | Gardening Club (subject to weather conditions)                                                                                |
| <b>SUNDAY 5</b>    | 10am<br>4pm          | Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre and 'Kings Procession'<br>Youth Group meet to prepare Epiphany Mass |
| <b>MONDAY 6</b>    | 5-6pm<br>8pm         | (INSET DAY IN SCHOOL)<br>First Communion Children's Class in Church<br>Youth Leaders meet in Priest's House                   |
| <b>TUESDAY 7</b>   | 1.30pm to 3pm<br>7pm | Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre<br>Churches Together in Snodland meet at The Vicarage             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 8</b> | 7.30 for 8pm         | First Communion Parents Meeting on Reconciliation                                                                             |
| <b>SUNDAY 12</b>   | 10am                 | Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre                                                                     |

**THANK YOU** for your very generous offerings. (Standing Orders average £355 per week).

**100 CLUB CHRISTMAS WINNERS** Congratulations go to Paddy Griffin (No. 49) [£200 prize] and Terry Thorogood (No. 68) [£60 prize].

**SECURITY** Anyone going into the Church alone must notify the Parish Office **even if they have their own Church key** and lock themselves in for safety reasons. They must also notify the Office when they leave.

**2020 CALENDARS** Please support the Church by buying our calendars. We work an honesty box system. Please put money in the box marked "Cards" in the porch near where you get your tea. Many thanks.

**MISSIO CALENDARS** Please feel free to take a Missio Calendar from the back of the church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The next children's lesson is this **Monday 6th January 2020 from 5-6pm** (Lord have mercy - read chapter and discuss being truly sorry in everyday life). The next parents meeting is on **Wednesday 8th January** (7.30pm for 8pm). Please remember to bring a photo of your child for the board at the back of the Church. ***(We have taken down photos of last year's first communicants and they will be left on the table in the porch for parents to collect.)***

**MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP** The next meeting will be on Monday 13th January at 7.30pm in the Church Porch. If you would be interested in attending please contact Steph Blackburn on 07977 458970 or email [steph@bbits.co.uk](mailto:steph@bbits.co.uk).

**PILSDON AT MALLING** Please see the noticeboard for a note from the Pildson at Malling Community thanking us for our kind and generous donations made through the Reverse Advent Calendar project.

**A DAY WITH MARY** will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary, Brixton, on Saturday 18th January 2020 - see poster on noticeboard for full details.

**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS** For safeguarding reasons all children under 10 must be escorted to the toilet during Mass. Could we also remind parishioners that the doors inside Church must be accessible at all times and that prams or other items must not block them. Thank you.

**GARDENING CLUB** meet on Saturday 4th January 2020 from 10am to 12 noon (subject to weather conditions).

### CHURCH CLEANING

**CHURCH FLOWERS** Elaine's Group week beginning 3rd January.

**NOTICES** Please see the Notice Board for more details.

**SPUC 'WHITE FLOWER' APPEAL 2020** - the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend.

On 21 October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England & Wales.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

## MARRIAGE MATTERS

([www.twainoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twainoneflesh.org.uk))

**The Epiphany of the Lord** (Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12)

***Give every fibre of our being***

The gift we can give to Jesus and to one another is ourselves. No matter how long we have been married, let us still enjoy unwrapping the gift of self. Just as, through the grace of God, the 'wise men' went another way, not the world's way, so can we, by giving our whole selves, every fibre of our being.

