

The Gospel of St Matthew [Part One]

2020 is Year A, the Year of Matthew

THE POSITION of the Gospel according to Matthew as the first of the four gospels in the New Testament reflects both the view that it was the first to be written, a view that goes back to the late second century A.D., and the esteem in which it was held by the church; no other was so frequently quoted in the noncanonical literature of earliest Christianity. Although the majority of scholars now reject the opinion about the time of its composition, the high estimation of this work remains. The reason for that becomes clear upon study of the way in which Matthew presents his story of Jesus, the demands of Christian discipleship, and the breaking-in of the new and final age through the ministry but particularly through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The gospel begins with a narrative prologue (Mt 1:1–2:23), the first part of which is a genealogy of Jesus starting with Abraham, the father of Israel (Mt 1:1–17). Yet at the beginning of that genealogy Jesus is designated as “the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Mt 1:1). The kingly ancestor who lived about a thousand years after Abraham is named first, for this is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the royal anointed one (Mt 1:16). In the first of the episodes of the infancy narrative that follow the genealogy, the mystery of Jesus’ person is declared. He is conceived of a virgin by the power of the Spirit of God (Mt 1:18–25). The first of the gospel’s fulfilment citations, whose purpose it is to show that he was the one to whom the prophecies of Israel were pointing, occurs here (Mt 1:23): he shall be named Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

The announcement of the birth of this new-born king of the Jews greatly troubles not only King Herod but all Jerusalem (Mt 2:1–3), yet the Gentile magi are overjoyed to find him and offer him their homage and their gifts (Mt 2:10–11). Thus his ultimate rejection by the mass of his own people and his acceptance by the Gentile nations is foreshadowed. He must be taken to Egypt to escape the murderous plan of Herod. By his sojourn there and his subsequent return after the king’s death he relives the Exodus experience of Israel. The words of the Lord spoken through the prophet Hosea, “Out of Egypt I called my son,” are fulfilled in him (Mt 2:15); if Israel was God’s son, Jesus is so in a way far surpassing the dignity of that nation, as his marvellous birth and the unfolding of his story show (see Mt 3:17; 4:1–11; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54). Back in the land of Israel, he must be taken to Nazareth in Galilee because of the danger to his life in Judea, where Herod’s son Archelaus is now ruling (Mt 2:22–23). The sufferings of Jesus in the infancy narrative anticipate those of his passion, and if his life is spared in spite of the dangers, it is because his destiny is finally to give it on the cross as “a ransom for many” (20:28). Thus the word of the angel will be fulfilled, “...he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21; cf. Mt 26:28).



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area

EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mary’s Church, East Hendred
St Patrick’s Church, East Ilsley

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Sunday 5th January 2020 EPIPHANY	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD [GOLD] Sung Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s, East Hendred Pro populo Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s, East Ilsley Mass: 6pm St Mary’s
Monday 6 th January	After Epiphany [white] School Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s FM Bertha Ida Northcote 1951
Tuesday 7 th January	After Epiphany [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s FM Charles Eyston 1917
Wednesday 8 th January	After Epiphany [white] Morning Prayer: 9am St Mary’s [ecumenical] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s
Thursday 9 th January	After Epiphany [white] Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s Funeral: 2.15pm Antonia Breakspear
Friday 10 th January	After Epiphany [black] Funeral Mass: 11am St Mary’s Isabelle Langley Adoration: 3pm Evening Prayer: 5pm St Augustine’s [ecumenical]
Saturday 11 th January	After Epiphany [white] No Mass at St Mary’s
Sunday 12 th January	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD [white] Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Pro populo Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s Mass: 6pm St Mary’s
Confessions: 8.45am Sunday and after weekday Mass (St Mary’s) and after 11.15am Sunday Mass (St Patrick’s), or by appointment. www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk	

TODAY AND LOOKING AHEAD

6PM MASS

We are resuming the 6pm Mass from Today onwards.

READERS AND USHERS NEEDED FOR THE 6PM MASS

The 6pm Mass is a popular addition to the services at St Mary's. It would though benefit from some volunteers to take on the roles of reading and ushering. These are not onerous tasks—ushering just involves welcoming at the door, handing out service sheets, and gathering the collection. Reading is just the second reading at the 6pm Mass and the Alleluia. It would be good for these duties to be taken on by those not currently on any rotas, especially those who are candidates for confirmation and their families. If you would be able to volunteer please contact Richard Stone at richardandfiona@hotmail.com and he will endeavour to pull together a rota. The more who volunteer then less each individual will have to do! Many thanks in advance.

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

As part of our participation in The God who Speaks-Year of the Word 2020 we shall be meeting on **Tuesdays, January 7th and February 4th**. At our January meeting, we shall be reading John's gospel, chapter 13 to help us learn, discuss and pray; 7.30pm in the parish rooms.

MUMS ON THE RUN

Next meeting is on **Monday 20th January** at 8.15pm and will be held at 6 Castle Street, Steventon OX13 6SR. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. Thanks for letting me know if you can or cannot attend. Please contact Amanda at physioamanda@btinternet.com

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING CALENDARS 2020

The Diocese of Portsmouth has released the training calendar for **January 2020** on Child Protection awareness, Vulnerable Adult awareness and Combined Refresher Training. For more information and details please see details in the church or go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or email to elarning@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH COLLECTION

Collections on 15th and 22nd December raised £2,036.94 of which 84% was Gift aided. Last Sunday's collection was £856.32 of which 91% was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

19th January 2020: Cathedral

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**. Please see the noticeboards at St Mary's for changes of service times made since the Newsletter went to press.

Find us on  

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Jadryga Adasko, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol, Katherine Eyston.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently especially *Antonia Breakspear and Isabelle Langley* and those with anniversaries at this time: *Agnes Mary Western, Minnie Curran, Joseph Bray, William Dearlove, Janice Biles, Denis Murphy, Lady Sarah Cumming-Bruce, Gilbert Jones, Fr Bob Jennings, John O'Hara, Harriet Champ, Robert Purcell, Helen Horgan, Alice Harper, Margaret Dubig and Charlotte Hunt.*

HOLY FATHER'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION - We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of good will may promote peace and justice in the world.

YOU CAT BIBLE

The YOU CAT BIBLE, designed for young people, is a shorter, illustrated version, using the RSV (the version we use in Church). We are giving it to our confirmation candidates to introduce to them the habit of private bible reading.

READER'S WORKSHOPS

To mark the **Year of the Word** the diocese of Portsmouth is launching Readers' training workshops. The training consists in two workshops of three hours each, for all church readers and aspiring readers. There are a number of courses, to be held throughout the Diocese. For further information and registration please go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/readers

PILGRIMAGES

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE ✱ April—October 2020: 7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel 01 4434510 or email reservations@medirishcentre.com

LOURDES ✱ Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Bishop Philip from **15 -19 July 2020**. Cost £695 per person sharing. Call Sue on 07780 221686 or email her at lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Volunteer should also contact Sue, a Youth pilgrim is £545 pp and rooms are shared with three others.

SOUTHERN ITALY & PADRE PIO ✱ Father Des Connolly, will be leading a pilgrimage to Southern Italy from **Sunday 16 - Friday 21 August 2020**. For more information please call Gill from Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Please join us for a cup of coffee at St Mary's Parish Rooms. There is coffee after Mass at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of the month.