



# EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

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## EPIPHANYTIDE

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (transferred)</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9.15am Children's Liturgy (Parish Rooms)
	9.30am Parish Mass <i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am Holy Mass (St. Patrick's)
	6pm Holy Mass
<b>Monday</b>	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	<i>No public Mass</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Feria</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9am Holy Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Feria</i>
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9am Holy Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Feria</i>
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9am School Mass
<b>Friday</b>	<b>S. Aelred, Abbot &amp; Confessor</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	8.30am Holy Mass (Hendred House Chapel)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>S. Hilary, Bishop &amp; Doctor</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9am Holy Mass
	10am-11am Adoration & Confessions
	5pm-6pm Adoration & Confessions

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## JANUARY - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME

### JESU, FILI MARÆ VIRGINIS | JESUS, SON OF THE VIRGIN MARY

The first petition of the Litany expressed the generation of the Son from the Father – Jesus, truly divine. ‘Son of the Virgin Mary’ gives voice to the reality of the Incarnation: Jesus, truly man. And if He is her Son, then she is His mother, the Mother of God, *Dei Genetrix*, *Theotokos* – God-bearer. As indeed the Church honours her. Mary is not merely an ‘incubatrix’, but verily the Mother of Christ: to shelter Him in her womb, to deliver Him into the world He came to save, to nurture Him in His infancy, to attend to Him throughout His life, and ultimately to offer Him back to His Father on the Cross, united with His suffering.

### JESU, AMABILIS | JESUS, MOST AMIABLE

To be *amabilis* is to be worthy of being loved – from the verb *amo*, ‘I love’. We might well recall the Voice of God, first over the waters of the Jordan, and later on Tabor at the Transfiguration, declaring “This is my Son, the *Beloved*” (cf. e.g., Mark 1:11, 9:7). What God the Father finds worthy of love *is* worthy of our love, too. “God is love” (1 John 4:8), and we speak of the Divine Love between Father and Son as the Holy Ghost Himself, Who descended on Christ at the very Baptism in the Jordan mentioned above. To be *amabilis*, then, is not something fluffy and saccharine – ‘lovely’ in the modern sense – but to have the Spirit of God resting on one, to be inhabited by the God Who *is* Love – ‘lovely’ in the older, and truer, sense.

### JESU, ADMIRABILIS | JESUS, MOST ADMIRABLE

‘Admirable’ is rather a polite, bloodless word these days, but this title of Jesus has a prophetic pedigree. Isaiah (9:6) prophesies “unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given [...] and His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor...” ‘Wonderful’ in the Vulgate Latin is ‘*Admirabilis*’ – so here we have, quite literally, a ‘Name’ of Jesus, the subject of this prophecy. But what does it mean? We have to recapture a sense of ‘admire’ which remembers the word *mira* in the middle. *Mira* is ‘wonder’ as in *miracle*. So to be *admirable* is to be astounding, full of wonder. We might ponder those instances in Sacred Scripture where the crowd is amazed at Jesus: “they were astonished [Latin: *mirarentur*], and said [...] Where then did

this man get all this?” (Matt 13:54, 56); “And they were amazed at Him [*mirabantur super eo*]” (Mark 12:17).

### **JESU, DEUS FORTIS | JESUS, MIGHTY GOD**

We continue the prophetic strain here: ‘Mighty God’ follows ‘Wonderful Counsellor’ in the prophecy of Isaiah quoted above, as a Name of the Son Who is born to us. Our first thoughts might go to Our Lady’s Song of triumph in Luke, the Magnificat, and the line: “He Who is mighty hath done great things for me, and Holy is His Name.” (Luke 1:49). Once again the identity of Jesus with the God of Israel, Whose Name is Holy. Mary’s song, which echoes that of other holy women in Israel’s history (cf. 1 Sam. 2), reminds us that it is God’s might, and not our own strength, which suffices for our salvation.

### **JESU, PATER FUTURI SÆCULI | JESUS, FATHER OF THE WORLD TO COME**

It might seem strange to us to speak of the *Son* of God as Father, but, continuing the prophetic strain, Isaiah does so: “...Everlasting Father” continues the prophecy of the Incarnation, or in the Vulgate “*Pater futuri sæculi*,” ‘Father of the world to come.’ Jesus is truly the father of the world to come, for by His death on the Cross, He begets this future paradise: His Body is the seed of the New Jerusalem: “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24).

### **JESU, MAGNI CONSILII ANGELE | JESUS, ANGEL OF GREAT COUNSEL**

Jesus is not an angel, in the sense of that order of spiritual creation which precedes our own: rather, ‘angel’ here bears its native meaning of ‘messenger’, as Christ bears the *Euangelion* – the Gospel – the Good News of God’s saving work *Magni Consilii Angele* is in fact a translation-paraphrase of Isaiah’s “Wonderful Counsellor” (Is. 9:6). The Counsel which He offers is identical with that gift of the Holy Spirit: “the spirit of counsel” (Is. 11:2). Only Christ is the true Counsellor, because only Christ has the fulness of the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him, as the theophany at His baptism demonstrates (cf. Matt 3:16). Those who, by baptism, are made members of His Body, and by confirmation partakers with Him in the gifts of the Spirit, share in this gift of Counsel for the proper arrangement of their lives and the right use of God’s gifts to them.

# NOTICES

## STANDING

+ **WELCOME** to Mass, especially to those who are new or visiting. Do join us for refreshments are served in the Parish Rooms after the 9.30 Mass (left at the church gate, first right after the bridge).

+ **COFFEE** after Mass is an **important** part of our common life: more volunteers are needed. Speak to Francia if you can help.

+ **VOLUNTEERS** are needed for Children's Liturgy. Speak to Veronica or Libby, or email [safeguarding@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk).

+ **CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays, 10-11am, 5-6pm. **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** during that time, concluding with **BENEDICTION** of the same.

+ **CONFIRMATION** class resumes on January 14th.

+ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** classes resume on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

+ **GIVING TO THE PARISH** by standing order or online:

**CDP East Hendred, St Mary**

**Acc. No. 00877183**

**Sort Code: 30-93-04**

Or via the **DONA MACHINE** by the door.

## NEWS

+ **EPIPHANY CHALK** will be blessed after Mass, and is available to take home and use. Instructions available by the door.

+ **HOUSE BLESSINGS** are an old Epiphany custom: if you would like your home blessed, speak to Fr. Topham, or get in touch by 'phone or email.

+ **ST. AMAND'S** school seeks a teacher to teach Yr 6, two afternoons/week. Contact the Head Mrs Ellery, at [head.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk)

+ **ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP** is on hiatus until later in the year, whilst we discern its future. Comments welcome.

+ **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Annie Furlong, Gwenda, Martha, Helen Lewis, John Castle, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Mary McNichol, Des McNichol, Meg Clark, Madeline Brand, Mary Dorothy Ruple, Graham Titchener, Anne-Marie Kershaw.

+ **YEAR'S MINDS:** Gilbert Lawrence Jones, John Joseph O'Hara, Harriet Champ, Robert Purcell, Helen Horgan, Alice Harper, Margaret Mary Duhig, Charlotte Hunt, Joseph Anns, Joseph Michael Anns. **R·I·P·**