

The Parish of St Alphage, Burnt Oak

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 5th January 2025
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

08:00 Low Mass*
11:00 SUNG MASS*
**with the blessing of chalk.*

Wednesday 8th January: Wednesday after Epiphany

16:00 Low Mass
16:30 PCC Meeting

Saturday 11th January: Saturday after Epiphany

10:00 Low Mass

Sunday 12th January 2025
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

08:00 Low Mass*
11:00 SUNG MASS*
**with renewal of baptismal vows.*

*Please keep a quiet
and prayerful atmosphere
before Mass begins.*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN *All stand when the bell rings.*

1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,

Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.

GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA



Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God,



Glo - ry to God in the High - est. Glo - ry to God in the



High - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord, God Heav'n-ly King, Al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God,



Glo-ry to God in the High - est Lord, Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther. Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

You are sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther:

re-ceive our prayer. *f* Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God,

Glo - ry to God in the High - est. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly one, You a - lone are the Lord, You a - lone

are the most high, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spi - rit, in the Glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

ff Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (60:1-6)— *please sit.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM



SECOND READING (3:2-3A, 5-6)

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known

to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING (2:41-42). *Please stand.*

Alleluia...

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON Father Luke Demetri | *Parish Priest.*

After which a moment of reflective silence is kept.

NICENE CREED (*Stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

Bow *he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL *please remain standing*

At the end of each prayer: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

At the pray for the dead: Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Invoking the prayers of Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Priest concludes the prayers and the people respond: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN *All remain standing.*

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

INVITATION TO PRAYER *All remain standing.*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The priest continues with the Preface until:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel, if able, for the consecration. Half way through, we sing:

The Mystery of Faith:
*O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The eucharistic prayer continues until: ...for ever and ever. **Amen.***

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Stand*)

At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

THE PEACE (*Remain standing*)

Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace, I give you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The sign of peace is exchanged.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*Kneel*)

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The COMMUNION ANTIPHON is said by the priest.

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

If you are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and normally receive Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bring this order of service.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

[TUNE: GONFALON ROYAL]

Herod, why thrills thy heart with fear?

The royal Babe thou seekest here

Envies no earthly toys, for he

A heavenly crown doth offer thee.

Lo, sages from the East are gone

To where the star hath newly shone:

Led on by light to Light they press,

And by their gifts their God confess.

Killed at the tyrant's anxious call,

For Christ a thousand victims fall;

And mothers' hearts the piteous tale

Of murdered innocents bewail.

Lo, dipped in Jordan's cleansing stream,

The Lamb of God would whiter seem;

Yet 'twas our sins, in foul array,

He bore, and bearing washed away.

Marvels the Pharisees refute

That would his heavenly birth dispute;

The sick no more with fever burn,

And at his voice the dead return.

New evidence of Wondrous power

Behold in Cana's marriage-dower;

Swift its own nature to resign,

The water blushes into wine.

Then glory, Lord, to thee we pay

For thine Epiphany to day;

All glory through eternity

To Father, Son and Spirit be. Amen.

After the hymn a moment of reflective silence is kept.

CONCLUDING RITES

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*please stand*)

Let us pray.

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The NOTICES are given.

THE BLESSING OF EPIPHANY CHALK

✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord. **Who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Bless, O Lord God, this creature *chalk* to render it helpful to men. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of thy saints Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

It is sprinkled with holy water and will be available after Mass for you to take a piece.

Instructions on how to use it to bless your home can be found overleaf.

SOLEMN BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Bow down for the blessing.

May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessing upon you and make your hearts firm in faith, hope and charity. **Amen.**

And since in all confidence you follow Christ, who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness, may God make you, too, a light for your brothers and sisters. **Amen.**

And so when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

✠ And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN - PART I

1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

THE ANGELUS

please follow to the crib.

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary... Holy Mary ...

And the Word was made flesh. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary... Holy Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother, of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. ... We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN - PART II

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

BLESSING YOUR HOME FOR THE YEAR WITH EPIPHANY CHALK

There is a tradition of blessing chalk on the feast of the Epiphany so that Christians can use it to bless their homes. Once the chalk is blessed you can either do this yourself, or invite Fr Luke to come and do it in the coming weeks.

The blessing is given by writing on your outside wall (near/on your front door) the name of the year and abbreviations of the wise men's names:

Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar (according to a tradition).

This year it is written:

20 + C + M + B + 25

The letters represent both the wisemen and also an abbreviation of 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' [May Christ bless this house].

Once written say the following prayer:

Lord our God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. We give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Some people like to draw crowns above the letters.

How wonderful it would be to see these blessings and symbols of our faith around the parish.

PRAYERS

SICK OR THOSE IN NEED:

Jean Tester, Justina Ocran, Grace Acheampong, Bob Crosby, Alan Sanders, Caroline Powell, Catherine Sheenan, Peter Webber, Bishop Christopher Chessun, Ron Southwell, Sally Horattides, Dino Horattides.

DEPARTED:

The Recently Departed:

Paul Gladden, Kay McBride.

Anniversary of death occurs this week:

| | | |
|-----------|------|--|
| Sunday | 5th | Albert Asbridge, Lucy Campbell |
| Monday | 6th | Walter Milward, Elizabeth Fox, Joan Mortimer, Graham Leondard (<i>Bishop</i>) |
| Tuesday | 7th | Rose Moore, Michael Brown |
| Wednesday | 8th | Hilda Daphne Goodman |
| Thursday | 9th | John Rowl |
| Friday | 10th | Annie Carter |
| Saturday | 11th | Leslie Somerville, John White |

NOTICES

A happy feast of the Epiphany to you - today we celebrate the Lord's self-revelation to the whole world. We will bless chalk at Mass so that you can bless your homes - see the instructions on the other side. OR, **feel free to invite Fr Luke to come and do it!**

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we will take the opportunity to renew our own baptismal vows.

The PCC are reminded we have a meeting on **Wednesday at 4:30pm**. Minutes and agenda are out. Mass on Wednesday will be at 4pm.

Help with taking Christmas decorations down today would be much appreciated.

CONTACT

Parish Priest: Father Luke Demetri SSC

020 3556 9978 | frlukedemetri@gmail.com

18 Montrose Avenue, Edgware, HA8 0DW

If you need to get hold of Fr Luke for an emergency and cannot get through to him on the landline or by email, please contact the Churchwardens who will have access to his mobile.

Churchwardens

Len Thoroughgood – 020 8933 4229 – thoroughgoodlen@gmail.com

Lynn Gilling – 07507 235 445 – gilling7@hotmail.com

Safeguarding Officer:

We take the **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults seriously. Our Parish Safeguarding Office is **Lynn Gilling** who for safeguarding purposes can be contacted by the following means:

safeguardingstalphagechurch@gmail.com or 07507235445.

Alternatively, you may contact Fr Luke if you need to.

Social Media:

Twitter/X: @StAlphageHA8

Facebook: St Alphage Church, Burnt Oak

Website: www.stalphage.org

Hall Hire

*To hire the hall, please contact Maureen on 020 8930 5994
and leave a message.*

CCLI Registration: 22212011

Donate to the Parish Online – use your phone to scan the QR code which will enable you to use contactless to give. Donations are gratefully received.



Please take this booklet home with you!