

**Retired Priest's Collection** There will be a retiring collection to support the priests of our diocese who have toiled in the vineyard and now resting in the shade of retirement. Please be as generous as you can. And if you are a tax-payer then Gift Aid will boost your contribution. We will take the collection during the weekend of 12th/13th January. There will be envelopes at the back of the church next week.

**Human fertilization & Embryology Bill** The Bishop's Conference have asked each parish to hold a meeting to inform ourselves of the dangers of the new Bill going through Parliament soon. There are some documents to read and a short DVD to watch. For those who are interested and able to make it, there will be a meeting after the 7pm mass on Tuesday 22nd Jan in the school hall.

**Christian Unity Week** starts on Sunday 20th January with special prayers at all masses as well as all the other churches in Oswestry praying for that day when there will be but one Church. We are the hosts for the final service on **Fri. 26th Jan** at 12 noon. I would like as many as possible to join us that day. We do not have the option to opt out of praying and working for Church Unity. Please make every effort to attend at least on service.

**Please pray for** the repose of the soul of Fr Gerald Fitzgibbon S.J. who died on New Year's Day at Loyola Hall. Gerald supplied here in the past and may be known to some of you. Also remember Fr John McDonald, former parish priest, whose anniversary is on Tuesday 8th Jan. May they, and all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

**Rome coach** There are still a couple who have yet to drop in a cheque for the cost of the bus to the airport. £14 will do nicely to cover the cost. Thank you. And don't forget 26th Jan for the reunion

**Church cleaning.** The next session will be this Friday (11th) at 10am followed by midday mass. Thanks to the regulars. Any more volunteers?

**Rome reunion** All those who went to Rome last September are reminded to come along to the school hall on 26th January after the 6.30pm mass. There will be a time to share stories and some refreshments. If you are going to bring some food or drink along will you let either me or Pat know. This invite is also open to anybody else who wants to come and join us and see some of the pictures that we took. If you are thinking of coming then drop a message or phone call.

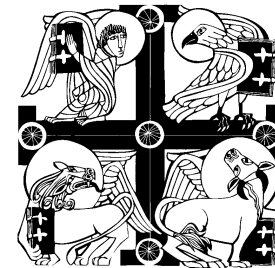
**At Your Word Lord.** Sr. Jo in the convent every Friday starting at 7.30pm.



**Beatitudes for the Friends of the Deaf**

- Blessed are they who seem to know that lip reading is difficult and slow.
- Blessed are they who shake my hand and write notes to help me understand.
- Blessed are they who know that I long to hear voices, music and song.
- Blessed are they who seem to see when I am lost in a group of two or three
- Blessed are they who take time out to explain to me what they are talking about.

**OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS  
& St OSWALD**



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*The city had no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations shall walk by its light; to it the kings of the earth shall bring their treasures. Book of Revelation. 21:23-24*



Only a few days ago we celebrated the Lord's birth. Today we celebrate with equal solemnity, as is proper, his Epiphany, in which he began to manifest himself to the Gentiles.

On the one day the Jewish shepherds saw him when he was born; on this day the Magi coming from the east adored him. Now he had been born that cornerstone, the peace of the two walls coming from different directions, from circumcision and uncircumcision.

Thus they could be united in him who had been made our peace, and

"who has made both one." this was foretold in the Jewish shepherds and the Gentile Magi.

From this began what was to grow and to bear fruit throughout the world. Let us, therefore with joy of the spirit hold dear these two days; the Nativity and the Manifestation of the Lord. The Jewish shepherds were led by an angel bringing news. The Gentile Magi by a star showing the way.

*St. Augustine of Hippo. C5th*

## Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week Two

<b>Sat</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Parishioners	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>9am</b>	Brendan Halley	Epiphany of the Lord
		<b>11am</b>	Betty Rowe	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Luke Davidson	
<b>Tue</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Word &amp; Communion</b>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Kathleen Poland	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12noon</b>	Private Intention (A.G.)	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Patrick & Mary Lee	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>9am</b>	David Jones	
		<b>11am</b>	Parishioners	

**Churches Together in Oswestry** this weekend we will be part of the congregation that will welcome the community of St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel. We will remember them in our prayers at all masses this weekend. Epiphany is the season of the year when Christ was made known to all people. A great day for a great ecumenical celebration.

**Apologies** to Bishop Brian! He wrote a Pastoral Letter that was to be read at all masses last week! His letters are always an inspiration blending good theology with practical living. I have printed copies of his letter and these are available at the back of church.

**Thanks** to the great number of parishioners who were able to join us for mass on 1st January, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. It was a lovely way to start off the New Year. That day is traditionally used to make resolutions about the future; things we either want to stop or things we need to start. If you haven't yet made a resolution then maybe the closing prayer of 31st December might be a good starting point, "*Teach us to value the good you give us and help us to strive for eternal life!*"

**Advent Shoe boxes** Many thanks again for all those who left boxes for the Children's Society. Those who left boxes for Christmas will be pleased to know that they will be taken to the Society office when the tree comes down (after mass next week!). The amount raised by the collection from the crib so far is £263.65. This is the final week (with the Three Kings being so generous with their gifts) and I will send off a cheque to the Society in the next few days.

**Justice & Peace** The final figure that was raised for CAFOD and the other Advent projects was £590.95. Thank you for your generosity. We also received a donation for £500 to add to the parish collection. I will be sending off cheques to CAFOD and the other two charities and am sure that our offerings will be used for the good of many people.

**Stamps and Christmas cards.** Please remember to save your stamps and religious cards when you dismantle the decorations and we will send them the Poor Clares in Ellesmere. They all help to raise money.

**A Celebration of Married Life** The Bishop will celebrate a mass on Saturday 9th February at St. Columba's in Chester at 2pm. This will be a mass of thanksgiving for all married couples and there will be an opportunity for the renewal of marriage vows.

**Lent 2008!** We have not yet finished the Christmas season yet still we have to make ourselves aware that Easter is about as early as it can be this year (23rd March!). This means that Ash Wednesday is 6th February. I am planning on a series of short services/prayer evenings and music for these six weeks as we prepare for Easter. In order for as many people to attend they will be on different days and at different times. As soon as it is finalised I will print details in the newsletter.

**Mass Times** I have decided that for a six month period I will change the time of the monthly "children's" mass from 9am to 11am. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, many parents find it very difficult to get the family up and ready for the early mass. And secondly there is a possibility that we could have musicians to help support the music at this mass. Please let me know how you feel about this and we will review the situation in July. I feel that we must do everything we can to encourage the parents of the school pupils to make Sunday mass a priority in their week.

### Liturgy of the Word

**1st Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6  
**Psalm** Psalm 71  
**2nd Reading** Ephesians 3:2-6  
**Gospel** Matthew 2:1-12

### Next Week

Psalm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** By appointment. Please contact Fr. Philip.

**Those who are sick:** Alan Tucker, George Lee, Evelyn Lloyd-Williams, Barbara McDougal, Matthew Walton, Irene Cranage, Fr. Frank McManus, Sr. Patricia, Joyce Williams, Liam Lynch, Annie Bough, Bob Davies, James Tomley, James McDougall, Richard Burman, Gerald Jones, Joanna Gidge, Kathleen Bebb, Rev John Warnock,

**Recently died** Barbara Williams, Fr. Gerald Fitzgibbon S.J.

**Anniversaries in January** William Owen, Leonard Hand, Theresa Charles, Catherine Wilson, Vera hands, John Murray, Gerald Smith, Mary Challinor, Mary Kemp, Brendan Halley, Beatrix Alves, Kathleen Williams, David Evans, Elizabeth Tomley, Margaret Jones, Catherine Sullivan, Thomas Powell, Nora Wilcox, John Joy, Francis Murray, Celia Roscoe, Peter Morrissey, Dorothy Hartley, Mary Donovan, John King, Kathleen Jones, Mary Gadd, Eileen O'Connor, Albert Saunders, Susan Rowe, Maria Ingram, Margaret Evans, Michael McDade, Kathleen Harris, Carl Walker, Kathleen Griffiths, Roy Winterbottom, Thomas Marshall, Joyce Price, Leonard Challenor, Evelyn Dobson, Winifred Jones, Thomas Jordan, Lucy Grant, Dorothy Price, Barbara Vidal.



**Offertory Collection** £448.31 Thank you for your generosity.