

This week's diary

Sunday 7th	THE EPIPHANY 8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist
Monday 8th	<i>No services today</i> 5.00pm Beaver Scouts 6.30pm Cub Scouts
Tuesday 9th	7.00pm Scouts 7.15pm Eucharist
Wednesday 10th	4.15pm Confirmation Class 5.30pm Eucharist 7.00pm Youth Group
Thursday 11th	10.00am Eucharist 7.45pm Badminton Group
Friday 12th	ST AELRED OF RIEVAULX 8.30am Eucharist 6.30pm Evening Prayer
Saturday 13th	ST HILARY 9.30am Eucharist 2.30pm Pantomime – “Mother Goose” 6.00pm Pantomime – “Mother Goose”
Sunday 14th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist 3.00pm Pantomime – “Mother Goose”



THE ORBIT

WELCOME
to St. Edmund's
Sunday 7th Jan 2018

THE EPIPHANY

Today's Services

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Prelude: The Three Kings – P.Cornelius, arr.Hammond

Setting: Darke in E (Merbecke Gloria)

Anthem: The Shepherds' Farewell – H.Berlioz

Hymns: 52, 48, 47, 51, R42

Postlude: Wie Schoen Leuchtet Der Morgenstern – Bach

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**Please take this home with you
for your reference and prayers this week**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

The dominant theme in today's readings is the revelation of God in Christ Jesus, and our responsibility to make him known today.

Isaiah tells how the Jewish exiles who have been allowed to return and rebuild Jerusalem are given a majestic vision of hope that all nations will come to know God. All the ingredients of an Epiphany pageant are present, including trains of camels from the East bearing their rich symbolic gifts.

On the day we celebrate the Gentiles visit to the infant Jesus, Paul in Ephesians talks of his vocation to 'unfold the mystery' to the Gentiles, calling them 'fellow heirs' of salvation in Jesus Christ. Whilst the other readings present the world as coming to the light held by the Jews, Paul reveals a responsibility which is in the opposite direction: that of taking the good news out beyond the confines of his own religious community. This is our commission too. We, as today's servants (v. 7) are, and must be, caught up in the 'eternal purpose' (v. 11).

In Matthew the Magi come 'from the East', from amongst the nations or Gentile lands. They have 'read the stars', and they seem aware that this is a significant moment for the Jewish nation and for the world. By contrast God's own people do not. Herod's murderous reaction to the news is in contrast with that of the trusting, humble and perceptive Gentile kings.

The gifts of the Magi may have symbolic meaning, but they also signify the homage paid to the child whom Mary holds out to them. We may not have difficulty in offering our gifts to Christ (or do we?), but how freely do we seek to share Christ with the world around us?

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way in ensuring that the Christmas Services went so well. Those who made the Church look so beautiful by erecting and decorating the tree and crib; those who arranged flowers and decorations; all who helped during the services, servers, choir, musicians, readers etc; those who welcomed visitors and acted as sidespersons and everyone else who worked behind the scenes to make it such a wonderful time. Fr M

Notices

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will restart this Wednesday at 4.15pm.

CALENDAR The current calendar of events can be found online at tinyurl.com/EdmundCalendar



Tickets

Box Office OPENS
Monday 6th November 2017
020 8428 1349
boxoffice@arrowplayers.org.uk

Performances

Saturday 13th January 2.30pm and 6pm
Sunday 14th January 3pm
Wed 17th, Thu 18th, Fri 19th January 7.45pm
Saturday 20th January 2.30pm and 7.45pm

For your prayers this week...

The sick: Amy Austin, Marianne Dawson, Barbara Fairclough, Bernard Fairclough, Kay Fletcher, Betty Glass, Iris Golding, Darren Hale, Saman Khan, Margaret Messenger, Suzanne Nicholls, Emil Pimm, Margery Richards, Joan Rix, Ian Roberts, Ros Shirran, Charlie Shirran, Fred Webb, Julie Windsor, Rachel Windsor, Nora Wood

Anniversaries of death: Christopher Mearns (Priest), Richard Woodage, Emily Vernon