



The story of the Epiphany captures the imagination with its rich mixture of mystery and intrigue. Into the Holy Family come 3 wise men from the east, dressed in majestic robes and bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. They had travelled from unknown lands following a star and had experienced the deviousness of King Herod before they were filled with delight in finding the new-born child. After paying homage, they left for home following a different route. The story of the Magi is so colourful, we may overlook its significance and fail to see its deeper meaning. The wise men represent all of us. The journey through desert and mountain following a star reflects our search for purpose and meaning in life which is not possible unless we are guided by faith which enables us to see beneath the surface of appearances. At the centre of it all is the innocence of a new-born child surrounded by adoration, wonder and mystery who is able to stir the emotions, imaginations and will of all those drawn

into his presence. The story is always relevant because God sees to it that people who really search will find him. He will shed light into our darkness and make us new. As Christmas draws to an end, the Epiphany reminds us of our journey into another year, following the individual paths which we alone are to tread. Life is a pilgrimage, a long journey, but we need not necessarily travel it alone, fumbling in darkness in search of our destination. The Epiphany story concerns the wider world and the many varying journeys we have to find and encounter Christ. It calls to us to look and search for the Lord who is in our midst in situations where previously we have been unaware of his presence. He comes to us in people and places we least expect and at times when we are unprepared for his company. God stands in our midst, revealing himself and inviting us to enter into his company and nothing is ever the same again for those who discover his light. The responsibility we have is to let the divine light within us shine through to others. The gospel of love, forgiveness and redemption is not something to keep quiet about but good news to announce to the world.

Masses and Services During the week - Eucharistic Service: Monday - 9.30 a.m. Masses: Tuesday - Friday - 9.30 a.m. Sunday - 9 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Reconciliations - Saturday - at 12.30 - 1.00 p.m and again from 6.30 - 7.00 p.m.

Good, Better, Best, never let it rest, 'till your Good is Better and your Better is Best.

A very Happy and Holy New Year to you all from myself and Deacon Tom.

Please pray for Derick Rowlinson whose funeral takes place at Macclesfield Crematorium on Friday at 3.20 p.m. We pray for his family and friends at this time. May he rest in peace.

The SVP Cake Sale 2 weeks ago after 10.30 a.m. mass raised £38. Sincere gratitude to both Helen Butler & Anne Guiod.

First Holy Communion - A reminder that the first meeting for our children not attending St. Benedict's School is this coming Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. in the back of church.

Annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage 2020 - The annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage will be celebrated this year at St Joseph's, Birkenhead on Saturday 8th February at 12 noon. Any couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2020 wishing to attend are asked to let Father know, together with an indication of which anniversary they are celebrating, so that they may receive a personal invitation.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - The dates of the Lourdes Pilgrimage for 2020 are: 28th July to 5th August, overland and 29th July to 4th August, by air.

God Bless You All

Fr. William O'Riordan

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. W. O'Riordan 01625 522776. Permanent Deacon: Rev. B.T. Chrisp: 07925 072270.

Parish Contact for all Sacraments/Newsletter -Trish Chrisp: 07957 285824 or trishchrisp@gmail.com

Parish Rep. Child Protection: 01625 252108. S.V.P: 07749 453776. Hall Co-ordinator: 01625 250879

Parish Website: <http://stbenedictshandforth.mycylex.co.uk>

Your Catholic Primary School is: St. Benedict's situated on Hall Road, Handforth.

For more information please contact Hannah McGuire, Head Teacher on 01625 520207