

January 2010

			Wood Green	Bowes
Mary, Mother of God	<i>fr</i>	1	5.30pm	
Basil the Great	<i>s</i>	2	12.00	
The Epiphany of The Lord		:	3	
weekday	<i>m</i>	4		
weekday	<i>t</i>	5		7.30pm
weekday	<i>w</i>	6	12Noon	
weekday	<i>th</i>	7		11.00
weekday	<i>fr</i>	8	5.30pm	
weekday	<i>s</i>	9	12.00	
The Baptism of The Lord		:	10	
weekday	<i>m</i>	11		
weekday	<i>t</i>	12		7.30pm
weekday	<i>w</i>	13	12.00	
weekday	<i>th</i>	14		11.00
weekday	<i>fr</i>	15	5.30pm	
weekday	<i>s</i>	16	12Noon	
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time		:	17	Healing Service 12Noon
weekday	<i>m</i>	18		
weekday	<i>t</i>	19		7.30pm
weekday	<i>w</i>	20	12Noon	
Agnes	<i>th</i>	21		11.00
weekday	<i>fr</i>	22	5.30pm	
weekday	<i>s</i>	23	12Noon	
3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time		:	24	
Conversion of St Paul	<i>m</i>	25		
Timothy & Titus	<i>t</i>	26		7.30pm
weekday	<i>w</i>	27	12Noon	
weekday	<i>th</i>	28		11.00
weekday	<i>fr</i>	29	5.30pm	
weekday	<i>s</i>	30	12Noon	
4th Sunday of Ordinary Time		:	31	



Dear friends in Christ

All that preparation for Christmas and, very soon it seems so far away! The Christmas adverts for food, drink and presents have all disappeared off our screens, and many are rushing out to buy that leather sofa *on offer* (Hurry! Sale must end on Monday!). Others might be drooling at adverts for a luxury cruise, or maybe just a quick holiday in Spain . .

The Church teaches that Christmas is a season, not just a day in the year or a bank holiday — and there are two echoes of the *Christmas event* that keep it alive in our hearts and minds: The Epiphany and the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemass).

The word epiphany means *manifestation* or *showing*.

It recalls the day when the glory of God was made visible and accessible through the birth of the child Jesus. The wise men, coming from virtually the edges of the then-known world, show that the glory of God is revealed to every corner of the globe: *from the Great River to earth's bounds*, as the psalm tells us.

Epiphany tells us that nobody has a monopoly on God, and Christ did not come for some sort of elite group but for every single human being of all time. The wise men came to do homage to Jesus because they were drawn by God to his birth place to show he was special to them and to their people. Even people who have no evident outward religious expression often indicate that the simple message of Christmas is one that still appeals to the human heart. In fact, Leo the Great was fond of saying that there can be no strangers at Christmas, because God has graced us all, saints and sinners, with the gift of his own Son.

As with every liturgy, Epiphany doesn't leave us simply looking backwards at the past. It encourages us to change and renewal in our daily life of faith, and to make a difference to the future. If we celebrate Epiphany as the making visible of God's gift of true humanity in the person of his Son, then we're also agreeing to be *epiphanies* ourselves, to be thankful people who never cease praising God for his many gifts and who show God's graceful presence in our world by the way we ourselves live. Christmas day may have come and gone, but Epiphany reminds us that it's not over yet. We've a lot of showing to do.

With my love and prayers

Fr. Colin

www.woodgreentparish.com

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Jesus Christ - the same yesterday, today and forever