

Reflection by Scott Hahn on the feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Today we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God. Her response to the angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb. From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God’s only Son, as Paul tells us in today’s Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Israelites, through prophets (see **Hebrews 1:1–2**), and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today’s First Reading. But now, He has sent His Son to reveal His glory and His kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today’s Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His face upon us (see **John 14:8–9**).

Jesus is made a child of Israel, an heir of God’s covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today’s Gospel (see **Genesis 17:1–14**). And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ, the true circumcision (see **Colossians 2:11; Philippians 3:3**). As children of God, Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father’s blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (see **Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:14**). This is the blessing that Aaron imparted to Israel, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today (see **Luke 2:10**). Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts (see **Colossians 3:16**).

**The Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XV1.** Speaking earlier today Bishop Richard Moth said:

“We are deeply grateful for the life and service of Pope Emeritus Benedict. While we mourn his loss, we are thankful for his steadfast witness and legacy.”

“His firm resolve during eight years of papal ministry saw the Pope Emeritus broaden opportunities for dialogue with people and groups outside of the Catholic Church. More locally, many in our community will have been touched by his gentle presence during his visit to these shores in 2010, not least in his meeting with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the time of prayer in Hyde Park and the Beatification of St. John Henry Newman.”

“Masses for the repose of the Pope’s soul will be offered across the churches of our Diocese in the coming days. We entrust Pope Benedict to the Father of all mercies and prayer for the repose of his soul.”

**World Day of Peace.** Pope Francis has released his message for World Day of Peace which is celebrated on 1st January. The message, which was released on Friday, highlights that all crises are interconnected and stresses that we must not forget any of them but work for the good of humanity.

**Marion Moulding’s funeral** will take place on Tues 10th Jan, 10.30am at CTK. We pray or the repose of Marion’s soul and remember her family and friends at this time.

**Hymn Numbers** for the feast of Mary, Mother of God :  
**Open** : (CTK) 218. ‘Holy Virgin’ (St Jo’s) 300 ‘Immaculate Mary’.  
**Off.** : (CTK) 249. ‘In the bleak midwinter’ (St Jo’s) 62. ‘Ave Maria, O maiden, O mother’.  
**Close** : (CTK) 50. ‘At the name of Jesus’ (St Jo’s) 59. ‘At the name of Jesus’

**Solemnity of the Epiphany.** Friday, Jan 6th is the feast of the Epiphany and is a holyday of obligation. Mass times are : Thurs 5th Jan at 7.00pm at CTK (DW) and Fri Jan 6th at 12noon at CTK. The Blessing of Chalk to mark our homes will take place at our Masses. Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows :

**‘20+C+M+B+23’, saying ‘The 3 wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human 2 thousand and 23 years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the year. Amen.’**

*Then say the following prayer:*  
Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen

**Catholic Children’s Society A & B Crisis Fund:**  
There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib offerings to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via: [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib).

**Understand your Catholic Faith with the Catechism in a Year** podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz starting 1st Jan 2023. The Catechism holds the great treasures of the teachings of the Church, some are beautiful in their simplicity, others can be challenging. See <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear?ct=t> to join this potentially life changing adventure.

**Annual Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly,** 'Hungry for Change', 28th January 2023, 9.30am-1.30pm at The St. Philip Howard Centre, RH10 6RP. We will explore how war contributes to world hunger. [https:// abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/2iasupai?ct=t](https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/2iasupai?ct=t)

**Prayers before Mass at CTK** : the Holy Rosary will be recited at 10.45am on Jan 1st. All welcome.

**A & B Diocesan Directories for 2023** are available at the back of the church. They contain information about our diocese, as well as clergy, parishes, schools and mass times throughout Surrey and Sussex. Cost £5.

**Parish Clergy:**  
**Fr.Neil Chatfield**  
**Tel. 01323 760048 or in an emergency - 07718123304**  
**[priest.ctk@icloud.com](mailto:priest.ctk@icloud.com)**

**Rev’d Deacon Eugene Adams**  
**Tel. 07917276140**  
**[deaconctk@hotmail.com](mailto:deaconctk@hotmail.com)**

**For enquiries for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriages please speak to either Fr Neil or Deacon Eugene and also ring the office.**  
**Tel. 01323 760048**

**Parish Hall Bookings**  
**Enquiries: 01323 760048**

**Website :**  
**<http://christthekingeastbourne.org>**

**Facebook page: Christ The King with St Joachim, Eastbourne**

#### Banking Matters

We have shortened the name of the bank account for those who wish to set up standing orders for Christ the King. **CTK main account** details : Sort Code : **40-05-20** A/C No : **91127012**; **CTK Building Account No : 61256130.** A/C Name : **RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne.** St Joachim’s A/C. Sort Code : **40-05-20**; A/C No : **51077058.**

**Votive Candles.** Would you like to sponsor a weekly candle by the Blessed Sacrament tabernacle or the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham in CTK? This week they are dedicated to Pad McCormack RIP and the McCormack and Carroll ancestry RIP.

**‘Warm Spaces’.** We have started the warm spaces sessions on Monday’s 11-5pm at CTK in the parish room and St Joachim’s Friday’s 10am-3pm. Please speak to Fr Neil if you can help.

**Make a donation on-line to the parish today!** Scan the QR code below, select our parish and add Gift Aid if you pay tax. Also see the poster at the back of the church.



| Weekly Mass Schedule    |   |                                    |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|                         | Mary Mother of God                                      | Mass Intentions                    |
| Sat. Dec 31st           | CTK : 4.00-5.00pm                                       | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
|                         | CTK. : 5.00pm Vigil Mass                                | James & Sheila Douds               |
| Sun Jan 1st             | St Jo’s 9.30am. Mass                                    | John de Nobrega RIP                |
|                         | Mary, Mother of God.                                    | Keshia de la Motte                 |
|                         | World Peace Day   | Timothy & Hend                     |
| Mon Jan 2nd             | CTK. 11.30am Mass                                       |                                    |
|                         | CTK. 4.00pm Mass (DW)                                   | (Kazimiera Przybylak RIP)          |
| Tues Jan 3rd            | No Public Mass  | Eugenia Stanczak. RIP              |
| Most Holy Name of Jesus | CTK : 10am : Mass                                       |                                    |
| Wed Jan 4th             | St Jo’s : 10.00am : Mass                                | Fr Kevin                           |
| Thurs Jan 5th           | CTK : 5.30-7.00pm. Exposition and Holy Hour for priests |                                    |
|                         | CTK. : 7.00pm(DW) Mass for Epiphany                     | Kallarackal Paily Gertrude         |
| Fri Jan 6th             | CTK : 12noon : Mass                                     | Fr Gerard                          |
| Epiphany                |   |                                    |
| Sat Jan 7th             | CTK. : 4.00-5.00pm                                      | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| St Raymond of Penafort  | CTK 5.00pm Mass   | Sonia                              |
| Sun Jan 8th             | St Jo’s 9.30am Mass                                     | Eithne Lloyd                       |
|                         | Baptism of the Lord                                     | Matylda (baby)                     |
|                         | CTK 11.30am Mass  | Lydia Horlina RIP                  |
|                         | CTK 4pm mass (DW)                                       |                                    |

**We pray for:** Emma Raper, Eithne Lloyd, Peter Champion, Chris Gimmons, Don Wilkins, Stuart McCarthy, Helena Sagnelia, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O’Driscoll, Rene Cook, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Diana Smith, Colleen Stock, Sr Mary Keiley, Jane Hollands, Kirina Blat, Moira Morrison, Philip Duffy, Pamela Chatfield, Eddie Burke, Theresa Kitchener, Roy Worsley, Betty Donovan, Lucas Mack, Marian Moulding, Marie Williams, Terry Swales, Lois Forbes, Pauline Sollis, Alexandra Waters, Daniel Markham, Maria P Veras, Alison J Thomas, Mary Ayling

**For the recently deceased:** Elia Borsoi, Timothy Van-Eugen, Mathew Orr, Victor Beale, Mary Cuddeford, Marion Moulding, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI