

Scott Hahn reflects on the Feast of the Epiphany.

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see Micah 5:1–3).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king. The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14). One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

**Fr Neil is taking is well-earned rest in January**, so Mass times have changed at CTK and St Jo’s. There will be NO PARISH MASS from Jan 6th–10th. Fr Neil will say the allocated Mass intentions. There will be Liturgy of the Word at 10.00am at St Jo’s on Jan 8th led by Deacon Eugene. There will still be Holy Hour for priests and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration on Thursday 9th 5.30-7.00pm, and on Friday Jan 10th 10.00am-3.00pm. Daily Mass is still available at OLR. Please contact Deacon Eugene if there are any urgent parish issues while Fr Neil is away.

**Children’s monthly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.** On January 11th at 11.00-11.30am at CTK. All children welcome as we spend time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**RCIA Programme 2024/2025** : As Fr Neil is away this week, there will be NO Meeting on Jan 9th; the next session about the liturgy and the sacraments is on Jan 16th at 4.00pm at CTK.

**The Epiphany of the Lord** is celebrated this weekend. At Epiphany we bless our homes above the front door with the traditional chalk blessing, remembering the Magi:

**20+C+M+B+25**, whilst saying the following prayer:

‘Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar followed the star of God’s Son who became a man 2025 years ago.

++ May Christ bless our home ++ and remain with us through the New Year.

Almighty God, incline your ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel who will defend us and fill with grace all who live here. Amen.’

**Hymns : Epiphany of the Lord**  
**OPEN.** : CTK. : (601). ‘We three kings’  
 St Jo’s (788). ‘We three kings’  
**Off** : CTK (619). ‘Word made flesh’  
 St Jo’s. (383). ‘Lord Jesus Christ’  
**Close** : CTK. : (523). ‘The first Nowell’  
 St Jo’s.(692). ‘The first Nowell.

**Jubilee Year.** Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”, a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

**CTK Seniors** : our next meeting is on Wed 8th Jan, 11.00am-1.00pm in the parish room at CTK. A light lunch will be served at a cost of £2. There will also be an extra meeting on Thursday 30th Jan, 10.30am-1.00pm. Tea and biscuits available, £1. Come along for sharing and friendship.

**Men of St Joseph Rosary Walk** takes place on Fri Jan 10th, 7.00pm. We meet in the parish room at CTK and spend time praying for our parish and town.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** will be donated to the Catholic Children’s Society A&B Crisis Fund providing emergency grants to support children and their families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Funds can be donated either via the box by the crib or online or via the gift aid envelopes in the porch.

**Phoenix Choir** presents ‘A Winter Meditation’ with works by Lauridsen, Gjeilo, Barber and others at All Saints Church, Grange Road, at 4.30 p.m. on Sat 1st Feb. Tickets £15, £5 for under 18’s/students available from The Visitor Centre, Reid & Dean, Cornfield Road (cash only) and WeGotTickets on line.

**Christmas Raffle** : These 3 prizes are still unclaimed at the back of the church : white ticket No 446, tin of Roses - Maria 5pm; white ticket 403, chocolate - Maria S; white ticket 125, Margaret O’S, Avon. These will taken to the sacristy if not claimed.

**Epiphany Lunch 2025.** We can no longer take any bookings for our Epiphany lunch; the meal is on 11th January at the Alexandra Arms on Seaside. We meet at 12noon for 12.30pm. We look forward to an enjoyable parish celebration.

**Parish Pantomime** : ‘Cinderella’ is being performed by our parishioners under the direction of Jackie Riggs. There are performances in CTK parish hall on Sat Jan 18th at 2.00pm and 7.30pm, and on Sunday 19th Jan at 2.00pm. Tickets will be available, this weekend, price £5 for adults and £3 for children (includes tea and coffee). There will also be a raffle at each performance.

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

**Rev’d Deacon Eugene Adams**  
**Tel. 07917276140**  
**deaconctk@hotmail.com**

**Safeguarding**  
**Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator**  
**Deacon Eugene Adams**  
**Contact: 07917 276140**  
**Diocesan Safeguarding Team**  
**Contact: 01293 651148**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**The Sacrament of Confession is available at CTK on Thurs 6-6.45pm, Friday, 12.45-2.00pm Saturday, 4-4.45pm. And on-call. Contact Fr Neil.**

**For enquiries for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, please speak to either Fr Neil or Deacon Eugene; also ring the office. 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: A/C Name : RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne.** Sort Code : **40-05-20** A/C No : **91127012; St Joachim’s A/C. Sort Code : 40-05-20; A/C No : 51077058.**

**Votive Candles.** Would you like to sponsor a candle for a personal intention or a special need at CTK? This week the candles are for Peggy Welsh RIP and Martin O’Donovan RIP. There are forms available at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor a candle.

**DONA Contactless** payment card machine is available at the back of CTK. Payments using the machine have increased over recent weeks; thanks to those who are using it.

	Epiphany of The Lord	Mass Intentions
Sat Jan 4th	CTK : 4.00pm-4.45pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  CTK. : 5.00pm Vigil Mass	John Hollands RIP
Sun Jan 5th	St Jo's. 9.30am  Epiphany of the Lord  CTK 11.30am (DW)	Lily Halvey RIP  Eithne Goodall & Martin McGloin RIP
Mon Jan 6h	No Public Mass today	(Sr Raphael O'Mahony RIP and family)
Tues Jan 7th	No Public Mass today	(Sr Raphael O'Mahony RIP and family)
Wed Jan 8th	St Jo's : 10.00am. Liturgy of the Word	(Patrick McDonagh RIP)
Thurs Jan 9th	No Public Mass today CTK : 5.30pm-7.00pm Holy Hour for Priests with Exposition & Adoration	(Marcie's 16th Birthday)
Fri Jan 10th	No Public Mass today. CTK. : 10.00am exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & adoration till 3.00pm	(Pad McCormack RIP)
Sat Jan 11th	CTK. : 4.00pm-4.45pm : Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  CTK : 5.00pm Vigil Mass	Deceased members of the Stalker & Bagley families
Sun Jan 12th	St Jo's. : 9.30am Mass	Michael John Libago RIP
Baptism of the Lord	CTK. : 11.30am Mass (DW)	Celestine Pennington RIP

**We pray for all the sick of the parish, and especially :** Emma Raper, Eithne Lloyd, Peter Champion, Chris Gimmons, Stuart McCarthy, Helena Sagnelia, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O’Driscoll, Rene Cook, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Diana Smith, Sr Mary Keiley, Jane Hollands, Kirina Blaty, Moira Morrison, Philip Duffy, Theresa Kitchener, Betty Donovan, Marie Williams, Terry Swales, Alexandra Waters, Zachary Hurst, Daniel Markham, Maria P Veras, Alison J Thomas, Alan Calivas, Maria Rosa Ferro, Sylvia Brady, Sue Davies, Samantha McLoughlin, Enogue G Peixoto, Val Williams, Elenilse Martins, Alberto & Maria Nobrega, Antonio Lazo, Alicia Fillos, Sofia Rodrigo, Alicia Nobrega, Carlos Nobrega, Maria Adilia, Octavio Gomes, Bryan Santos, Maria Conceicao Silva, Antonio Rodrigues, Nanda Pacheco, Paula Alves, Neidilane Emerch, Philip Sargo, Maria Auta, Antonia Epifonio de Araujo

**For the recently deceased:** For the repose of the souls of : Peggy Welsh, Patsy Harber