



Second Sunday after Christmas

4 January 2026



PUBLISHED BY THE EAST JOURNE ORDINARIATE MISSION FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES AT CHRIST THE KING AND ST JOACHIM'S

Dr Scott Hahn reflects on the forthcoming Feast of the Epiphany, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Is 60:1–6; Ps 72:12, 7–8, 10–13; Eph 3:2–3, 5–6, Matt 2:1–12

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In Tuesday’s readings, with their rising stars, splendourous lights and mysteries revealed, the face of the Child born on Christmas Day appears.

Herod, in the Epiphany 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 the 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 the First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in the 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 “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as the 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 the scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

Fr Neil and Deacon Eugene would like to thank all those who have supported the parish in any way during the Christmas season and those who have generously given gifts and cards to the parish clergy. Thank you also to all who help out generally in the parish of CTK and St Joachim’s throughout the year. Your support is very much appreciated. Happy 2026 to you all!

Masses return to their new normal this week, as shown on the back page: Mass on Tuesdays at CTK is now at noon, and on Fridays at 10am. Wednesdays at St Joachim’s, Thursday evenings and the First Saturday Mass are unchanged.

The Epiphany of the Lord will be celebrated this coming Tuesday. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means (not least out of love and support for one another) we should make every reasonable effort to be present at Mass on this day. Holy Mass will be offered at noon and 7pm, both at CTK.

If you have inadvertently taken Mass cards or booklets home from CTK or St Joachim’s, please bring them back.

Lumen Christi, the programme for our young people receiving the sacrament of Confirmation meets next this coming Saturday, 3:30–6:45pm at OLR church hall. The topics are the Holy Spirit, the saints, sacrament of Reconciliation. The meeting will finish with Mass at 6:00pm.

CWL Christmas Tree of Giving provided an opportunity to buy a gift for a needy child this Christmas, and the League says a very big thank you to all who have supported it. The designated charity was *Warming Up the Homeless*, which supports children and families in temporary accommodation.

Matthew 25 Mission is in need of donations at this time of the year. They particularly need tinned and package foodstuffs, long life milk, coffee and tea, dry pasta, as well as men's and women's winter clothes.

Crib Offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society (A&B Crisis Fund), which supports needy families. The crib will be in church until Candlemas on 2 February.

Eastbourne Catholic Women's League meets this Wednesday (7 January) in the CTK Parish Room, 7:00–9:00pm. Come and join us as we spend time supporting the parish and each other. There are leaflets at the back of the church if you would like to find out more about the CWL.

We look forward to welcoming those who have booked to the **Epiphany Celebration Meal** at the Alexandra Arms this coming Saturday.

CTK Seniors next meet on 14 January at 12:30pm (note change of time) in the Parish Room. It will be a post-Christmas celebration with a guest singer to welcome us into 2026!

Pilgrimage to Poland May 2026: the parish is organising a seven-day pilgrimage to Poland from 26 May to 1 June 2026, including the shrine in Częstochowa and the Divine Mercy Basilica in Krakow as well as visits to Auschwitz, Wadowice and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. Masses will be celebrated by Fr Neil in different churches each day. We have been able to improve on the offer which was first advertised, although costs can change. The price is now £995pp sharing or £1200 in a single room,

which also includes return flights, airport duty and taxes, one suitcase, six nights' half-board (dinner, bed and breakfast), excursions and a travel representative. More information from Ilona on 07904 680885. If you are interested, please put your name on the list at the back of the churches or call Ilona.

There is now a monthly newsletter for the seven churches of the West Hub of the New Parish of Eastbourne and St Leonards, with another for the East Hub. January's is yellow, and features an article by Fr Neil. This *weekly* leaflet for the two churches in Langney and Hampden Park complements the monthly publication across the deanery.

Phoenix Choir Eastbourne & Maastricht present *The Messiah* by George Frideric Handel with international soloists and a baroque orchestra on 7 February 2026 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Grange Road. See the poster at the back of the church.

Notices for this leaflet and/or the Deanery Newsletter should be sent to Dominic via the parish's current email address of priest.ctl@icloud.com.

You can sign up to receive news from the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, including the weekly message from senior clergy. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ABnewsletter> or point your smartphone at the QR code here. There wasn't an email issued this week due to the Christmas celebrations, but it usually arrives on Thursdays.



You can sign up to receive news from the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham by visiting their website at ordinariate.org.uk: enter your email address about halfway down the page. Their recent email features a pastoral letter from Bishop David and a bit about Fr Neil too.



Votive Candles: Would you like to sponsor a candle for a personal intention or a special need at CTK? There are Masses available at both churches. Request forms for candles or Masses are available, which each include a card to give to those being prayed for.

We pray for all the sick of the parish, and especially: Eithne Lloyd, Stuart McCarthy, Marie Williams, Maria P Veras, Sylvia Brady, Alexandra Waters, Neidilane Emerch, Rose Hellyer, Graham Pegley, Serena May, Enogue G Peixoto, Freda Swales, Vicky Ferrera, and baby Autumn.

And we pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Mick Smitherman RIP, Robert Cutler RIP, Robert Anthony John “Tony” Roberts RIP and Walston Julien RIP who have recently died, and all those who have no-one to pray for them.

Pope Leo's Prayer intention for January is for prayer with the Word of God: 'Let us pray that praying with the Word of God nourishes our lives and brings hope to our communities, building a more fraternal and missionary Church.'

Special dates for this year:

Epiphany ✠: 6 January (Tuesday)
Septuagesima Sunday: 1 February
Ash Wednesday: 18 February
Sacred Triduum: Thursday 2–Saturday 4 April
Easter Day ✠: 5 April
Ascension Day ✠: 14 May (Thursday)
Pentecost: 24 May
Corpus Christi: 7 June (Sunday)
SS Peter & Paul ✠: 28 June (Sunday)
SS Joachim & Anne: 26 July (Sunday)
Assumption of Our Lady ✠: 16 August (Sunday)
Our Lady of Walsingham: 24 September (Thur)
All Saints ✠: 1 November (Sunday)
Christ the King: 22 November (Sunday)
Advent Sunday: 29 November
Christmas Day ✠: 25 December (Friday)

Days marked ✠, and all Sundays, are Holy Days of Obligation.

Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in Eastbourne

FR NEIL CHATFIELD

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Safeguarding matters are dealt with through the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, who can be contacted on 01293 651148. The Episcopal Vicar in the Ordinariate who liaises with local dioceses is Fr Simon Ellis. He can be emailed at safeguarding@ordinariate.org.uk.

For enquiries for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriages please speak to Fr Neil; also ring the office on 01323 760048.

Website: <https://eastbourneordinariate.org.uk>

Facebook page: [/eastbourneordinariate](https://facebook.com/eastbourneordinariate)

Banking

Eastbourne Ordinariate Mission:
40-04-09 82035758

Parish of Christ the King Langney with St Joachim Hampden Park

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Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01293 651148

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

Parish Hall Bookings 01323 760048

Website: <http://christthekingeastbourne.org>

Facebook page: Christ The King with St Joachim, Eastbourne

Banking

Christ the King: 40-05-20 91127012;
CTK Building Account: “RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne” 40-05-20 61256130.
St Joachim's: 40-05-20 51077058.

Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas

(Year A) (Year II)

Day			Location*	Intention
	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm	CTK	John Hollands RIP
Sunday 4 January SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Mass NO	9:30 am	St Jo	For our Community
	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am	CTK	Philomena Sio RIP
Monday 5 January <i>Feria</i>	Mass NO Private Mass	11:00 am	OLR	As advertised Priest's intention
Tuesday 6 January EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ✠	Mass NO	12:00 noon	CTK	For priests
	Mass DW	7:00 pm	CTK	Derek Rowe
Wednesday 7 January <i>S Raymond of Penyafort Pr</i>	Mass NO	10:00 am	St Jo	Holy Souls
Thursday 8 January <i>Feria</i>	Exposition; confessions	5:30 pm	CTK	For priests
	Mass DW	7:00 pm	CTK	New vocations to the priesthood
Friday 9 January <i>Feria</i>	Mass NO Exposition; confession	10:00 am	CTK	As announced
Saturday 10 January <i>Feria</i>	Exposition; confession	4:00 pm	CTK	
	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm	CTK	For our Community
Sunday 11 January BAPTISM OF OUR LORD	Mass NO	9:30 am	St Jo	For our Community
	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am	CTK	Thanksgiving for the birth of Fergus (McCarthy family)

From this week, Mass on Tuesdays is celebrated at noon at CTK and Mass on Fridays is celebrated at 10am.

DW Divine Worship (2014)
NO Novus Ordo (2010)
SM Syro-Malabar Rite (2021)
TLM Traditional Latin Mass (1962), when available

* **CTK** Christ the King Church, 3 Princes Rd BN23 6HT
StJo St Joachim's Church, 106 Brodrick Rd BN22 9NY
OLR Our Lady of Ransom Church, 2 Grange Rd BN21 4EU
DGH Chapel, District General Hospital, Kings Dr BN21 2UD
† In the Parish room: enter by the side door