

a star, without much certainty of what they would find at the end of it. In fact, they initially went to the wrong place, because what they expected to find wasn't, in fact, what God was guiding them to at all. Even when they found Mary and Jesus at the house, I wonder if they knew what they were seeing. These travellers from distant lands met God in the home of the Holy Family. Were they impressed by this ordinary domestic scene, so unlike the palace setting they clearly expected? Did they go back home with the way they saw the world transformed? Or was it back to "life as usual"?

Of course, we can't answer such questions. Nor do we need to. Really they are questions for us, for our living of "the journey". They are questions that may have some practical significance. They can help us reflect on the graces of our celebration of Christmas, and ponder on what might be the gifts that we want to receive more deeply into our lives in the return to "ordinary life". What are the joyful celebrations – of bodiliness, of Our Lady, of the Holy Family, of our own domestic settings – which we might better build into the next stage of our journey, through prayers, or images and statues in our homes, or habits of hospitality and homely celebrations, gift-giving and sharing? The graces of Christmastide are not just for these few winter weeks.

### ORDINARY MYSTERY

The wise men saw Jesus. This was a moment of revelation, or "unveiling" – an epiphany. Quite possibly it took the rest of their lives to understand what, exactly, they had seen, so deep and unexpected and "ordinary" is the mystery of God's love for us. In the end the visit seems short, the moment of revelation and encounter brief; they had to go home. But the journey back to the old routine was not the same journey as the trip out to find the infant king; they returned by "a different way". Their return was not a retracing of steps, but a new beginning.

In some small ways we can "return by a different way", letting the glimpses of God's grace we have experienced this Christmastide find a long-term place in our homes and hearts. And so, again, "Happy Christmas!" This is not just a season's greeting.

## MASS TEXT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 71

RESPONSE: *All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do the Lord homage.  
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20;  
John 1:35-42

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

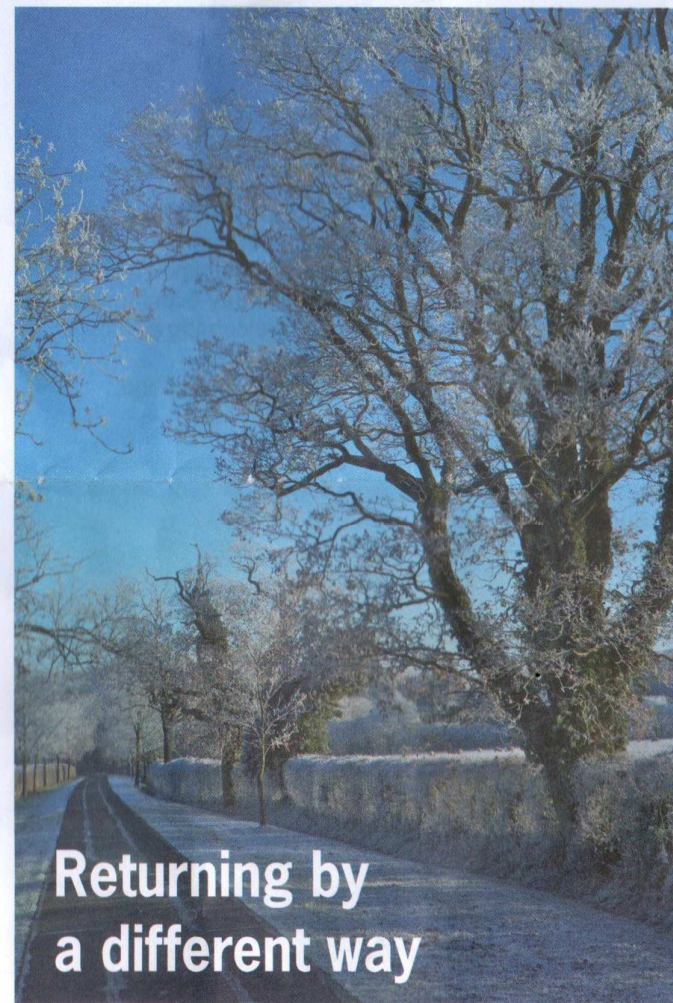
8 JANUARY 2012 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I

## WAITING AND WONDER

*As we come to the end of the Christmas season, Dr Clare Watkins considers journeys – and new beginnings.*

So Christmas is well and truly over. The decorations are down; Christmas foods have been eaten or binned; children are settled back into a new term; those with jobs are back at work; we're all returning to something of the same humdrum routine with which we are familiar. Some of us may be a little fatter than before Christmas, and have one or two extra "things" we've been given; but life is "getting back to normal". Sometimes this is a bit of a relief; sometimes something of an anticlimax. It's not a bad time to ask: Did my celebration of the Christmas mysteries change me at all?

It's not unusual, these days, to hear people talking about their "faith journey". This is language which reminds us that faith isn't just a static "thing" that we get and then have; rather, it's a story, an unfolding of grace and hope and holiness in our daily living. The danger of the language is that it seems to make our "faith journey" something special or different from our ordinary living: in fact, it's in the ordinary "journey" of our day-to-day lives – and only there – that the dynamic work of the Holy Spirit happens, leading us deeper into the love of God.



## Returning by a different way

### LIVING THE JOURNEY

The feast we celebrate today has a particular journey at the heart of it: the journey of the wise travellers from the east to find the child, Jesus. They travelled a hard journey, simply following the promise of



## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

7 St Peter's Road, Cirencester  
GL7 1RE  
[Telephone: Cirencester 01285  
652087]  
www.stpeterscirencester.org  
Parish Priest: *Fr. Michael Davies*  
Permanent Deacon:  
*Rev. J Fothergill*

Welcome to our church. If you are a visitor, we hope that you will enjoy your stay in Cirencester. If you are new to the Parish, please make yourself known to someone in the congregation. Saturday evening and Sunday morning, there will be a "welcoming person" with a badge.

Readings page 154. For details, see back page.

- Sat 7 Jan: Polish Mass 5pm  
First Mass of Sunday 6 pm
- Sun 8 Jan: Mass 11 am:  
(Maura Humphreys RIP)  
(Tetbury Mass 9 am)
- Mon 9 Jan: Mass 10 am: Baptism of the Lord
- Tues 10 Jan: Mass 10 am
- Wed 11 Jan: Mass 10 am  
(Tetbury Mass 10 am)
- Thurs 12 Jan: Eucharistic Service 10 am
- Fri 13 Jan: Mass 10 am
- Sat 14 Jan: Mass 10 am  
Confessions: 10.30 – 11 am & 5 – 5.30 pm  
First Mass of Sunday 6 pm
- Sun 15 Jan: Mass 11 am  
(Tetbury Mass 9 am)

Please pray for:

- those who are sick, including Iris Brennan, Ethne McGuinness, Dee Mitten, Jane Manners, Irene Spaul, Neil Adam, Mary Carling, Irene Malone, William Mockridge, Andrew Macdonald, Eric Graham, Paul Mahoney, Maisie Norton, Lucy Telling, Claire Halliday, Harold Adams, Sally Walsh, Alice Walsh, Gwen Murphy, Dorothy Godleman, Raffaele & Cesira Franco, Tom Tooley, Clive Owlett, Mary Kinson, Bethany Mickleburgh

*(Please inform Fr Michael of any changes to be made to the above list)*

- those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including Mary Ellen Tyrer, Ted Murray, Eileen Leonard, Raymond Robinson, Pat Garrod and John Brennan

### PRAYER

St Peter's Book, for you to write your prayers, can be found at the back of church. If you have an urgent request for prayer, contact the Prayer Line on 01451 860609 or 01666 860387.

### FINANCE

Weekend 31 Dec/1Jan £311. Gift Aid £431, tax rebate of £101. Total £843.

**Very many thanks for Christmas Offerings amounting to £1553.**

*SPUC: The annual ('White Flower') collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will take place this weekend, 7/8 January.*

**JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE INFANT JESUS**  
During the Christmas season, we are asked to pray for the following intentions: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

### 100 CLUB

The winning numbers for December are 32, 190, 99, 17 and 157.

### MINISTRY OF WELCOME

To avoid disruption and distractions, please make every effort to arrive for Mass in good time and, if possible, leave the aisle seats for latecomers.

### DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES

These are available at the back of the church and are free for parishioners.

### PASTORAL LETTER

Copies (blue) of the Bishop's letter for the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1 January) are available at the back of the church.

### ST PETER'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

... will be meeting on Wednesday, 11 January, and the following 5 Wednesdays at 7 pm in the presbytery. They will be studying *The Women of the Gospels: Missionaries of God's Love*. If you would like to join this group please let Pam Morey know (885814) so that a study guide may be ordered for you.

### CHOIR

There are vacancies in the choir for a few sopranos. If you are interested, please contact Richard Lester on 640194.

### STREET PASTORS

A third round of training will be starting in January 2012. Please contact Katie Bannister at the Parish Office on 659317 if you are interested. Application packs and training dates are now available.

### COLD WEATHER SHELTER

With the impending winter weather, the Cold Weather Shelter, which provides emergency overnight accommodation to rough sleepers, is seeking additional volunteers on a rota basis to help staff the premises. In order for the shelter to operate, two volunteers are required per overnight stay (please note this must be either two men working together or a couple). If you would be willing to help out or would like to know more about the shelter, can you please contact Pat at the Baptist Office on 643510 or e-mail [office@cirencester-baptist.org](mailto:office@cirencester-baptist.org)

### MOBILE PHONES

Please be kind enough to **completely** turn off your mobile phones in church. Leaving them in "silent mode" is very painful for our Electro Sensitive Parishioners. Thanks you.