



## Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR C) 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family fleeing into Egypt to escape Herod and we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel, we know little about them. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem following an astrological sign, so tradition teaches that they were astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation and the meaning of the gifts to be Christological.



Gold is representative of Jesus' kingship; Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned it in the Temple; Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "Epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. In Matthew's Gospel, the Magi and the Epiphany reflect the Gentiles' search for a saviour and as the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our yearning and search for Jesus.

#### Times of Services this Week

	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> (St Raymond of Penyafort)	12Noon Requiem Mass Betty Burns RIP 7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>		11.00am Requiem Mass Rita Iheagwara RIP
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Mass	11.00am Requiem Mass Angela Booth RIP
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>		9.30am Mass
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction.  6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of the Lord	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass

Next Sunday – The Baptism of the Lord. Isaiah 42:1-6. Acts 10:34-38. Luke 3: 15-15, 21-22.

Response to today's psalm: All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Mass Intentions:**

**Recently deceased:** Peter Legros, Mary Catherine Simmons, John Smith, Michael McAssey, Rita Iheagwara, Irene Hart, Betty Burns, Angela Booth.

**Sick:** Megan McAllister

**Anniversary:** Ambrose Kirwan, Leah McMahon, Ann Callaghan, Edward Rothwell, Chrissie & Gerard Garvey

**Other:** Joan & Bernard Howell (RIP) Rita Clarke RIP, Winnie Gilbert (Birthday remembrance)

#### Parish Priest - Canon Steven Parkinson

St Bernadette's Catholic Church  
436, Bury New Road  
Whitefield, M45 7SX  
Tel: 0161 766 2356

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Albert Rd,  
Whitefield,  
Manchester M45 8NR

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Website: [www.whitefieldrc.co.uk](http://www.whitefieldrc.co.uk)  
Parish Office: 0161 766 5961  
(Monday – Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** for week ending 4th January 2025 £1333.79 of which £826.656 can be Gift Aided.

**CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERINGS** of £2426.37 of which £517.00 can be Gift Aided.

**FOODBANK:** £85. Many thanks.

**JANUARY CHARITY COLLECTION** instead of a separate collection for January on this first Sunday of the month, we will continue to contribute to Friends of the Holy Land via the crib offerings basket and after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next week when the crib is taken down we will be able to publish a total amount donated.

**THE PRAYER GROUP** will now meet via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday evenings. For further information please contact Tel: 0161 766 5141. All Welcome.

**RCIA JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP** For anyone who would like to know more about or reflect upon the Catholic faith, the group will reconvene on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Lourdes Room at St Bernadette's at 7.00pm.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** The Children's Liturgy takes place at the 11.00am Sunday Mass. Activity packs and Sunday activity sheets for children continue to be available at the back of each church.

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025** Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. The theme for the upcoming Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. He is encouraging local pilgrimage. Why not come on pilgrimage to the Blessed Sacrament? There will be **Exposition and quiet prayer on Saturday mornings at St Bernadette's. Exposition on Saturday morning in St Bernadette's will conclude at 11.30am with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.**

In Lent 2025 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March we will hold a Parish Day Pilgrimage to the Schoenstatt Shrine. In October, from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> we will once again offer a Pilgrimage to the Northern Saints, spending Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> on Lindisfarne (Holy Island). Details to follow....

**PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE IN OUR DIOCESE** Over the coming months, there will be plenty of opportunities for us to observe this special year of grace in our own diocese. To find out more about the Jubilee visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/> The Diocese will be marking the start of the Jubilee with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, today, Sunday 29th December at 2.00pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome.

**SVP CONTACT BOXES** These can be found in the foyer of both churches, along with contact forms, if you wish to request help for yourself or someone you know. The SVP contact number is 07749678562. Leave a message and we will call you back.

**WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP** will meet in the Lourdes room at St Bernadette's on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm. All Welcome.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** with the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine, our Christmas crib offerings this year will be donated to *Friends of the Holy Land*, who will be well aware of where much needed funds can be most effectively used.

