



Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St,

Tayport



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The Epiphany of the Lord 5th January 2025

Year: C (11) Psalm Week: 4 Liturgical colour: white

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw His star when it arose and have come to worship the Lord. Alleluia!

First reading: *Isaiah 60: 1-6 Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Responsorial Psalm: 72 (71) *All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

Second reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. It has now been revealed...*

Gospel: *Matthew 2: 1-12. Wise men came from the East.*

HOLY MASS TIMES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Saturday Vigil 5pm

Eucharistic Service: Monday and Friday 10am

St Fillan's: Sunday Mass 10.15am

Eucharistic Service Wednesday and Thursday 10am

Sign up to the Whatsapp Group set up by Sam Morton to share news of when Bishop Andrew will be celebrating Mass (as Diocesan duties allow). <https://chat.whatsapp.com/COZWXsnfWEZ6ZKK3IUBZLP>.

Mgr Pat's Corner

We observed his star as it rose

Those who are sincere of heart will find God in their lives. In the case of the Magi, their sincerity is shown by what they are willing to sacrifice to attain their goal. Their journey required abandoning the comforts of their homeland, the needs of their family members, and the pursuit of wealth. The intention was pure, not muddled with self-interest, for it was nothing less than the desire to encounter God's living presence. Their openness of heart and mind permitted God to speak through many things in their world - from astrology to Herod, from the star to the child in the manger. What will it take for us to find God today? It will mean putting aside everything but him, and his hand leading us to that definitive encounter of his divine presence.

No star is offered to Herod or those who are worldly minded - only darkness. The world may like the idea of God, and even be curious about him, but they disregard his call. They rarely leave their palace, sacrifice their time, or place themselves at the service of the divine. The prideful lovers of comfort leave their palaces and then oddly claim that God is nowhere to be found in the world. They fear the loss of a comfortable world.

As we enter into a new year may our hearts be open to all that the Gospel requires of us in our daily lives. May Christ find no obstacle in us; rather, may he find in us a willingness to leave our palaces so that we might find him, and follow him.

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES EVERY BLESSING THROUGHOUT THIS NEW YEAR 2025.

I have just sent a cheque for £500 to Shelter Scotland. This includes greetings contributions from all 4 Churches. Many thanks for your generosity.

Mgr Pat

Editor's Questions:

1. NOTISATNIFAME

2. What 3 events are commemorated at Epiphany?

3. What is the Monday after Epiphany known as? i. Plough Monday ii. Potato Monday iii. Mistletoe Monday

Announcement of the date of Easter and movable feasts: After the Gospel, following a long-established custom of the Church, the deacon or cantor may proclaim the movable feasts for the current year, in the following form.

Know, dear brethren (brothers and sisters), that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.
On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.
On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the twenty-ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.
On the twenty-second day of the same month, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
On the thirtieth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Special Prayers Please pray for those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, particularly Roderic McIntosh. Pray for those who are ill, whether facing physical or mental suffering, and those who care for them. Also pray for those needing help in our diocese and beyond, and for those who have lost homes and family and are struggling to adapt. Pray for peace and hope.

To request prayers or Priestly assistance email Mgr Pat.

Hope does not disappoint: Dinna gie in! The Jubilee Holy Year 2025 was inaugurated by the Holy Father on Christmas Eve in Rome. In our diocese its opening was marked last Sunday on the Feast of the Holy Family. It has been declared a year of Hope. In the words of Bishop John Keenan, the President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, "Hope is more than the optimism that chooses to see the glass half full. Hope, instead, endures through good times and bad in the grace to accept whatever comes our way and see God's saving power in everything, and His plan for all things to work for the good for those who love GOD. (Rom 8:28)."

"When life is tough, when we are struggling, when we cannot see light at the end of the tunnel, hope allows us to discern the signs of God's Kingdom even in the world such as it is. Through baptism we have been given hope of eternal life and the Sacraments nourish that hope until the Lord comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest."

"As Catholics we are not just invited into the consolation of hoping in the Lord but are called to champion the sort of hope that can transform our world." He advocated learning more about the Venerable Margaret Sinclair, an ordinary Edinburgh person who despite poverty sought holiness in all places, the factory, the convent and bed of sickness. <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/jubilee-holy-year-2025-a-message-from-the-bishops-of-scotland/>

Answers: i. Epiphany means a sudden realisation, arising from the MANIFESTATION of Christ: being God as man. ii. The Magi's visit, the Baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana. iii. Plough Monday: traditionally the start of the agricultural year when the ploughshare was brought into the local church for the blessing of labour, tools and land.

Other Epiphany Traditions: In German-speaking Europe groups of 'stern singer' – star singers, process round houses, blessing them with part-singing, raising money for good causes. In many countries people share King cakes with the person finding the hidden bean or baked in trinket becoming King for the day, in honour of the Magi.

Dorothy Hartley, a documenter of folk food traditions describes how to make an Epiphany Cake, as made by cooks in Victorian kitchens. Line a shallow tin with pastry. Make two equilateral triangles and place these within the tart case so they touch the rim, forming a six-sided star. The lattice of pastry will have formed 13 segments. Each segment was traditionally filled with a different colour jam, giving a stained glass appearance to the starry jam tart.

From the Vatican: Speaking to young Blind and Visually impaired youngsters, Pope Francis discoursed on the meaning of pilgrimage. Pilgrims walk and they have a destination. 'Never stand still, never stop moving forward,' he urged. For modern pilgrims in a Jubilee Year, 'the Holy Door' is a symbol that represents Jesus Christ, who is the mystery of salvation 'who allows us to enter into new life.' We should: 'Be pilgrims eager to meet Jesus, to know Him and to listen to His Word.'

Thank you for continuing to support the Food Bank. Remember also to keep an eye out for double knitting wool. Help with the Café is welcomed. And please do consider joining those who perform important service through cleaning our churches and helping with the gardens.