

NEWSLETTER

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
PILLORY STREET
NANTWICH. CW5 5SS
Tel: 01270 625494

Email stannesnantwich@btinternet.com Website www.stannesnantwich.org.uk

Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny

OUR COMMUNITY HUB is now available for booking for private events. Here is the link to the public website for information and bookings :<https://hallbookingonline.com/stanne>

7th JANUARY 2024 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B

IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Tony Grace on 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com

Saturday of the Christmas Season St Raymond of Penyafort	6	5.00pm	Vigil Mass The Epiphany of the Lord	Nell Riley RIP Intentions of Sheila Davenport Mary Agnes Logan RIP Anniversary Dorothy Farnworth RIP Anniversary
Sunday	7	9.30am 11.00am	Mass The Epiphany of the Lord Baptism of Jack & Jacob Mottershead	The Parish David Perkins RIP Shirley Ecob (sick)
Monday The Baptism of the Lord	8		No Mass or Service Today	
Tuesday	9	10.00am	Mass KS2 Children from St Annes will be joining us today participating with readings/hymns	Ben Lightburn RIP Anniversary Intentions of Mary & Brigid Mason
Wednesday	10		No Mass or Service Today	
Thursday	11	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration and Confession Mass	Joyce Donnelly (Sick)
Friday St Aelred of Rievaulx	12		No Mass or Service Today	
Saturday St Hilary	13	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	David Perkins RIP
Sunday Day of Special Prayer for World Peace	14	9.30am	Mass Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion Children	For all the Children and Young people preparing for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Sherry Rowe RIP

Happy New Year and Best Wishes to you all. Many thanks for all your wonderful work in the different ministries of the Church. We would like to express our gratitude for your generosity over the Christmas period, firstly with the Christmas Collection but also with the many cards, gifts and kind wishes we received & you so kindly gave. I know Fr Mike, Deacons Peter and John join me in saying thank you. May I take this opportunity to wish all Parishioners, "a very peaceful New Year" and God's blessings for 2024 from Fr. Tony, Fr Mike, Deacons Peter & John.

St Annes 200 Club 2024 If you would like to join the 200 club and support the running of St Anne's please see information at the back of church or contact Michael Wilcox Mob: 07968520276 email: mjwilcock64@gmail.com

Thank you to the flower ladies who have decorated St Anne's so beautifully this year. I'm sure you will all agree that the Christmas garlands and flowers have added an extra element to our Christmas festivities and complemented the advent candles and Nativity Scene. Many thanks to all the musicians, choir, organists, eucharistic ministers, readers & apparators.

Thank you also to our volunteer cleaners who give their time to keeping the Church spick and span and providing a pleasant environment for worship. And we must thank Gerry Smith for his unwavering support in keeping us safe and in ensuring the church and grounds meet regulatory standards.

The SVP will be holding our annual New Year Dinner on Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at Richmond Village, off London Road. It is due to begin at 6 pm. There is a sheet at the back of the church for those wishing to attend. Please leave your details and we will update you when we receive the menu choices.

Privacy Notice The parish of St Anne's sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

Dear Friends of Caritas Shrewsbury, we continue to be grateful for all donations made to us via the crib offerings at St Annes. You will find the Nativity Scene in the front left corner of the church, do come forward to have a look. Thank you to Clive and Joan for the beautiful scene and setting. Please also find the link to our current Impact Report which can be seen on our website <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/impact-reports/>

Confirmation programme 2024 The sacrament of Confirmation will take place at St. Annes on the 10th May 2024 at 7pm. Bishop Mark will celebrate the confirmation Mass. If you have children who are in Year 9 and over who would like to be confirmed please pick up a form at the back of church or contact the office on stannesnantwich@btinternet.com.

The First Holy Communion Programme for 2024 Please could parents or carers of children in the parish whose children do NOT attend St Anne's school, and who wish their child/children to participate in the sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion during 2024, please contact Letitia Selby by email letitia@selby.tv The preparation for the Sacraments will begin in January with the Mass of Enrolment 9.30 am on Sunday 14 January with parent information after.



Christmas Offerings £1557.63p
Last week's Envelope & Loose Plate = £577
Offertory received by Bank transfer in December = £2265
Thank you



Here is your webpage link to support the Mission of the Church in St Anne's and through the Red Boxes and Missio, to the poorest parts of the world or please scan QR code. Many thanks.
<https://donate.mydona.com/st-annenantwich>

Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 Feb 24 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 Jun 24. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Missio Red boxes – Please bring your boxes for counting ensuring your name is on the box.

You can hand them to Pauline Binnie our Missio Local Secretary. New boxes are available at the back of church – why not take one for your house to collect for this worthy cause – all those spare pennies soon add up!

Missio Red Box holders can donate to Missio – Mill Hill Missionaries in a variety of ways: Please leave your Red box in church with name on it for counting or Give online: missio.org.uk/redbox.

Make a bank transfer: Account name: Missio; Sort Code: 16-00-16; Account Number: 10824230. Please use the reference RB + your postcode.

- Donate by telephone with your debit/credit card by ringing 020 7821 9755 during office hours.
- Donate via texting REDBOX 5 (to donate £5.00) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085. To ensure that your donation is attributed to St Anne's, Nantwich, it would be helpful (but not essential) if you would quote reference **SHR063/1117**.
- If you are a Gift Aid contributor, please inform Missio, so that they can recoup the tax from your donation.

☆☆☆☆☆ Is your child joining Reception in 2024? Do you want to find out more about St. Anne's? Open to Catholics and non-Catholics. Ring school on 01270260783 or e-mail office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk to come to look around ☆

Mass Preparation: WEDNESDAY WORD: www.wednesdayword.org/parish
PREGO: <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/>

NANTWICH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

We praise God for our many volunteers however we have a particular shortage of delivery drivers. If you are interested in volunteering to drive please contact Teri at the presbytery to obtain more details. Our current shopping list is: Long life milk and fruit juice, coffee, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit, toothbrushes and nappies [size 5 & 6]. **DONATIONS CAN BE MADE IN NANTWICH** at St Anne's, (Box in porch), St Mary's Parish Office, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Nationwide, M&S and Elim Church.

Mary's Meals <https://marysmeals.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=71642ed3d70deb2b1c25da8f0&id=7d7f84ea81&e=f7949e3fb3>

Carmelite Priory in Oxford. The Friars are looking to increase their ministry to Young Adults to help grow and form the faith of Young Adults. The Friars are currently hosting free online talks on the formation of Young Adults and if this interests you, please see here: <https://www.carmelite.uk.net/events/young-adult-formation-for-the-third-millennium/>

Pope's January Prayer Intention For the Gift of Diversity within the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian Community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals within the Catholic Church.

Useful links and resources

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – Online Ministry Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for @Shrewsbury_ymt. Find us on YouTube by searching for Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – SYMT, don't forget to subscribe.

Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast. <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

Journeying Together <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream

Laudato Tree <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>

<http://prayasyougo.org/>

Life Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

Young Catholics Resources <https://young-catholics.com/3636/22nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>





A GLOBAL FAMILY

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Being different can challenge us, upset our equilibrium, make us uncomfortable.

Thirty-five years ago, I was a young Redemptorist working in the Philippines. Sometimes in the town or in the countryside, I would be the only European around. I looked different, I drew attention, especially from children. They would stop and look. Sometimes they wanted to touch my skin, to feel the top of my nose. My hairy white arms and more aquiline nose intrigued them. It gave me a sense of what it's like to be different. An outsider.

The striking thing about Jesus was his attitude to others. Jesus was a master of welcome, generosity, accommodation, inclusion. The only people he couldn't deal with were those who thought they didn't need him - the sanctimonious and self-righteous ones. Jesus embraced everyone else, Jews like Zacchaeus who were marginalised because of their sinfulness or illness or lifestyle, as well as non-Jews, like the woman at the well, who were considered to be outside God's embrace. Prostitute, outcast, foreigner, sinner - it didn't matter to Jesus. All are part of God's family. God's Kingdom is open to everybody.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. It is a feast of manifestation. God manifests himself to the whole world. The Magi, who come from the East in search of the newborn king of the Jews, represent the non-Jewish world. Jesus is made manifest to them. His birth is good news for Jews and non-Jews alike. It is good news for everyone.

The Epiphany reminds us that Jesus is Lord of all, and all are invited to follow and to worship him, as the Magi did. There are no obstacles of race or colour to overcome, no academic or work skills qualifications to meet, no immigration quotas or visa restrictions to negotiate, no hard borders or border walls to surmount, no treacherous seas to traverse. God's kingdom is open to all. One doesn't need to have a posh address or be from a 'good' family, or have robust health or a big bank balance, or be an expert in theology or even be able to read. It doesn't matter one's age, sex, ethnicity, or gender, God's Kingdom is open to everybody.

All that's required is to come to Jesus, as the Magi did. All we need to do is listen to the word of God and keep it. ■

DO

Visit the crib in your church. Reflect on the story of the Magi. Explain to your little ones what the story means.

PRAY

The 'wise ones' went searching for truth and happiness and found it in Jesus. Pray that people everywhere will discover Christ as their Lord and Saviour and pay him homage.

SAY

"Lord, help me to seek you always. Keep my eyes ever focused on you. Amen."

LEARN

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates how God's Son was revealed to the world.

Jesus is the star we are called to follow. Today's feast reminds us that Jesus is Lord of all, and all are invited to follow him, as the Magi did.

REFLECT

When the Magi follow the star to Jerusalem, they come seeking an answer to the question: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" At a time when populism and national and racial tensions are on the rise around the world, it is a question we need to hear now more than ever: Where is the newborn king of the Jews? Where do we see him? Do we follow him? Do we worship him?

The Magi had to search for him. They didn't discover him in a palace, among royalty, or in a mansion, among nobility. He wasn't where

they expected him to be. Instead, they found him in a shed, in the middle of nowhere, with only Mary and Joseph and a few domestic animals.

Jesus came into a world that didn't welcome him, and lived his first days in poverty and then as a refugee. The king of the Jews came into the world as an outsider, but his poverty and ordinariness didn't put off his august visitors from the East. Instead, they presented him with gifts fit for a royal. They knew who he was.

Jesus was born in poverty so that even the poorest could recognise him. The

astronomers from the East were guided to his crib so that even sophisticated outsiders could acknowledge him. The newborn came not just as king of the Jews but as Lord of all.

Today's feast challenges us to be constantly on the alert so that we will recognise Christ in all and in everything. Do you see Christ in everyone, especially the stranger, the foreigner, the other? What words do you use in speaking about the outsider? Are your words hospitable, inclusive and kind? Or are they judgemental, exclusive and cruel?

The Lord of all welcomes all. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 71 (72):1-2,7-8,10-13

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 2:2-3, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders
of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with

delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(All bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or
frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to
participate.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

