



Parish Office
Back of Drumlanrig, Ross Road,
Newent, Glos. GL18 1BG
Phone: 01531 821647

Parish Priest: Fr Barnabas Page
Barnabas.page@cliftondiocese.com

www.newentcatholic.org.uk
Office: newent.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com

SOLEMNITY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Year C

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

Ministers of the Word: Michael Thompson – Mo Blinman

Ministers of Communion: Debbie Page – Rosa Hockley – Pat Milsom

Prayer Ministry: Jenny H – Gail E

Sunday 6th January 2019

**Please Pray for the Welfare of our Sick People
and those who care for them**

**Ian King, Steve Ebsworth, Bridget Spencer,
Marjorie Beard, Ruth Wolseley, Paddy Arnold,
Peter Gibbons, Joan Lumb, Mike Poole, Clare Duncanson
Lou Whitton, Ann (Bernies Mum) and Honoria Houghton**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - PRAY FOR US

That Epiphany Moment

It's funny how we are all a bit nicer on Christmas Day. Is it a pretence in order to get on with Great Aunt Ethel, or does Christmas really make us better people? For one day in the year we are a little more giving, a little kinder a little more tolerant. For one day in the year we are a bit closer to what God means us to be. Then we pile Christmas into the recycling bins, go back to work and revert to type. If there was a star for us to follow, we've quickly confined it to the box room with the tinsel and fake tree. Perhaps the three wise men arrive after Christmas to make us think again. Today the three wise men teach us a lesson in keeping our Christmas star alive.



The wise men in the Epiphany gospel were visionaries with a star that they were determined to follow whatever the obstacles. The wise men began their quest with a hunger for the truth and a determination to find answers. When they finally found Jesus lying in a lowly stable they came away happier and wiser men as a result. Following their star had given the three men a focus in their life and new meaning. We don't know what happened to them next, but it is likely they spent their lives sharing the good news with everyone they met, Jews and Gentiles alike. Following their star helped the Magi to be the people God had meant them to be. Sadly the same cannot be said for our own lives. We live our lives trying to be all things to all people. We live our lives dizzy with trying to live up to other people's expectations. We very rarely get time to be ourselves. We very rarely get that Epiphany moment of our own or get to know what God really wants of us.

So how do we follow our star? Firstly we have to have a vision. The new year stretches ahead like a clean sheet of paper. What does God want of us? Some people agonise over this question, but for many of us it's simply a case of looking at our talents and using them to make the world a better place. For others it might be about looking around and choosing one other person to build up. If we have impossibly busy jobs our vision might be a small one, if we have lots of free time we might be able to set a life changing goal. Having a vision is all well and good, but next we have to make plans and put those plans into action. This might involve sitting down and identifying obstacles. Remember that obstacles aren't always put in our way by other people. More often or not obstacles exist in our own minds and in our own character traits. As we travel towards our goal we have to determine in whom and in what to trust. When things get tough, it is easy to listen to a well-meaning friend encouraging us to take an easy way out, or adopt a more comfortable goal. "King Herods" don't always come in the obvious guise of a pantomime baddie. Lastly, we have to be able to recognise Jesus in our lives, and once we have found him, allow him to navigate.

For all those who are heading into the new year feeling lost, or tired, or lonely, or disillusioned, remember that good things await those who listen to God, and that God is ready to guide those who recognise his star quality.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2019

We are living in changing times, and with change comes resistance. Of course some changes demand resistance, but other changes require us to look for new directions. The best people equipped to deal with change are our younger parishioners. Our youth look at the world with fresh and unbiased eyes. This month Pope Francis urges our youth to emulate the unerring, fearless and selfless example of Mary in steering our 21st Century church. Older parishioners are tasked with giving younger people platforms and opportunities. We are invited to join Pope Francis's prayer intention for January "...That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world."



THIS WEEK

Saturday 5 th January	6.00pm	Mass – Coleford (Teas & Coffee)	
Sunday 6 th January	9.00am 11.00am 2.30pm	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. Mass – Cinderford Mass – Newent Film Afternoon A Wrinkle in Time or Wonder	
Monday January 7 th	2.30pm	Bible Study – Watery Lane – the Big Picture	
Tuesday 8 th January	10am	Mass check announcements Sunday	
Wednesday 9 th January	10am	Mass Coffee and Chat	
Thursday 10 th January			
Saturday 12 th January	10.30am 10.30am 2pm 6.00pm	Sacristan Refresher Prinknash Talks – The Apostolic Age Prinknash Talks – Exploring the origins of the early Church. Mass – Lydney	
Sunday 13 th January	9am 11am	THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Collection The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children Mass – Cinderford Mass – Newent	
Monday 14 th January	7.00pm 7.30pm	Prayer Group – Pastoral Council	

Collections:

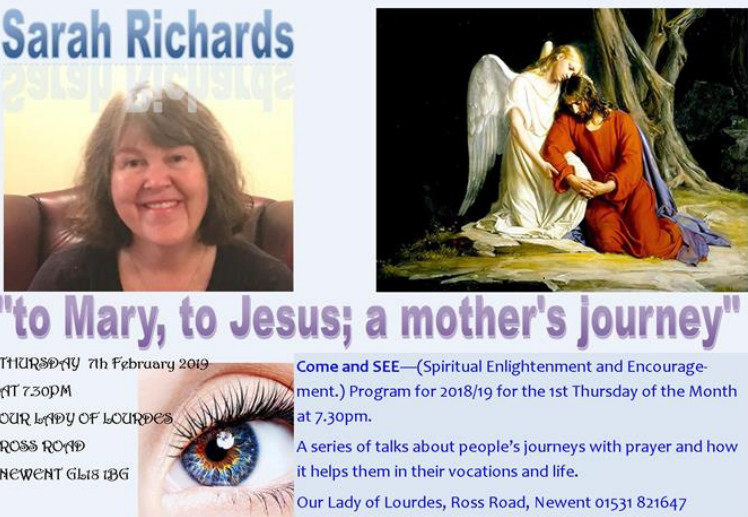
The collection for w/e 16/12/18 was £93-12.

Card Received

Our neighbours sent us a card from Rupert, Hester, Leslie, Lois and Sol at Dalkeith. From Fr John – May we all experience the transforming power of Jesus at Christmas time.

MINUTES – copies of the last meeting can be found in the foyer ready for the meeting on 14th – Members of the PC are welcome to join the prayer group for half hour of prayer.

Looking Forward



Sarah Richards

"to Mary, to Jesus; a mother's journey"

THURSDAY 7th February 2019
AT 7.30PM
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
ROSS ROAD
NEWENT GL18 1BG

Come and SEE—(Spiritual Enlightenment and Encouragement.) Program for 2018/19 for the 1st Thursday of the Month at 7.30pm.

A series of talks about people's journeys with prayer and how it helps them in their vocations and life.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Ross Road, Newent 01531 821647

We were inspired by Luke Wathen last night, for the work he does as missionary, his faith in God sustaining him. Sarah is an oblate at Prinknash, she helps runs the courses there and is a Spiritual Director.

Please check the notice board in the foyer for events coming up in the diocese and around here that you may be of interest in.