



The Priory Church of Jesus Christ Ascot

This Week at the Priory

**The Priory will be closed
January 1st till January 31st
with the exception of Sundays.**

**January 7th
The Epiphany**

10:00am Solemn Mass

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Hymns: 350

For your prayers this week

Pray for Zululand: Bp. Monument Makhanya, Jonathan Bishop of Ebbsfleet and the Bishops and Parishes of the Society. Bp. Jonathan Baker. St Saviour, St Luke, St Mark, Swindon, Fr Dexter Bracey. St James, Ansty, Fr Andrew Coleman. St Oswald, Tile Hill, Fr Nick Leggett. St Thomas, Longford, Fr Andrew Coleman. St Luke, Holbrooks.

Pray for this Priory, Fr. Paul and the Trustees

Pray for the peace of the world.

Pray for those in need: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, for refugees, for all victims of terrorism, cruelty or abuse, the lonely, the frightened, the despairing and the bereaved.

Pray for those who are sick or in need: Simon Plummer, John Clothier, Naomi Puttick, Derek & Barbara Scroggins, Ray Cook, Patti Sibbons, Lisa Bradley, Vienne Moore, Helen Coles, Karen, Jacqui, Jill Butcher, Helen, Elizabeth Wright, Johara Valenzuela, Duncan Payne, Marion Mills and family, Marjorie Saunders, Jakki Mattick.

Pray for the Departed: Sr Fidelia of the Divine Silence, Fr. Ernest Seyzinger, Fr. Ralph Eves, Fr. Sabine Baring-Gould, Fr. Everard Deane, Sr Agnes of the Incarnation, Alice Hartley Sr Anne of the Divine Compassion, Sr Mary Elizabeth of the Visitation, Bp. Graham Leonard.

Readings for Next Week: Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



Given the human tendency to emphasise power, Jesus should have been born and named as a prince in a royal ceremony. He should have been a high-born, noble-born child.

But we find Jesus today in the Gospel passage born in a stable, with no one but his parents and some low-born shepherds to celebrate and spread news of his birth. He's born poor to young parents, named on the eighth day like every other Jewish boy, and becomes a refugee in Egypt at a young age. But we are also told that he is named by an angel before he is conceived. We are also told that angels announce his birth to the shepherds. This ordinary poor boy is also holy — our God has become flesh and lived among us, not as a king, but as a carpenter's son.

From those beginnings, Jesus, whose name simply means "to save," lives as God-made-flesh who is not so much interested in dominance as in making the ordinary holy. The ordinary life of a thirty-year-old man born in an occupied land is also the holy life of the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Ordinary people become the pillars of a new faith: Peter, the fisherman; Mary, the girl engaged to the carpenter; Matthew, the tax collector. Sinners become saints.

Ordinary bread and wine become the holy body and blood of God. And in baptism, ordinary water becomes holy and washes ordinary people clean and welcomes them into the family of God. In the holy name of the ordinary poor boy who was God-made-flesh, our own names, our own bodies, are made holy. The name of Jesus makes the ordinary holy.

Anna Tew

Warden: Fr. Paul McLaren-Cook.

Ascot Priory, Priory Road Ascot SL58RT

Phone: 01344 882067

Email: mclarencook@btinternet.com

www.ascotpriory.org