

**St Aidan's Parish Church**

**Mass Times**

**Sunday Masses** Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm, Sunday 10.00 am and 12 Noon.

**Holyday of Obligation** Vigil 7.30pm, 10.00am and 7.30pm

**Weekdays** 8.15 am (Mondays to Fridays) and 10.00 am (daily)

**Confessions** After all Saturday Masses

**Parish Ministers' Rota**

**10th January 2010**

Mass	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
<b>Vigil</b>	B. Higgins, E. Lynn, S. Woods	K. Cassidy
<b>10.00am</b>	C. Allen, P. McGinlay	D. Ness, A. McCrorie
<b>12 Noon</b>	L. Moon, J. Fox	J. McKelvie, J. Fox

**THE MAGI OR WISEMEN**

In ancient Iran - also known as Persia - a priest was called a "magus." The plural is "magi". The word "magic" comes from the same root. Magi were experts in astronomy. This was useful in determining the calendar and the end of winter and the spring planting season. They believed that stars and other celestial objects actually influenced, rather than merely coincided with, earthly events. One, or possibly a series of omens, led them to believe that a royal prince had been born in Israel. They were sent as ambassadors to provide tribute to the newborn. The bible does not say how many Magi visited. It is assumed that there were three because of the number of gifts.

The gifts brought by the Magi were both appropriate and expensive. The value of gold is obvious but what of the other presents? Myrrh is an aromatic substance made from the sap of Myrtle balsam trees found in India, Africa and Saudi Arabia. It is a natural antiseptic and useful as a medicine. Egyptians used myrrh for embalming mummies. It is now used for toothpaste and mouthwash. Incense is a hardened gum that also comes from trees found in the same areas. The word "Frank" comes from an old French word that means "marked." It is a stamp that the incense is "free" from contaminants or "pure". (Franking is still used for free mail rights given to members of Congress.) Incense was initially used primarily to cover up the smells caused by animal sacrifices. Hence it was connected with worship.

**Fr Clements and Fr King wish all parishioners a very happy and holy New Year.**

# St Aidan's Parish Bulletin

*Solemnity of the Epiphany*

*3rd January 2010*



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## Weekdays of the Christmas Season

**8.15am Mass ( Mondays to Fridays) will resume on Monday 4th January 2010**

### **Christmas and Mince Pies**

Today's Christmas mince pies are round in shape, but in earlier times they were oblong in shape - in imitation of the manger.

In 1644 the Puritan Parliament forbade the observance of Christmas. Soldiers were ordered to break into houses to see that no food such as was formerly eaten at Christmas was used. Plum pudding and mince pies were among the forbidden food.

### **Carols**

Originally, even in the fifth century, carols were Latin hymns. Christmas carols in the modern sense became popular in Italy in the 13th century under the influence of St Francis of Assisi and spread throughout Europe. Carols sung today come from a variety of sources and countries. "Angels We Have Heard on High" came from France, "Silent Night" from Germany, and "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" from America.

### **The Epiphany**

The Epiphany was originally celebrated on 6th January. Today it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2nd and 8th Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphanein*, which means a showing, appearance or revelation. It was used to describe the appearance of a god among the people, a theophany, or a visit of some civic dignitary The

Greek speaking church of the East found it natural to use the word to describe the appearance of the true God in flesh.

Some churches in the East celebrated a festival on 6th January recalling Christ's baptism in the Jordan and his Cana miracle; others celebrated a festival commemorating his birth and eventually these two celebrations were combined.

By the end of the 4th century, Eastern and Western churches took over each others Nativity feasts. Since then, Christmas and the Epiphany have been celebrated in both churches. This led to the evolution of a separate theme for each. The Eastern Church continued to link the Epiphany with Jesus' baptism and the feast of Cana and the Western church the Epiphany celebrated the visit of the Magi on the occasion of Jesus' birth and his epiphany (revelation) to the gentiles.

### **Please pray for:**

#### **The Recently Deceased:**

Thomas Goodwin

#### **The Anniversaries and Month's Mind of:**

Margaret McGuigan, Joseph, Michael, William & John McGuigan, Magdalen Dunn, John Ferrie, Theresa Sutherland, Emma Kirson, Agnes Maher, James Carlin, James and Mary McCulloch

## **Parish Humour**

### **DiETING - New Resolutions**

2006: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2007: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2008: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2009: I will work out 3 days a week.

2010: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

### **New Year's Day Prayer for One and All**

Dear Lord

So far this year I've done well.

I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen

### **Howlers by Schoolchildren**

Joan of Arc was Noah's sister.

Coal is decayed by vegetarians.

Medieval people were violent. Murder during this period was nothing. Everybody killed somebody.

Nets are holes surrounded by pieces of string.

Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let them know we know they are there!

The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

Everyone was pleased when Jesus healed the paralytic man, except Simon who had to pay to have his roof mended.

A glazier is a man who runs down mountains.

## **Thank You**

Fr Clements and Fr King would like to thank all those who have assisted in the Liturgy and the preparation of the church throughout the year and especially those who helped over the Christmas season.

Thanks, in particular to the altar servers, eucharistic ministers, readers, choir members and musicians, passkeepers, church cleaners, flower arrangers, housekeeper, hall caretaker, children's liturgy team, RCIA team, those who operate the stall in the hall, those who provide the tea after Masses on Sunday and during the week and to all others who assisted and to all parishioners who attended the services.

## **PARISH NOTICES**

**BINGO** Live bingo in the hall every Sun-

day at 7.30pm

**STALL** In the hall after both Sunday Masses. Christmas Cards are now available.

**R.C.I.A.** The RCIA Group will meet in the hall on Monday 11th January at 7.30pm

**MEN'S CLUB** meets in the hall every Thursday at 7.30pm. Men's Club monthly Mass is held on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Intimations for the sick, the recently deceased and anniversaries and all other items for the bulletin must reach the Parish priest by Thursday for inclusion in the bulletin for the following week. We