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Second Sunday after the Nativity Sunday 4th January 2026

Page 111	Sirach 24: 1-2, 8-12	Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18	Gospel John 1: 1-18
<p>We have now started the New Year of 2026 and hope that certain things will change in the world. Firstly the number of wars and conflicts in 2025 around the world were possibly the most numerous for many years and there still remains the threat from Russia, China and even USA under Donald Trump that more areas could be in danger of conflict. We must pray that the leaders of nations will not abuse their power at the expense of so many lives of people of their nation. The rich and powerful should realise that the killing of women and children to fulfil their political aims is no way of settling disputes. We need to return to true Christian values which so many world leaders have completely lost. Also the difference between the rich and the poor has got completely out of control. Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon, has an increase in his wealth of over 80 million dollars a day which at times last year rose to over 200 million dollars per day. However in many parts of the world families are starving or are driven out of their homes by conflict. The refugee crisis around the world has never been so bad. This lack of fair distribution of wealth can be the reason that many conflicts start or continue. We all pray that the rich and powerful around the world will realise their excessive wealth has not been earned but is due to the fortune of their birth. After the Jubilee Year last year, called by Pope Francis, let us hope that 2026 will bring more peace and the alleviation of much poverty. In the first reading from the prophet Sirach this weekend we hear about God's promises and intention for his chosen people the Jews. He speaks of a special dwelling place and an inheritance for those He has created who will last to eternity. In the second reading St Paul praises the Ephesians in what is now Turkey, for their faith in Jesus and prays that the Father will give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and gain the riches of the inheritance in the saints. This weekend we hear the famous beginning of St John's Gospel..It is a marvellous summary of the creation, John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus who is God made man and how those who believe in Him will become children of God. Malcolm</p>			

Mass times

Feast Days

6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Linh Hon Guise RIP	<p>Saturday 3rd St Genevieve of Paris Born about 422 in France. Was a shepherd when she was young. St Germanus encouraged her piety and wish to have her life consecrated to God. When her parents died went to live with her godmother in Paris. Devoted herself to works of charity which upset some traders. Lived austere life style. Reported she had visions which her enemies declared was fraud and tried to drown her. St Germanus supported her and convinced her enemies she was genuine. Bishop of Paris put her in charge of consecrated virgins in Paris area. Saved Paris from famine in 451 and from Attila the Hun in 464. She died in about 502. Patron saint of Paris.</p>
9.30 am Mass	<p>Sunday 4th January Second Sunday after the Nativity Joseph Devassia RIP</p>
6.30pm Vigil Mass for the Epiphany	<p>Monday 5th St Genoveva Torres Morales Born in 1870 in Spain to poor parents who died when she was 8 years old. She took charge of the household with an elder brother, the only two of six children to survive, which impacted on the completion of her education. Aged 12 she had to have her left leg amputated due to a tumour and for the rest of her life had to use crutches. Aged 14 she became very ill and was confined in a hospital run by Carmelite nuns for 10 years. She then asked to join the religious community but was rejected due to her disability and lack of a complete education. She founded houses to care for women like her with disabilities and attracted other women to help her. She was encouraged by the Jesuits to form a religious Order in Valencia near her home. She founded the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Angels. It was to focus on the care of women who could not support themselves due to disabilities, sickness, poverty or old age. It offered them a warm welcome, food, affection and company. Soon many more communities were established in other parts of Spain. Genoveva was kind and her sense of humour was legendary. "Angel of Solitude". Died in 1956.</p>
10 am Mass of the Epiphany	<p>Tuesday 6th Feast of the Epiphany The commemoration of the visit of the Three Wise Men, sometimes called the "Three Kings" but they were not kings but scholars and advisors to kings. They are named as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are mentioned to celebrate the revelation of God being incarnate as Jesus Christ twelve days after His birth. However, there is no number stated for how many visited but three is used to match the number of gifts given. The word <i>Epiphany</i> means "revelation" or "manifestation".</p>
6.30 pm Mass	<p>Wednesday 7th St Raymond of Peñafort Spanish Dominican friar from near Barcelona in Catalonia born in 1175. Professor In Barcelona University and University of Bologna in Italy. He obtained doctorates in both civil and canon law. Compiled canon laws that remained a major part of Church Law until the new code in 1917. Master of the Dominicans. Preached and worked for the conversion of Moors and Jews. Confessor and an advisor of King James I of Aragon. Had a dispute with the king over his behaviour and the king forbade Raymond to leave the island of Majorca to return to Barcelona. But Raymond miraculously used his cloak to sail the 160 mls. Raymond of Peñafort died on 6th January 1275 aged about 100 years old. His remains are in the Cathedral of Santa Eulalia in Barcelona.</p>

10 am Mass	Thursday 8th St Wulsin of Sherborne Born about 935 in London. A monk at Glastonbury Abbey under St Dunstan Then Abbot of Benedictine community at Westminster. It became a centre of learning with its austere living leader which pleased King Edgar. Due to his success made the Bishop of Sherborne in Wessex the largest diocese in the west of England. Was also Abbot of Benedictine Sherborne Abbey. Reform brought a more spiritual and austere life style for monks and clergy helped by King Ethelred. Developed Sherborne Abbey in keeping with architectural and musical reforms from the Benedictine Cluny Abbey in France. Music then became an important part of the liturgy of the Mass. He died on 8 th January 1005 and was buried in Sherborne Abbey.
NO MASS	Friday 9th St Adrian of Canterbury Born in 635. A Berber from North Africa. Refused appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury but asked by Pope Vitalian to accompany Theodore of Tarsus to Britain who took the post. Adrian was delayed by a tyrannical and racist Frankish Mayor near Paris. On his arrival appointed abbot of monastery of St Peter and St Paul at Canterbury (later St Augustine's). He was a scholar and teacher in Anglo-Saxon England noted for Biblical knowledge. Made Canterbury a major centre of learning. Students became bishops and archbishops. Worked well with Archbishop Theodore to spread the use of music in Anglo-Saxon liturgy in parishes across the country. Introduced feast days of important Italian saints into Church calendar. Venerable Bede recorded "Never had there been such happy times as these since the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain". Died about 710, aged about 75, and was buried in Canterbury monastery
6pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Cheriyen RIP	Saturday 10th St Margaret Bourgeoys Born 1620 at Troyes on the River Seine upstream from Paris. Helped to teach poor children in the town as a canoness attached to local Convent. Not interested in joining the Congregation of the Notre-Dame attached to the monastery in the town as they were an enclosed Order only educating rich girls who could afford to board within the cloisters. Rejected by the Carmelites and the Poor Clares. Continued to educate the poor and gathered a group of young women to help her which became an unenclosed religious community which upset religious authorities. Invited to start a school in Canada by the governor of Ville-Marie, later to be Montreal. Margaret started schools and gathered a community of young women to help her. She founded schools for poor girls, vocational schools, boarding schools for richer girls and missions and schools for Native Americans in Montreal and Quebec. Formed her community into the <i>Congregation of Notre Dame</i> which gradually grew in strength and influence. Died 1700.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 11th January Baptism of the Lord
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION	
Your prayers are needed for the following people	
Ann Drumgoole Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves	

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mass times for the Feast of the Epiphany

There will be a Vigil Mass for the Epiphany at 6.30 pm on Monday 5th January. On the Tuesday, the Feast of the Epiphany, there will be a morning Mass at 10 am. Mass readings for the Vigil Mass will be those of the Epiphany.

Funeral of Fr Shaun Budden is on Friday 9th January at 2pm at Christ the King and St Colman in Bitterne

Fr Shaun was a parish priest of St Vincent de Paul from 1977 to 1984, for 2 years supported by Fr Michael Cronin. About 2 years ago he suffered a severe stroke and after that suffered from dementia which was very frustrating for him. He failed to recognise all the people who he had known for years including myself who was in the same class at St Mary's College as Shaun. A group of us including Shaun, in the same football and cricket teams from that year, meet up at least three times a year. At the funeral last year of one of our number he did not recognise anyone. In a way it is a blessing he has passed as his quality of life was very poor. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Tub Appeal Collection for Stella Maris, the Southampton Catholic charity supporting seamen.

As advertised in the Portsmouth Diocese e-news, a collection is being made of unwanted tubs or cartons of sweets and chocolates which can be distributed to seafarers who visit the ports of Southampton or Hythe. At this time of the year, when the weather is so cold, gifts liked this can lift the spirits of those who do such vital and often hard work. Officers and crew, many of them Catholics from Europe, Kerala, Goa and the Philippines, are at sea for long periods of time away from their families and loved ones. Please be generous to this worthy appeal. Liz Challand has put a box in the porch for your donations of tubs or cartons of sweets or chocolates for the first two weeks of January.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 21st January – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat

Parish collection for last weekend 27th and 28th December

						Christmas Collection		TOTAL of all money
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	
£65	£16.25	£135.80	£242.54	£51.98	£511.57		£60	£671.57

The Christmas Collection for Fr Thomas now amounts to £765.90