

### From Sunday's Gospel



In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of all people, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all people; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world did not know him and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.  
From the Gospel of Sunday 2nd January 2022 John 1: 1-5. 9-14



**Pope Francis writes,** "Christ is the light who brightens the darkness. Let us ask Christ that our hearts become free and filled with light, so that we can rejoice as children of God." Today's word **is Christ**. The real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ. The Church reminds us that Christ is the Word who became flesh (he is both man and God) and he came to live among us. This is known as the 'incarnation'. Pope Francis also writes, "Let's welcome the light of Christ into our hearts. When Christ is your friend, you have joy, serenity and happiness." Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to the world. His wonderful birth gives witness to the fact that he is the Son of God. Christ, the 'Light of the World', came to enlighten us – to show us the way to God. He came to draw everyone into his love, so that we may joyfully share in God's own life. As a family, talk about ways that you can live and love more like Christ in 2022.

### Offertory Collections and Shop Income December 26th

**First Collection: £470.40 Second: £53.50 Shop Closed Thank You**



## **Sacred Heart & St William**

31 High Street  
Uppermill OL3 6HS  
[www.sacredheartparish.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartparish.org.uk)  
Please visit the website above.

## **2nd Sunday after Christmas**

### **January 2nd 2022 (Luke's Gospel)**

#### **The intentions are as follows:**

Saturday: **6.00pm** Sr Margaret Mary Gormally  
Sunday **9.00am** Tony & Doreen Bickers  
(People welcome to attend this Mass)  
**10.30am** People of the Parish  
Monday: **10.00am** Mary & John O'Neil (**Public Holiday**)  
Tuesday: **10.00am** Fr Bernard Battle  
Wednesday: **12.00pm** November Dead List  
Thursday: **9.30am** Annie & James Flanagan **The Epiphany**  
Friday **12.00pm** Michelle Bickers & Jill Bickers **First Friday**  
Saturday **10.00am** Yorkshire Brethren  
**6.00pm** Tara Dyson  
Sunday: **9.00am** Joseph Priestley  
(People welcome to attend this Mass)  
**10.30am** People of the Parish

**Confessions after the Saturday 10.00am Mass and by appointment**  
**Exposition 40 minutes before each weekday Mass**

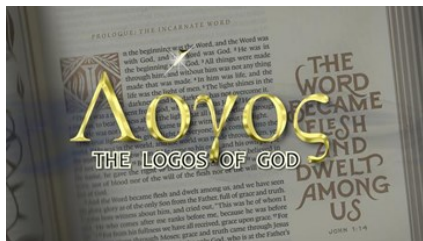
**Contact Details:** Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore

## 2nd Sunday after the Nativity



It is rare for us to celebrate the 2nd Sunday after the Nativity because for several years the Solemnity of the Epiphany was celebrated on this Sunday. We have the wonderful **Prologue of John's Gospel** this Sunday

which reads like a lyrical poem. It reminds us that God is both beyond our understanding, even our imagining, and yet chose to become one like us in all things but sin—**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!** As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season we are encouraged both to gaze into the crib and into our world, asking Jesus, the 'Light of the World', to shine on the dark places in our own lives, and to bring healing and peace to those who are living in the darkness of poverty, injustice and violence.



**One practical way** is to contribute to the Crib Offerings which will be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land to help them give hope and practical support to the most vulnerable Christians living in and around Bethlehem.

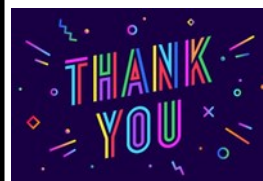
This year the **Epiphany** will be celebrated on Thursday 6th



January, the Bishops of England and Wales having recently transferred its celebration to its original date. Please note that there will be only **one Mass on that day at 9.30am.**

"Men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed;

what star can we therefore follow? After coming to rest 'over the place where the child was', the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able to guide every person to Jesus. This same word which is none other than the reflection of Christ, is echoed by the Church for every well disposed heart. The Church, too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of each Christian, called to illuminate the path of men and women by word and example of life." Pope Benedict XVI



For the cards, the gifts, the Christmas Offerings (still to be counted) and for your encouragement and support during what has been another 'extraordinary' year. Despite the increased numbers of infections, the Omicron variant seems to be less damaging than Delta, so let's hope and pray that, with the aid of the 'booster', we will not have to undergo further restrictions, and, that those in place can be safely lifted. We also keep in mind those returning to schools, colleges and universities this coming week, that their education will not be interrupted by pupils and students having to miss classes and lectures due to absence because of Covid. May the light of the Star of the Epiphany shine on us all and lead us into the Light who is Christ.



## Postage Stamps

Please bring any used postage stamps to church to raise much needed funds for the Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton Under Lyne. Thank you, Susan Gibson.

## The Charity Shop



The Charity Shop was due to open this coming Tuesday, January 4th, but with the huge increase in the number of positive tests for the Omicron Virus, it has been decided to delay the opening, so the shop will NOT open until further notice. Apologies for any disappointment.

## New Year Prayer for People with Dementia



Merciful God, as I face this New Year my journey with dementia continues. As I do my best to walk the path set before me, please guide my feet along the way. Guide my thinking and relating. See me through the rough patches and help me enjoy the good times that come. God of all the living remind me of your constant presence when I feel alone. Open my eyes to those who show their care and support and give me to help others as I am able. God of compassion soothe my anxiety, help me sort out my confusion, comfort my sadness. hold me in my fear and carry me when I can go no further. Amen (Based on Psalm 23, From 'Reflections of Hope - for people living with dementia' by Claire Craig and Rosemary Hurtley.)