



St Gabriel's Trumpet

the parish magazine of
St Gabriel's Church, North Acton

Sunday 10 January 2021 - Epiphany Edition

This week's reflection on Coronavirus living, from the Vicar

"In the time of the plague, sweat, or such other like contagious times of sickness or diseases, when none of the Parish or neighbours can be gotten to communicate with the sick in their houses, for fear of the infection, upon special request of the diseased, the Minister may only communicate with him."

Instruction from The Communion of the Sick, Book of Common Prayer, 1662.

The rubric quoted above is prized by the clergy, as a reminder of their sacred calling. The Book of Common Prayer states that when a priest visits the house of a sick person, so that they may receive Holy Communion, he should always take with him two or three other people (parishioners or neighbours) to form a little congregation. The rubric quoted is the exemption, stating that when the sick person has the plague, or another highly contagious disease, and the parishioners and neighbours are too scared to go into his house, the priest may go alone. There is never any suggestion that the priest will not enter the house - just permission to take that risk without the support of others.

The culture of health and safety is often at odds with the priestly vocation. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that many clergy have agonised over the question of closing churches, and cutting people off (even temporarily) from the life-giving sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. But although nothing has changed (from 1662 to 2021) in our understanding of the sacraments, or of Christian service, there *has* been a huge change in our understanding of contagion. Herein lies the difficulty. The Church wishes to be every bit as bold in serving the sick, the suffering, and the dying; every bit as determined to offer ministry whatever the risks to the self; and yet today we also understand far better than our brethren of the seventeenth century, the ways in which a simple act of service or compassion may unwittingly become the cause of spreading infection to others.

So for now, our churches are once again closed, our services are on-line, and priests will not routinely visit you in your house. But the exemption remains for our priests to enter the houses of the sick even in this time of Coronavirus, to minister to the sick & the dying. And if we are asked, we will still come, even *"when none of the Parish or neighbours can be gotten"*. No matter what the virus may throw at us, we are never alone, never isolated; and we will ultimately prevail, for the Body of Christ already bears immunity to every earthly disease or peril, thanks to the victory over death that Christ has won for us.

The Epiphany at St Gabriel's



This year the Epiphany (6 January) fell on a weekday - it was Wednesday of last week. Despite being in the working week, and despite occurring in the midst of a world pandemic, a small crowd of faithful souls assembled in St Gabriel's Church to participate in the Epiphany mass and procession.

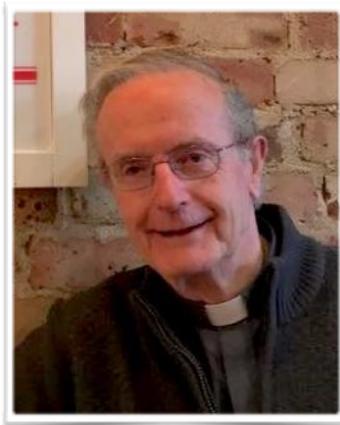
In the middle of mass, in place of intercessions, the parish priest offered three short prayers, each reflecting on one of the gifts brought by the wise men - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As each prayer was offered, a different member of the congregation came forward and collected the corresponding gift from the altar. Then we all set off in procession around the church, ending up at the Walsingham shrine altar, where the figures of the Magi had arrived in the crib scene with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. The gifts were placed there with them, a candle was lit, and a final prayer was offered. The picture (above) captures the scene.

The other photograph shows the gifts on the Lady Chapel altar before mass began. The octagonal box on the left contains a glass sphere, within which are flakes of real gold suspended in liquid. The round box in the centre contains sweet smelling frankincense grains. And the rectangular box on the right contains crystals of pure myrrh. These gifts, so beautifully presented, formed a fitting centrepiece for our St Gabriel's Epiphany procession of 2021. Gold signifies kingship; frankincense signifies holiness; and myrrh signifies death, and the preparation of the body for burial. In these gifts the wise men acknowledged the infant Jesus as Christ the King, as Christ the High Priest, and as Christ the sacrificial Lamb of Calvary.



Thank you to all those who came to mark the Epiphany in 2021. If you missed it, make sure you join us on 6 January 2022, when we hope the Coronavirus will be just a memory.

Father Fintan Crotty SS.CC.



We are very sorry to receive the news that Fr Fintan Crotty died on the Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday 6 January. He was a professed brother of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary (SS.CC.) and the longest-serving of the priests at the church of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Acton High Street.

Irish by birth and upbringing, Fr Fintan served parishes in both Ireland (including being the first parish priest of a new parish in Sruleen, an outer suburb of Dublin) and England (particularly in Bedford and here in Acton). Fr Fintan contracted Covid-19 before Christmas, and died of the virus at Epiphany. With all his friends and family we pray that he may rest in peace.

We have entered the Season of Epiphany - the time of wise men, or kings. In our lead article, **Fr Timothy** looks at these mysterious biblical figures.



I have never actually tasted a Galette des Rois. This is because nobody has ever made one for me (or popped out and bought one - the bakery chain “Paul” apparently produces an especially fine example). They are only baked and eaten at Epiphany, and although the tradition is today especially associated with France, Belgium, Holland, and North America, it was once commonplace here in England too. The galette is made of puff pastry, filled with frangipane, and often has a little crown placed upon it, or three pastry crowns baked into its lid. The example in the photograph was baked this year by the Rev’d Canon Jeremy Haselock, a Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen. Traditionally a single bean

is baked inside the pie. The bean represents (by its general shape) a swaddled infant Jesus. Just as the three kings searched diligently for the infant Christ, so the diners search diligently in their respective slices of the galette, until one of them finds the bean - that person then becomes a king for the day, and a centre and focus of attention in the home!



Not only does this tradition sound absolutely delicious, but it also helps us to reflect upon an important aspect of our common faith. The great theme of this Epiphany season is “manifestation” or “showing forth”. It finds itself reflected in the various Epiphany Bible stories. In the Baptism of Christ (the special focus of the first Sunday of Epiphany) the divinity of Christ is manifested, for as Jesus emerges from the waters of baptism, the voice of God is heard thundering in the heavens “This is my Son”. Similarly,



in the miracle of water turned into wine (the special focus each year of either the second or the third Sunday of Epiphany) the signs and wonders of Christ are made manifest for the very first time - for the Bible informs us that the miracle at Cana was the very first one Jesus performed. But the central theme of Epiphany, celebrated on the Feast day itself, is the coming of three kings (wise men, or magi) from the east - and herein we discover the most important form of “manifestation” of them all; for in those wise men, the glory of God in Jesus Christ is shown to the nations! Everyone who witnessed

Christ’s birth was Jewish - Mary, Joseph, the inn keeper, the families travelling to be registered, the local village population, the shepherds who came in from the fields - all were Jewish. But these wise men came following a star from lands far away. These great sages were also foreigners - men who practiced a different religion, a different culture, a different language, a different outlook on life. When the Christ was revealed (manifest) to *them*, he was symbolically revealed to *all* nations. This is how Jesus shifts from being the Messiah of the Jewish people, to being the Saviour of all mankind - including you and me, far away in a land unknown and unimagined by anyone in that stable at Bethlehem.

So welcome the kings! Celebrate the feast! Eat the galette (if you get the chance)! And rejoice that Christ is the Saviour of all nations and all peoples in every age.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Sick: Gill Brunström, Nida Gabriel, Sheila Bowyer.

The Parish: Portal Way, and all at the Algerian Consulate.

Baptised Today: Milla and Liam.

Year's Mind: Ann Ind, Thomas Trotman, Jonathan Goodman, Elizabeth Moore, Thomas Beckett, Paul Hodge, Dennis Price, Karl Teuber, William Grist, Jeremy Oxborough, Alice Weitzel, Lynne Garratt.

Recently departed: Kevin, Bernadette Cadogan, Fintan Crotty (priest).

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sacrament Lamp has been sponsored by Brigitte, in memory of her father, Karl Teuber.

The Walsingham Lamp has been sponsored by Egon, Brigitte, and Stephen, with thanksgiving for the safe arrival of a son for Jacqui and Alex.



ADVANCE DATES

27 Jan (Wed)	Deanery Synod (via zoom)
17 Feb (Wed)	Ash Wednesday - mass at 6.30pm
28 Mar (Sun)	Palm Sunday - the start of Holy Week
4 Apr (Sun)	EASTER DAY
23 Apr (Fri)	St George's Day - mass at 6.30pm
20 May (Thu)	Archdeacon's Visitation
6 July (Tue)	Deanery Synod
18 July (Sun)	Dedication Festival at church
26-30 July	Walsingham Pilgrimage Week

NOTICES

Epiphany Mass - It was wonderful to have a good congregation on Wednesday for the Epiphany, when we processed the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Epiphany House, and placed them before the Holy Child.

Website - Do visit our parish website. Especially during lockdown, it will assist you in remaining in touch with news.

Live-streaming - Mass today will be live-streamed using borrowed equipment. We hope to have our own equipment supplied and operational in time to continue live-streaming throughout the current lockdown. The live-stream can be accessed on the parish Facebook page.

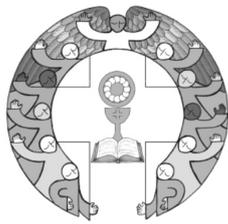
St Gabriel's Trumpet - Our parish magazine is another way of staying in touch during lockdown. Contributions of reports and photographs are welcomed. Please share your news. Especially welcome right now would be photographs of your lockdown life at home - do send them in!

Singing - Congregational singing is still not permitted at present; when there are sung parts of the service, they will be sung by a cantor; at other points in the liturgy we may use pre-recorded music; we are keeping our music alive, despite the current restrictions on public singing.

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	St Gabriel's Church North Acton www.saintgabrielacton.org <i>Loving God and Serving the Community</i>
Sunday 10th January 2021 The Baptism of Christ	
10.30am	Sung Parish Mass
10.30am	Baptism

Welcome to St Gabriel's

- The Lady Chapel is a place of quiet where you may pray or sit quietly before, during, or after the service.
- On the left side of church the enclosed carpeted area is a crèche for babies and small children.
- Most weeks during school term time children (at least 3 years of age) may attend our Junior Church.
- If you use a hearing aid, please switch to position 'T' and sounds in the church will be amplified for you.
- We are currently unable to sing hymns due to the Covid-19 regulations; we will resume when possible.
- We are currently unable to serve refreshments due to Covid-19 regulations; we will resume when possible.

Services and Events This Week		
Sun 10	10.30am	Parish Mass & Baptisms <i>(live streamed)</i>
Mon 11	-	-
Tue 12	-	-
Wed 13	6.30pm	Mass <i>(live streamed on Facebook)</i>
Thu 14	-	-
Fri 15	-	-
Sat 16	12 noon	Mass <i>(live streamed on Facebook)</i>

Epiphany Season

We are now in the Epiphany Season, and the liturgical colour is WHITE, the Church's colour of celebration, as we rejoice that the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, was for all the nations - symbolically represented by the wise men who journeyed from Persia.

Church Closure

Regrettably we have had to close to public worship for the time being. Services will be live-streamed via Facebook, so please join us there. You may only attend church in person if you are helping to lead worship, or helping to broadcast worship, or part of a baptism or funeral party.

Next Sunday: 17th January 2021
The Baptism of Christ

10.30am Parish Mass

Please **wash your hands** whenever entering the church building, so we can remain Covid-Secure. Hand sanitizing alcohol gel is provided in church. Disposable face masks are available on request.

The Baptism of Christ : Year B

This week's prayers and readings:

Collect:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1: 1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm: Psalm 29

Response: May the Lord bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. **R**

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

New Testament Reading: Acts 19: 1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel: Mark 1: 4-11

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.*



Prayer over the gifts:

Eternal God, you filled the wise men with expectation as they journeyed, and joy as they beheld the Christ; fill us, we pray, with the same joy and expectation, and send your blessing upon these gifts, which we offer back to you in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sanctuary Lamps

MAY STILL BE SPONSORED
even during
the Coronavirus emergency period.

- * Blessed Sacrament Lamp (*tabernacle*)
- * Walsingham Lamp (*Our Lady's Shrine*)
- * St Francis Lamp (*the St Francis Chapel*)

may each be sponsored for a week
for just £5 per lamp chosen.

Please speak to the Vicar if you would like details of the Walsingham Parish Pilgrimage week in July. Bookings are now open.



Junior Church

During the current lockdown we are not able to hold physical Junior Church, but we have resumed "Junior Church on-line". All families with children in Junior Church should be receiving a weekly mailing by email, with activities and resources.

Four members of Junior Church are to be baptised this month. Congratulations to Milla, Liam, Mirei, and Masato.



Temporary Mass Times

For autumn & winter 2020:

SUNDAYS at 10.30 am
WEDNESDAYS at 6.30 pm
SATURDAYS at 12.00 noon

Additional services will be held on major festivals and celebrations.

St Gabriel's Church, Noel Road, London W3 0JD
 For the time being, church is closed and all services will be live-streamed.

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020 8930 5754	Jenny Boothe
020 8810 4929	Area Dean

St Gabriel's Website:

www.saintgabrielacton.org

From the website you can also click through to our
[Parish Facebook Page](#) and our **[Parish YouTube Channel](#)**