

This week at St Lawrence's



1st/2nd January 2011

Epiphany of the Lord (Year A)

Missal page old 48/new 50

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your greetings and gifts this Christmas, and to everyone who has given so much to our community these last few weeks; our choirs and musicians, Readers, Servers, Ministers of Holy Communion, flower arrangers, Katie for the Crib, cleaners, welcomers, sacristans, Outreach Group, Youth Club, Social Committee, drivers, catechists, Children's Liturgy and Sunday School leaders, handy-men, groundsmen, Joanna in the Parish Office, and our dear Sisters, Mary and Katherine. Equally thanks must also go to those who serve our parish so well throughout the year; our Parish Council and Finance Committee, collectors and money counters, our Prayer Group, Faith Sharing and Rosary Groups, our UCM and Over 50's Club, our Mothers & Toddler Group, our Communications & Publicity Group (check out the new-look Parish website!), our Buildings & Health & Safety Committee, Arlene for co-ordinating the "Red Boxes" and our CAFOD and LIFE co-ordinators. Not forgetting the work of our School Staff and Governors – and of course my deep and heartfelt gratitude to the one and only Fr Gerry!

God bless us every one – and a very Happy New Year!

Fr Chris

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TWO SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS NEXT WEEKEND ...

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

To celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we would like to extend a very warm invitation to all the families who have had their babies baptised at St Lawrence's during 2010 to a special Baptismal celebration around the crib next Saturday 8th January at 12 noon.

A short Mass will include a renewal of Baptismal promises, so please try to bring your child's Baptismal candle. If your child's Godparents are nearby, please invite them too!

If you had your baby baptised at St Lawrence's during the year, please do try to come along to this very special Christmas event for our youngest parishioners.

Because of preparations for this special celebration, there will be no Confessions, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Benediction next Saturday.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

And for our oldest parishioners, our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will take place next Sunday 9th January 2011 from 12 noon to 4 pm. Please put your name down on the lists in the porch this weekend if you would like to come or if you can help.

CRIB APPEAL

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will mark the end of the Church's Christmas season. As we come to the crib to give our prayers of thanks for the coming of Christ, for the love and care he received from his parents and how they endured and overcame many trials as a family, we think of families who are very much in need at this time.

Offerings placed in the basket by the crib will go to the work of the Catholic Children's Society with needy families and will be a tangible sign of friendship and support to them. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our First Communion children are reminded to bring their workbooks to Mass next weekend 8th/9th January for their first special Eucharistic celebration of the New Year.

CONFIRMATION 2011

The bishop will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Lawrence's on Saturday 25th June 2011 at 10.30 am. Students who are in

