



#### A Prayer for the New Year

May God make this year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,  
 But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;  
 Not by making our path easy,  
 But by making us sturdy to travel any path;  
 Not by taking hardships from us,  
 But by taking fear from our heart;  
 Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping our face bright, even in the  
 shadows;  
 Not by making our life always pleasant,  
 But by showing us when people and their causes  
 need us most,  
 and by making us anxious to be there to help.  
 May God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the  
 year ahead. Amen

We pray for the sick of our parish both at home and in hospital, for those who have died, Sr. Ruth Gerzon, Poor Clare and all those whose anniversaries of death are in January in particular: Gerard Flint, Jim Cotterill, Carmel Gwinnett and those whose names are known only to God.



*Tuesday 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany when we celebrate the revelation of God incarnate and commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. "A light of revelation to the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at Our Lady's will be at 9.30am and 6.30pm.*

#### Did you know that:

**January** is named after the Roman god, Janus, the god of doors. The Roman god Janus had two faces, one looking forward, the other backwards and so had the ability to see all things past and future.



#### PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

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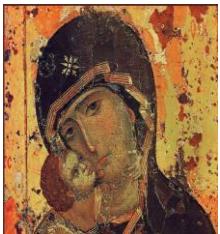
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#### Second Sunday of Christmas January 2026

Sunday 4th January 2026		10.00am: Fr Andrew: Jim Smith RIP Fr. Stuart: Angelo & Anthony Moruzzi  6.30pm: For Peace	
Second Sunday of Christmas			
Monday 5th January 2026	Feria	9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Feast of the Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation	9.30am 6.30pm	Brian and Vicky Tanswell  For Peace
Wednesday 7th January 2026	No Mass	No Mass	Mass at Belmont Abbey and SFX
Thursday 8th January 2026	Feria	9.30am	Holy Souls
Friday 9th January 2026	Feria	9.30am	Ada Gregson RIP
Saturday 10th January 2026	Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am 11.00am	Exposition and confessions  Mass: Didina RIP
Sunday 11th January 2026	Baptism of the Lord	10.00am 6.30pm	Shirley Walters & Tracey Pro Populo



### ***Prayer to Our Lady of Kiev for an end to the war in Ukraine***

*Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, For their government, and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son, Suffering on the Cross at Calvary. Give them strength and courage through faith, hope and justice. May we, in our turn, Support them through prayer and generosity that human lives may be saved, that the injured may be healed, that the dead may rest in peace, that there will be peace after war. Amen.*



### **Spiritual Reflection**

The celebration of Holy Mass is at the very heart of our Christmastide festivities it allows us to pause, to be still, and to acknowledge the very great gift that God has given us through the birth of His Son at Bethlehem. This gift, the Word made flesh, God becoming man, is the beginning of a wonderful new relationship between our heavenly Father and us. Through the Incarnation, the process of our redemption is begun. The image of the infant Christ, together with Mary and Joseph, is a powerful image. It touches our hearts. It is a sign of hope. This is a special because it helps to renew our sense of hope in the love of God. His love, manifested in the coming of his Son in a stable in Bethlehem, brought us salvation and hope in a new life. This season of celebration reminds us to restore that sense of love within our own lives. However, we are not just celebrating some distant historical event of two thousand years ago. No, we are also very importantly celebrating the presence of Christ among us today, here and now. Emmanuel means "God is with us". This should be the absolute focus of our minds. This is the Christmas message. God is with us. May Christ come into our lives and renew in our hearts that love that gave us the Incarnation.



### **Welcome Back**

This week the children return from their Christmas break. Let us continue to pray for the children and the staff at our school that they may all grow strong in knowledge and faith. May they all 'aspire through the love of Jesus they may have life and have it to the full.' Welcome back and may God bless you all.

### **We Need your Help**



After next week's Mass, **Sunday, 11th January**, all the Christmas decorations, including the crib, need to be taken down and stored away ready for next year. If you are able to spare some time after Mass to help it would be gratefully appreciated. The more helpers there are the quicker it will be. Thank you so much.

### **Open Invitation to SFX Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.**

**Monday 5th—Friday 9th October 2026**

**5 days/4 nights.** Cost: £1,029 pp. half board;

Coach return fare to Heathrow is extra. Travel insurance included.

**Booking forms available from SFX office**

### **STOP PRESS!**

**There will be a meeting for all who have signed up for the Rome pilgrimage AND anyone who would like to find out more.**

Peter Fawcett will be giving a presentation with PowerPoint after the 10 am Mass on Sunday, 11th January at 11.30 am. Come along and find out more!

### **Father Andrew writes**



*I want to thank all those who helped prepare the church, for the Christmas festivities. The flowers and decorations are truly magnificent. I'd also like to thank those who do something extra but often don't get thanked. I want you to know I appreciate everything you give to the parish in your own different ways. On behalf of myself and Fr Stuart. I want to thank you for your kindness and generosity over the festive season with your gifts, cards, Christmas offerings and prayers. It means a great deal to both of us. May God Bless you and your loved ones as we begin a New Year and let us pray that 2026 will bring new hope to us all. God bless.*

*Father Andrew*