

## Welcome

Firstly, may the Wardens and Clergy wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Peaceful 2020.

## The Christmas Season

### When and how long is Christmas?

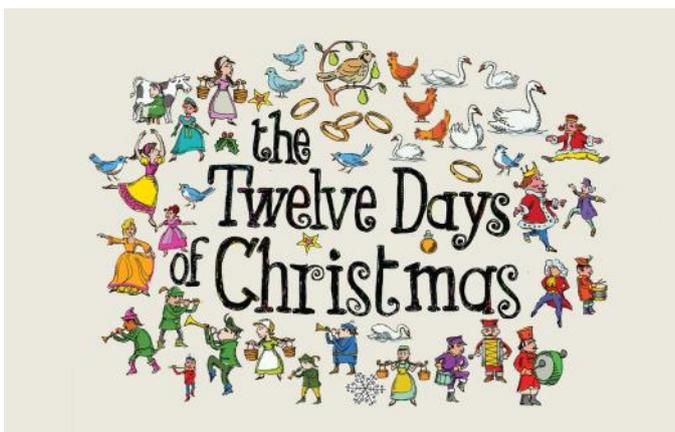
Christmas Day, liturgically called "The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord" in the Catholic Church, technically includes both Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, after sunset) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25) itself, but, Christmas is not just one day, rather an entire season, lasting anywhere from 12 days to 40 days in different ecclesiastical traditions.

In the modern secular world, Dec. 26 already begins the "after-Christmas" sales, and Christmas decorations are often removed before New Year's Day! The "Christmas Season" (for shopping, decorating,

parties, music, etc.) used to begin just after Thanksgiving Day (in the United States), but now seems to begin just after Halloween (Oct. 31), if not before! When people hear about the "Twelve Days of Christmas" (or sing the song by that title), they might think it refers to the last 12 shopping days before Christmas.

In most Christian traditions, however, the "Christmas Season" properly begins with Christmas Eve (after sunset on Dec. 24), while the "Twelve Days of Christmas" refers to the period from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5.

In different Churches, the Christmas Season might end on Jan. 6 (the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany), or might last until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the



Sunday after Epiphany), or even all the way to Feb. 2 (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, 40 days after Dec. 25).

### What are the liturgical colours for Christmas?

The official liturgical color of the Christmas Season for most Churches is **white** or **gold**, not green and red, as many people assume.

Popular culture often associates Christmas with a combination of *greens* and *reds* (such as in Poinsettia plants), in addition to the use of white (snow?) and silver, gold, or other shiny metallic colors (stars? bells? musical instruments?).

By contrast, *green* is the proper liturgical color for "Ordinary Time," while *red* is used on feasts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles, or martyrs.

### What is a Crèche and where does this tradition come from?

In the weeks before or during the Christmas season, many people set up a "manger scene" in their churches, homes, or public places, depicting the baby

Jesus surrounded by Mary, Joseph, angels and shepherds, sheep and other animals, and possibly also the magi or "wise men."

The French word *crèche* is

similar to German *Krippe* and English "crib", while the word "manger" comes from the French *mangeoire* (derived from *mangier* = "to eat"); these words correspond to Latin *praesēpe* or Greek *phatne* (Luke 2:12), all of which originally re-

ferred to a "feeding trough" for animals, but also came to be used for an "infant's bed." The Gospel of Luke says, "While they were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for her [Mary] to have her child,



and she gave birth to her firstborn son. *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger*, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7)

The tradition of displaying a crèche did not arise until the mid-12th century; it is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who wanted to emphasize the poor and humble circumstances in which Jesus was born.

The use and design of crèches reflects a wide variety of artistic and cultural traditions. Some people set up a simple crèche long before Christmas, add more figures as Christmas approaches, with the baby Jesus not placed in the manger until Christmas Eve, and the wise men not arriving until Jan. 6.

A church's or family's crèche is usually blessed on Christmas Eve with a simple blessing prayer.

### **New Archbishop of York**

The Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell has been announced as the next Archbishop of York, succeeding Dr John Sentamu.

He is the current Bishop of Chelmsford and will become the 98th Archbishop of York, a title that dates back to St Pauli-

nus in 627AD.

It is a key position in the Church of England, second only to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

He is taking over the position from Dr Sentamu, who is retiring in June 2020.

Bishop Cottrell praised Dr Sentamu's legacy and said he was "humbled and excited" to be appointed as the next Archbishop of York.

"I will receive the baton from Archbishop Sentamu," he said.

"These aren't just big shoes to fill, but a big heart and a big vision.

"However, I am not daunted. Archbishop Sentamu and I have worked together in mission on many occasions and I hope to



build on the work he has pioneered."

He continued: "Working alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, I hope to help the church be more joyful and more effective in sharing the gospel and bringing hope and unity to our nation.

"Although I was born and grew up in Essex, I lived and served in Huddersfield for nine years. I know and love the north of England. Two of our children were born there.

"I now look forward to returning and being a voice for the North, sharing the liberating good news of the gospel and helping to address the discrepancies of wealth and opportunity that too often favour the South."

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he was "delighted" by the nomination of Bishop Cottrell.

"Archbishop Sentamu's ministry has been extraordinarily significant. In Bishop Stephen there is a worthy successor," he said.

"He is someone who radiates the joy and love of Jesus, making his hearers want to meet and know Christ better."

"He is committed not only to speaking of Jesus, but to the renewal and reform of the Church of England in every aspect, as a church with a living, spiritual presence in every community. He is committed to the church as a place of safety, of growth and of hope.

"He leads on the work of tackling our past failures in our attention to diversity, to outer estates. He has deep experience of both urban and rural work."

Congratulating Bishop Cottrell on his nomination, Dr Sentamu said: "I am glad he is returning to the Northern Province where he with others developed the Emmaus course for evangelism, nurture and discipleship. His greatest passion is to share the Gospel with everyone in a friendly and accessible way.

"Bishop Stephen, God is blessing you."

### **Candlemas**

Egeria, writing around AD 380, attests to a feast of the Presentation in the Jerusalem Church. The day was kept by a procession to the Constantinian basilica-

ca of the Resurrection, with a yard damaged. The law enforcement and insurance authorities have been informed and we ask the public to be aware of the damage and be vigilant and notify Bill Cottam of any problems.



*Purification of the Virgin 15/16 Century. Collection of the Metropolitan See of*

was celebrated on December 25th, the feast began to be celebrated on February 2nd, where it is kept in the West today.

### Churchyard Action

We are all very grateful for the time and energy taken by the Churchyard Action Group in making our churchyard a pleasurable and peaceful place surrounding the ancient holy place of St. Mary's. In recent weeks we have had a



number of the monuments in the older part of the church-

### Heritage Restoration and Renewals

The lads on site are making good progress.

The north and south gutters to the Wilton Chapel have been re-formed in timber to the new levels and installation of gutters has commenced in the north parapet. This will be largely complete by Christmas.

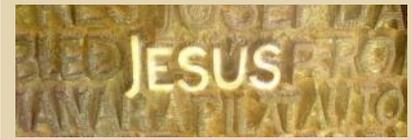
The contractor still needs to line the new outlet through the wall from the south gutter but this will be done during the Christmas week and they hope to line the whole gutter and be watertight by Monday and Tuesday also of Christmas week. They expect to start slating the north and south slope of the Wilton Chapel after the holidays.

The gutter and outlet on the Lever Chapel staircase roof has been completed with a new large sump and overflow chute.

They have started pointing the south clerestory and raking out joints on the south porch.

Re-plastering in the Lady Chapel is virtually complete and the last coat of plaster is being applied on the staircase walls. Removal of all paint from the south wall of the Lady Chapel will start after the Christmas break, followed by redecoration.

### Sunday Gospel Readings



**5 January Epiphany**

Matthew 2: 1-12

**12 January Baptism of Christ**

Matthew 3: 13-end

**19 January**

John 1: 29-42

**2 February Candlemas**

**Presentation of Christ in the temple**

Luke 2: 22-40

The next work is to stabilise, re-roof and clean the North Porch and install new downspouts and fix any other minor issues. All is going to plan and on budget. Here's hoping the weather holds.

### East wall before and after re-plastering prior to decoration



SUPPORTING OUR RESTORATION

Regular worship at St Mary's



**Sunday**

8.00am Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist

**Tuesday**

7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist

**Wednesday**

7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist

**Thursday**

7.30am Morning Prayer  
\*9.10am Eucharist in St Mary's School

\*10.00am Pre-School Praise

**Friday**

7.30am Morning Prayer  
8-15am Eucharist

*\*during term time*

**Contact us**



**Website:**

[www.stmarysprestwich.org](http://www.stmarysprestwich.org)

**Twitter:** @stmaryprestwich

**Post:**

St Mary the Virgin,  
Church Lane,  
Prestwich, M25 1AN

**Assistant Curates:**

Rev. Carole Barnet  
tel. 0161 766 2774  
Rev. Adele McKie  
tel. 07946 383024

**Church Wardens:**

Stewart Barnet  
tel. 07950 354445  
Susie Mapledoram  
tel. 07710 557833



**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Thursday evenings

7-30pm till 9-00pm

Please see Gary for details

**What's on**



- 5 Jan Epiphany
- 16 Jan PreSchool Praise returns
- 9 Jan School Eucharist returns
- 12 Jan Baptism of Christ
- 12 Jan Youth Group
- 14 Jan PCC—7-15pm
- 19 Jan Epiphany 2
- 26 Jan Epiphany 3



**St Mary's parish prayer**

Loving Father, we pray your blessing on our parish. Help us to have hearts open to your Holy Spirit.

Give us the courage to follow the way of Christ. Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer and loving service. Help us to play our part in building up your Kingdom here and now. Amen.

**EPIPHANY**

January Word Search - Hard



- |                 |            |               |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. ADORATION    | 10. GOLD   | 19. MARY      |
| 2. ASTRONOMERS  | 11. HEROD  | 20. MATTHEW   |
| 3. BETHLEHEM    | 12. HOMAGE | 21. MESSIAH   |
| 4. BLESSING     | 13. ISRAEL | 22. MYRRH     |
| 5. BOW          | 14. JESUS  | 23. STAFF     |
| 6. CAMELS       | 15. JEWS   | 24. TRAVEL    |
| 7. DREAM        | 16. JOSEPH | 25. TREASURES |
| 8. EAST         | 17. KING   | 26. WISEMEN   |
| 9. FRANKINCENSE | 18. MAGI   | 27. WORSHIP   |

