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|  2nd Sunday after Christmas (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 2  | | |
| Saturday 3 rd January | 5.30pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 4 th January | 11.00am | Ken and Anne Fidler |
| Tuesday 6th January Epiphany of the Lord | 11.00am 7.00pm | Bridget Lomax People of the Parish |
| Wednesday 7 th January | 7.00pm | Holy Souls |
| Thursday 8 th January | 9.30am | Private Intention (DS) |
| Saturday 10 th January | 5.30pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 11 th January | 11.00am | Bob and Kath Taylor |

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass

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The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January



For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Feast of the Holy Name is celebrated on 3rd January. "All beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld should bend the knee at the name of Jesus, and every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10)



The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians

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2nd Sunday after the Nativity (A) 4th January 2026



The post-Christmas period is experienced by many people as an anti-climax and for some a time of sadness. People place so many expectations on the feast of Christmas that often it can seem a disappointment or 'a one-day-wonder' as life returns to normal. The Church however doesn't regard Christmas as a one-day wonder but as a season, a lengthy period of time to let the event sink in - a time to reflect on the events of the past and a time to anticipate those that are to come.

The prologue to today's Gospel gives us a famous reflection on the incarnation. 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God'. A good example of how the New Testament uses the Old Testament as its foundation. In the first book of the bible, the book of Genesis, begins with God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light'. In the New Testament, the Word of God, takes flesh in a recognisable form of the tiny body of a baby, the most fragile form imaginable, emphasising the vulnerability of our God. From the very beginning, that Word could have been encouraged and amplified, or it could have been snuffed out forever – and there were many who tried to do so! God had done his best – he had expressed himself fully and perfectly but it was up to us to make God accessible to others.

That is the challenge of the Christmas season: to make the incarnation an everyday event, not just a one-day-wonder. In our own experience, the Word brings order and understanding out of chaos but to make sense of something, we must first express it. St John expresses the Word poetically 'Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him'. Through this Word our world is recreated again and again, generation after generation, or as St. John puts it in today's gospel, 'To all who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God'. The incarnation is a very complex part of our faith; yet strangely comforting, especially after the difficult year that has just ended. Let us pray that the Word of God will continue to make sense of the chaos of our world of today.



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Epiphany of the Lord

This Tuesday, 6th January, is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, and it is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at 11.00am and 7.00pm.

Deanery Mass with Archbishop Sherrington

Archbishop John Sherrington is going to celebrate Mass for all the parishes in the Knowsley Deanery to enable him to meet as many people as possible. This Mass will take place at 7.00pm on Friday 30th January at the church of St Agnes, St Mary's Road, Huyton, L36 5ST. Refreshments will be served afterwards and you are warmly encouraged to come and meet our new Archbishop.

The Portico Knitters and Stitches Group

We intend to start a knitting & stitching group for Parishioners, here at Our Lady's. So, how about sharing your skills to complete various Church projects? If you are interested please come to an initial meeting to discuss projects, which could include new Altar cloths and other Church linen.

Meeting in Church Hall on **Thursday 29th January at 2pm**. Looking forward to seeing you.
Angela Steward & Lynn Jones

Portico Fundraisers

During 2025 you helped us raise £2140 for InterCare (Medical Aid for Africa) to enable them to purchase essential medical supplies. Thank you.
Our next coffee morning in the parish hall will be on 11th January. We look forward to seeing you.

Mary's Meals

Thank you to those who have returned their Mary's Meals collection boxes and for your generous donations. Please could all donations be returned by 11th January.

Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday will be held on Sunday 18th January. The Bishops' Conference encourage us all to use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January. Pope Leo has said that the theme for his message which will be 'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'.

Confirmations in 2026

Anyone in Year 8 or above can now register to be Confirmed in 2026. Register:
www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

Gathering for Parish Helpers

There is a letter at the back of Church for all those who help out in our Parish in any way. This includes Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Flower Arrangers, Musicians, Cleaners, Counters, Catechist, Shop helpers and many others. Do please take a letter if you help out in our parish in any way, and respond by Sunday 18th January.

First Holy Communions 2026

Parents and guardians of Baptised children in Year 4 and above who wish to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are welcome to join the "With You Always" programme. Please call Denise Liptrot (preferably after 6.00pm) on 07726 286 363 as soon as possible with your name and contact details.

Feast Days This Week

Tuesday

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – This feast commemorates the visit of the three Magi, or wise men, who came from the East, guided by a star, to worship Christ. In them we see the homage of all the nations to Christ, who is for ever the light of the world. The gifts they brought indicated Christ's nature and mission – gold, a fitting gift for a king; frankincense, used to worship God, and myrrh, traditionally used in burials.

Wednesday

St Raymond of Penyafort - He was born near Barcelona about the year 1175. He became a professor in Canon Law and taught for fifteen years. He became a Canon of the Cathedral, but later joined the Dominican Order after he was inspired by the preaching of Blessed Reginald. Along with King James of Aragon and St Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The members of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors. At the command of Pope Gregory IX he edited the *Book of Decretals*. He was chosen Master General of his Order and governed it wisely. His most outstanding writing was his *Summary of Cases* which gave rules for the fruitful administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the year 1238 he was appointed General of the Order, during which time he revised the Dominican Constitutions, but he resigned two years later and retired to Barcelona. He died in 1275 at the age of 100.

Friday

St Adrian, Abbot - Born in Africa, Adrian became abbot of the monastery at Nerida, near Naples. He declined an appointment as archbishop of Canterbury, but accompanied St. Theodore to England when the latter was appointed Archbishop. Theodore appointed him Abbot of SS. Peter and Paul Monastery (later changed to St. Augustine's) in Canterbury, and during his thirty-nine years' abbacy, the monastery became renowned as a center of learning. He died on January 9 in Canterbury, and his tomb soon became famous for the miracles wrought there.

Saturday

St Angela of Foligno – Franciscan tertiary and mystic. Born in Foligno, Italy, in 1248, Angela married and had several children. Wealthy, she took part in the social events of the city until 1285, when she had a vision. Following that mystical experience, Angela became a member of the Franciscan Third Order. When her husband died, she gave away her possessions and started a community of tertiaries devoted to the care of the needy. Her visions, which were recorded by her confessor, demonstrated a mature mystical union with Christ and the gift of revelation. She is sometimes called "the Mistress of Theologians." Her tomb is in the church of St. Francis in Foligno, and many miracles attributed to St Angela have been recorded there.