

# Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

4 January 2015

The Epiphany of the Lord.

Page 118 in Mass Book.

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## King Herod and the Wise Men —A Christmas Challenge

*The Christmas story is surely one of the greatest stories ever told.*

*Inside its great narrative there are multiple mini-narratives, each of which comes laden with its own archetypal symbols. One of these mini-narratives, rich in archetypal imagery, is the story King Herod and the wise men*

*We see this in the Gospel of Matthew when he tells us how various people reacted to the announcement of Jesus' birth. Matthew sets up a powerful archetypal contrast, blessing and curse, between the reaction of the wise men, who bring their gifts and place them at the feet of the new king, and King Herod, who tries to kill him.*

*We are all familiar with this story since it has been much celebrated in song, icon, and legend. Jesus is born inside of a religious tradition, Judaism, and his birth is announced to that faith-community in a manner that befits religion, namely, by the angels, by supernatural revelation. But those outside of that faith-tradition need another way to get to know of his birth, and so his birth is announced to them through nature, astrology, through the stars. The wise men see a special star appear in the sky and begin to follow it, not knowing exactly to where or to what it will lead.*

*While following the star, they meet King Herod who, upon learning that a new king has supposedly been born, has his own evil interest in matter. He asks the wise men to find the child and bring him back information so that he, too, can go and worship the newborn. We know the rest of story: *continued over....**

*(Photo missing)*

## The Coming Week.....

### Sunday

**4 January**  
The Epiphany of the Lord

*(photo missing)*

### Masses....

**6.00pm (Saturday)**  
**8.45am**  
**11.00am**

### Monday

**5 January.**  
Christmas weekday.  
8.30am Mass.

### Tuesday

**6 January**  
Christmas weekday.  
8.30am Mass.  
Saint Charles school reopens.

1.40pm. Funeral service for former school caretaker Tom Larkin RIP at Agecroft cemetery.

### Wednesday

**7 January**  
Christmas weekday.  
9.15am Mass in school  
– Year 6. All welcome.

### Thursday

**8 January**  
Christmas weekday.  
8.30am Mass

### Friday

**9 January**  
Christmas weekday  
8.30am Mass.

### Saturday

**10 January.**  
9.00am Mass in Cemetery  
11.30am – 12.00noon  
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

6.00pm First Mass of Sunday.

### Sunday

**11 January.**  
The Baptism of the Lord.

Mass at 6.00pm (Saturday)  
8.45 and 11.00am.

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### Further ahead....

### Monday

**12 January.**  
7.00pm Jubilee planning meeting.

### Tuesday

**13 January.**  
7.30pm Parish Development Group meet.

### Thursday

**15 January**  
Women Speaking Wisdom: The series continues at 7:30 at St. Joseph's Convent, Greenleach Lane. We will be discussing the Book of Judith. Contact Sr. Joan for more details [joankfmsj@gmail.com](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or 971-7842

### Sunday

**18 January.**  
6.30pm Service to celebrate the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity at Holy Rood Church, Moorside Road.

**Prayer Lunches.** During the following week there will be a time to meet, pray and eat a simple lunch in each others churches. Timetable on notice board.

*The wise men follow the star, find the new king, and, upon seeing him, place their gifts at his feet.* Their slipping away into anonymity is a crucial part of their gift. The idea is that they now disappear because they can now disappear. They have placed their gifts at the feet of the young king and can now leave everything safely in his hands. His star has eclipsed theirs.

*And Herod, how much to the contrary!* The news that a new king has been born threatens him at his core since he is himself a king. The glory and light that will now shine upon the new king will no longer shine on him. So what is his reaction? Far from laying his resources at the feet of the new king, he sets out to kill him.

*This is a rich story with a powerful challenge:* What is my own reaction to new life, especially to life that threatens me, that will take away some of my own popularity, sunshine, and adulation? Can I, like the wise men, lay my gifts at the feet of the young and move towards anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even though those hands are not my hands? Or, like Herod, will I feel that life as a threat and I try somehow to kill it, lest its star somehow diminish my own?

*To bless another person is to give away some of one's own life* so that the other might be more resourced for his or her journey. Good parents do that for their children. Good teachers do that for their students, good mentors do that for their protégés, good pastors do that for their parishioners, good politicians do that for their countries, and good elders do that for the young. They give away some of their own lives to resource the other. The wise men did that for Jesus.

*How do we react when a young star's rising begins to eclipse our own light?*

□  
*Abridged version of article by Fr. Ron Rolheiser*

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## At back of church...

**2015 Salford Almanac.**  
(Yearbook of the Diocese – find out who's where, Mass times, etc. £3.00

**Catholic Papers.**  
Universe  
Catholic Times.  
Catholic Herald  
Tablet

**Crusader –**  
a really good read and free.

**Bible Alive**  
for January.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** for January.

**2015 Calendars/diaries.** Please free to take – just make an offering to Cafod.  
*You can leave your unwanted spare (2015) ones there also for recycling*

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**Many thanks for..**

your kind greetings, cards and gifts at Christmas which are much appreciated.



## Further further ahead.....

**Lent!** Yes, next month.

The last few years we have held a Lenten series with the general theme “**School of Prayer**”. One year it was on the theme of different traditions of prayer, last year it was “praying with the saints”, the year in-between was dedicated to the Second Vatican Council documents.

This year's theme will be “**Praying with the Old Testament**” and will be on Saturdays at midday. So – put it in your diaries now. **More details before too long.**

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**Congratulations to..**

Mrs. Marie Garside of Saint Ambrose Barlow High School who has been awarded the CBE in the New Year's honours list for her services to education.

Marie officially retired at the end of last term but will be staying on as Executive Headteacher with special oversight of the Teaching School side of management. The development of this dimension of the school under her has only been possible because of the quality of its teaching and learning recognised by the Department of Education. This in addition to overseeing the complex logistics of moving to a new site and the consolidation with Saint George's High School makes this honour well deserved.

### A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ [paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk) website: [www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk](http://www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 250037

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 11.30 am to 12.00 noon and after evening Mass

#### BAPTISMS

By appointment. Parents are expected to attend a course of preparation.

#### WEDDINGS

Six months notice is normally required.

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
Monthly as announced

**Union of Catholic Mothers**  
First and third Tuesdays at 7.15pm

#### Beaver Scouts

Mondays in school at 6.00pm

#### Cub Scouts

Tuesdays in school at 6.00 pm

#### Brownies

Wednesdays in school at 6.00 pm

#### Rainbows

Thursdays in school at 6.00 pm

#### MASS TIMES

**Saturday:** 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)

#### Sunday

- 8.45 am (Church Parade every second Sunday of the month)
- 11.00 am (with children's Liturgy of the Word)

**Monday to Friday:** usually 8.30 am

#### Holy Days

7.30 pm (eve), 8.30 am

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**Thanks for your generous support of the parish over the past year.....**

**September**  
7  
14  
21  
29

**Offertory collections.....**

**January**

6  
13  
20  
27

**October**

5  
12  
19  
26

**February**

2  
9  
16  
23

**November**

2  
9  
16  
23  
30

**March**

2  
9  
16  
23  
30

**December**

7  
14  
21  
28

**April**

6  
13  
20  
27

**SVP**

**January**  
**February**  
**March**  
**April**  
**May**  
**June**  
**July**  
**August**  
**September**  
**October**  
**November**  
**December**

**May**

4  
11  
18  
25

**June**

1  
8  
15  
22  
29

**CAFOD**

**January**  
**February**  
**March**  
**April**  
**May**  
**June**  
**July**  
**August**  
**September**  
**October**  
**November**  
**December**

**July**

6  
13  
20  
27

**August**

3  
10  
17

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