



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – 4TH JANUARY 2026

### Rest in Peace

Father Martin writes, our prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Gary Howard Fuller, who died recently. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The funeral of Mr Fuller is expected in late January or early February.

### Labels Sunday

This weekend we will continue to foster our relationship with our fellow parishioners by wearing a name label.

### Confirmation Preparation

Ann King writes, the confirmation preparation sessions will resume on Sunday 11th January from 6pm until 7pm at the Parish Hall. Please pray for those preparing for the Sacraments.

### The Synodal Parish

The Diocesan Adult Formation team write, join Canon Andrew Cole on Monday 12th January at 7pm for the first diocesan Mission Lab of 2026. The online session will explore how listening, praying and growing together can release your parish for mission, bring a renewed sense of common purpose, and nourish community leadership. Register for the Zoom link at [bit.ly/mission-lab](https://bit.ly/mission-lab)

### Date for your Diary

Andrew Elliott writes, there will be a planning meeting for Lent, Holy Week and the Season of Easter on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, after Holy Mass in Royle House at about 7:30pm.

### The Diocesan Choir

Nottingham Diocese write, the Diocesan choir will reconvene under the baton of the newly appointed Director of Music at Nottingham Cathedral, Peter Siepmann. An initial singing morning is scheduled for Saturday 31st January 11.00am until 1.00pm in Cathedral Hall. Singers should register their intention to attend via email to [cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk) There will be a second session, devoted to preparing for the annual Chrism Mass, on Saturday 28th March.

### Second Collection

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund.

### Birthday Best Wishes and Prayers

We wish our parish priest, Father Martin, a very happy birthday on Tuesday! He is assured of our prayerful intentions.

### "Are you not entertained?"

Our guest correspondent makes a welcome return writing, it was Russell Crowe's character, Maximus Decimus Meridius in the film *Gladiator*, who shouted this to the crowd in the Colosseum. To our sensibilities, the question seems grotesque; can it ever be appropriate to be entertained by such a spectacle?

Which, because of the way that my mind works, led me to think about how we approach the celebration of holy Mass: on any level, conscious or unconscious, do we turn up expecting to be entertained?

Do we ever find ourselves judging whether the priest celebrated the Mass in a manner to our liking? Or how well the organist or musicians played, how well the cantors or choir sang, and how well the readers read? Do we leave church disappointed, because our favourite hymn wasn't sung?

If we ever find ourselves guilty of any of these, then we may need to reflect on our understanding of holy Mass.

"You either have an altar or a stage – it is either a sacrifice or it's a show, it is either the Mass or it's entertainment." (Gavin Ashenden)

Ashenden's observation is a little narrow, because the point he is making correctly applies to the entire liturgy of the Mass, not just the Liturgy of the Eucharist. But the general point is well made; the celebration of holy Mass is not for us to focus on ourselves and what we want, but on God, what he has done for us and what he continues to offer us. And so, we approach holy Mass having left behind our ego.

This doesn't mean that the Liturgy cannot or should not be beautiful – in fact, we will reflect on the importance of beauty in future reflections. But we do not appreciate that beauty in or of itself; we appreciate it in as much as it is a conduit through which we can love and see God, and through which God's grace may flow to us.

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions 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.

### EXTRA-ORDO-NARY Schools' Word of the Week:

Epiphany

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| <b>Parish Clergy</b>   | PP: Fr Martin Sylvester, STB, MA fr.martin@glossopcatholics.org.uk Tel: 01457 852113   |
| <b>Postal address</b>  | Royle House, Church St, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 7RJ  |
| <b>Joint Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  | 08445 880856. Andrew Elliott, Christine Hulley, Ann King, Barbara Payne, Tony Sealy and Fr Martin Sylvester. (Calls to 0844 numbers cost 7p/min plus your phone company's access charge. The church does not receive any income from your call - 7p/min is retained by the virtual switchboard service provider and the rest by your own phone company.)   |
| <b>Parish Newsletter Acting Editor</b>   | Rachel Hall: newsletter@glossopcatholics.org.uk <b>Website</b> www.glossopcatholics.org.uk   |
| The Glossop Catholic Parishes are bound by Diocesan Privacy Policy – see <a href="http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/privacy-policy">http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/privacy-policy</a>   |  |
| <b>ASC</b> = All Saints Church, <b>SMC</b> = St Mary's Church, <b>SMH</b> = St Mary's Hall, <b>SMS</b> = St Mary's School, <b>SPH</b> = St Philip Howard School  |  |
| <b>Saturday 3rd</b>  | Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus<br>Tenth Day of Christmas<br><b>ASC Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday of Christmas</b><br>(For the intentions of John and Catherine Broadbent (J&CB))  |
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>The Second Sunday of Christmas – Labels Sunday</b><br>Eleventh Day of Christmas<br><b>SMC Holy Mass</b> (For the welfare of Rita Hussell (HP))<br>Fairtrade tea and coffee will be served in the church after this Mass<br><b>ASC Holy Mass</b> (The People of the Parishes)<br>Fairtrade tea and coffee will be served in the church after this Mass<br><b>ASC Solemn Vespers for the Second Sunday of Christmas</b> |
| <b>Monday 5th</b>  | Twelfth Day of Christmas   |
| <b>7.00pm</b>  | <b>ASC Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b><br>(The People of the Parishes)<br>Please pray for today's meeting of the Core Leadership Team   |
| <b>Tuesday 6th</b>   | <b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b> (A holyday of obligation)   |
| <b>10.00am</b>   | <b>SMC Holy Mass</b> (Liz Nash RIP (CH))   |
| <b>Wednesday 7th</b>   | Memorial of St Raymond of Peñafort, priest   |
| <b>1.00pm</b>  | At Smithy Fold (Wetherspoons), meeting of the Friendship Group   |
| <b>7.00pm</b>  | <b>ASC Holy Hour with Holy Mass</b> (Mr & Mrs Wheatley and John (JW))  |
| <b>Thursday 8th</b>  | Thursday after the Epiphany  |
| <b>10.00am</b>   | <b>SMC Holy Mass</b> (Intentions of John and Catherine Broadbent (J&CB))<br>Please pray for today's meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council   |
| <b>Friday 9th</b>  | Friday after the Epiphany  |
| <b>12.00noon</b>   | <b>SMC Funeral Mass for Liz Nash RIP</b>   |
| <b>7.00pm</b>  | <b>SMH Prayer Group</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 10th</b>   | Saturday after the Epiphany  |
| <b>9.00 – 9.30am</b>   | <b>SMC Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>   |
| <b>10.00am</b>   | <b>SMH Sycamore Session – 'The Meaning of Love'</b>  |
| <b>6.00pm</b>  | <b>ASC Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b> (Sister Perpetua RIP (JW))<br><b>Second collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>  |
| <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>SMC Holy Mass</b> (The People of the Parishes)<br><b>Second collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund</b>   |
| <b>11.15am</b>   | Fairtrade tea and coffee will be served in the church after this Mass<br><b>ASC Holy Mass</b> (Liz Nash RIP (BP))<br><b>Second collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund</b>   |
| <b>5.00pm</b>  | Fairtrade tea and coffee will be served in the church after this Mass<br><b>ASC Solemn Vespers for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b> followed by refreshments   |
| <b>6.00pm</b>  | This will be the last Solemn Vespers before Lent<br><b>SMH Confirmation Session</b>  |
| <b>This week's prayer intentions for Vocations:</b> Mon: Our Schools; Tues: Staff and Seminarians at VEC, Rome; Weds: Priests in Leicestershire and Rutland; Thurs: Secular Orders and Associates; Fri: Staff and Seminarians at Oscott College, Birmingham; Sat: Those at University; Sun: 'Christus Vivit' Young Adults Group. |  |
| <b>Please join your fellow parishioners in praying our parish prayer daily</b> – "Heavenly Father, bless and prosper our efforts to renew the life of our parishes. Help me to discover the part you want me to play, and give me the courage to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."          |  |
| <b>Please remember in your prayers:</b> Don and Roseline McLeish, Doreen Leech who is unwell, Philomena Brennan who has a long-standing problem, and her husband Martin who is unwell.   |  |
| <b>Apology</b> – we apologise for the misprint in last week's newsletter, where Friday's Mass intention was listed for the speedy recovery of Baby Theo Saxon. His surname should have been spelt Saxon.   |  |

