

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

Christmastide – Liturgical colour: White



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January Entrusted to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Promotion of World Peace

That Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote together peace and justice in the world.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January 2020

In his prayer intention for the month of January 2020, Pope Francis calls us to pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote together peace and justice in the world.

It has become the custom of Pope Francis to release a video message detailing his prayer intention for each month.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-01/pope-prayer-intention-january-2020.html>

Pope Francis Tweet

"This is the meaning of Christmas. If the Lord continues to come among us and give us the gift of His Word, it is so that each of us can respond to his call: to become saints in love."



The Epiphany

On 6th January the Church commemorates the first Epiphany of the Lord. The time when three wise men, travellers from the East, sought and found Jesus, and worshipped him. The Epiphany takes its name from the Greek **epiphania** which denotes the visit of a god to earth.

Upcoming Events

26th February

Ash Wednesday – Service & distribution of ashes during the day.

Lent begins.

3rd March – Periods 5 & 6

Reconciliation for Year 7

10th March – Periods 5 & 6

Reconciliation for Year 8

17th March – Periods 5 & 6

Reconciliation for Year 9

24th March – Periods 5 & 6

Reconciliation for Year 10

1st April – Periods 5 & 6

Reconciliation for Year 11

Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

10th April – Good Friday

11th – 18th April – Year 12

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

At the beginning of his life on earth, God is showing that the Christ would be recognised by Gentiles, those who were not of the Jewish faith, and accepted by them. The wise men (Magi) were very probably astrologers who recognised that great movements among the stars was imitated by great movements on earth. When a new star was born, they saw this as a sign that a new king was to be born. They sought this new king by visiting Herod the Great in his palace, Herod was very protective of his position as king of Palestine, even to the point of executing his wife and sons, when he suspected them of plotting against him. The scribes and chief priests explained to Herod that a leader who would shepherd the people of Israel would come out of Bethlehem. Herod met with the wise men and sent them on to Bethlehem with the instruction to tell him the location of the child, so that he, too, might come to 'do him homage.' The wise men follow the star and, when it comes to rest over the place where the child was, they are filled with joy.

They present him with three gifts:



Gold a sign of being a King;

Frankincense – a sign of Jesus' divinity, he is the Son of God;



Myrrh a perfume used to anoint the bodies of the dead – a prophecy of Jesus' future Passion.



The wise men return to their own country without returning to Herod (they are warned in a dream). Joseph takes Mary and the Child Jesus and escape to Egypt. Pope Benedict XVI tells us that the light of the star that guided the wise men is the spiritual light always present in the Word of the Gospel, which continues to guide each and every one to the person of Jesus. The Church carries out the mission of the star for all humanity, and each of us are 'stars' called to illuminate the path to Christ through word and the example of our lives.

Christmastide

In the Catholic Church the season of Christmas continues until the Baptism of the Lord, which is the Sunday after the Epiphany

The God Who Speaks – Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'.

During the year, the Church will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. It's an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks'.

Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events, activities and resources to participate in all around the country. To help achieve transformation in our hearts and in our communities there will be three themes of [celebrating](#), [living](#) and [sharing](#) God's word.

There is lots of information and ideas at this web address, including a course focusing on Advent. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>

Saints of the Week

January 7th - St Raymond of Pennafort, 1175 - 1275, Priest.



He was devoted to our Blessed Lady. He became a Dominican and lived a life of humility, being very close to God. He worked for the conversion of sinners, promoted the fruitful celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and was particularly noted for his compassion towards slaves.

Born in Spain, St. Raymond was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honours and entered the Order of the Dominicans. St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of

Our Lady of Ransom. Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. King James was a man of great qualities, but he let himself be ruled by passions. There on the Island, too, he was giving bad example. The Saint commanded him to send the woman away. The King said he would, but he did not keep his promise. St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of St. Raymond. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death. He compiled the Decretals of Gregory IX, a collection of canonical laws that remained a major part of Church law until the 1917 Code of Canon Law abrogated it. He is honoured as a saint in the Catholic Church and is the patron saint of canon lawyers.



HAPPY NEW YEAR