

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PPC MEETING 8TH JANUARY 7PM

THE SYCAMORE COURSE

We are running the Sycamore module on Prayer at St Martin's Catholic Primary School over six weeks.

Between 23rd January and 5th March

Beginning at 2.30pm prompt and finishing just before the end of the school day.

Sycamore is a video series about the Christian faith and its relevance to life today.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and there is no need to commit to every session.

HOLY HOUR 5TH FEBRUARY 7-8PM

ST MICHAEL'S QUIZ NIGHT

10TH FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

TEAMS OF 4 RECOMMENDED

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK

FAMILY BOARD GAME FUN AFTERNOON

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2PM — 4PM

FOR AGES 6 AND UP

IN THE PARISH HALL

SIGN UP SHEET NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

Thought for the Week **The Feast of the Epiphany (B)** **7th January 2024**

Today we commemorate The Magi travelling from their homeland to seek the 'Infant King of the Jews' to pay him homage. They saw his star as it rose. What was it about that star that caused them to leave their comforts and set out on this potentially perilous journey? They were not Jews, but they must have had hearts that were open to the truth, and God used that openness to communicate to them that something special had taken place. This revelation stirred them into action, and they became Pilgrims of Hope.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a Holy Place. The Magi were making a journey to the holiest of places, the presence of God himself. As they made their journey, they must have been hoping that they were not deceived and that all would be revealed concerning the child. They expected to find the Infant King in Jerusalem at the heart of state and power. What were their thoughts when they were directed to a house in the tiny village of Bethlehem? They remained pilgrims of hope and their gifts reveal that at the end of their pilgrimage they recognised Jesus as King (gold), God (frankincense) and the anointed one who was to die (myrrh).

Today we remind ourselves that we too are Pilgrims of Hope as we journey through this life to our true home with God in heaven. It is both faith and hope that will sustain us on this journey. To encourage us on our journey Pope Francis has designated the Church's 2025 Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope. Let us prepare with prayer now so that we can enjoy the fruits and blessings of the Jubilee Year in all their fulness.

Deacon Brian





We ask you please, to pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Carl Stitt the Uncle of Krissie who has to have an operation on his heart for a safe and successful outcome.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who has an operation for Bile Duct Cancer on January 11th.

Rosemary has asked for prayers as she prepares to undergo major surgery in the RBH later this month, for a safe and successful outcome.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties). Please pray that they get the help they need.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan whose further recovery from cancer surgery is proving difficult.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for the residents and staff at St Lukes and Abbeycrest nursing homes



Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Henry Clay, Paul McDermott, Doug Buck,

Kieran Cotter, Lucy Emma Disouza,

Delcia Rose Ingram, Patrick O'Sullivan,

Constantino Antao, Thomas Stewart, Charles Harris,

Sheila Stone, Richard Bertram and Renee George.