

4.

The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts.

On the Epiphany of the Lord, after the singing of the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula:

KNOW, DEAR BRETHREN, (brothers and sisters,) that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, Who is our Saviour.

On the 14th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 31st day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 9th day of May will be the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 19th day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 2nd day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 1st day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM IS HONOUR AND GLORY for ever and ever. AMEN.



THE VISIT OF THE MAGI.
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.
THE WEDDING FEAST OF CANA

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE TEAM:
As part of THE PREPARATION FOR THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a Building a BETTER MARRIAGE COURSE throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. the one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark website:
<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

3.

DATES FOR

YOUR DIARIES AND CALENDARS:

A short Advent in 2023, and a short Season of Christmas, officially ending on

EPIPHANY SUNDAY:

7th January 2024,

even though we will keep the Christmas Crib and Remembering Tree until

Friday 2nd February 2024,

the Feast of

the Presentation of the Lord

in the Temple in Jerusalem, also known as: **CANDLEMAS.**

Lent begins with

ASH WEDNESDAY

on 14th February

(also known as St Valentine's Day!)
Ash Wednesday is

a Day of Fasting and Abstinence,

that is: reducing one's food and refraining from Meat, and if not a meat-eater, then refrain from something you usually eat. Perhaps party on

**Shrove, or 'pancake',
Tuesday on the 13th February!**

**GOOD FRIDAY,
a Day of Fasting
and Abstinence,
will be on**

**Friday 29th March
and**

**EASTER SUNDAY
will be on
Sunday 31st March.**


+ **J. M. J.** +
Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

*Epiphany Sunday
7th January 2024*

20 + C + M + B + 24

BLESSING OF CHALK ON THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:

V/: Our help is in
the Name of the Lord,
R/: **WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.**
V/: The Lord be with you.
R/: **AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.**

Priest:  O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to men. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior and Baltassar may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

*The Chalk is then sprinkled
with Holy Water.*



A SHORTER BLESSING OF HOMES – EPIPHANY A. D. 2024

The Mother of the household lights a / the candle and says:

May the light of Christ shine in our home and in our hearts

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **AMEN.**

Leader: Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

ALL: **NOW AND FOREVER.**

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD:

Reader: Brothers and sisters,
let us listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

(Luke 19:1-9)

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see Him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed Him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: **PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

Leader: Lord God of heaven and earth,
You revealed Your only-begotten Son
to every nation
by the guidance of a star.
Bless this house
and all who live here.
Fill them with the Light of Christ,
that their concern for others
may reflect Your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: **AMEN.**

The home and all present in it may be sprinkled with **HOLY WATER**
from the Baptismal Font on the left of the Sanctuary
in St Mary of the Crays' Church.

Leader: Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ,
Who by His death and resurrection has redeemed us.

CONCLUSION:

Leader: May Christ live with us,
keep us free from all harm,
and make us one in mind and heart,
now and forever.

ALL: **AMEN.**

EPIPHANY-TIDE IS A TIME FOR BLESSING HOMES and other build-
ings by marking the lintels of the doorways with blessed chalk. The
traditional marking commemorates the three Magi (traditionally
named: **Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar**) and gives the calendar
year already recently begun. The markings for this year are:

“20 + C + M + B + 24”

*(the three initials of the Magi's names between the number of the
year, separated by four crosses). The letters could also stand for*

a Latin blessing: **CHRISTUS, MANSIONEM BENDICAT.**

in English: **MAY CHRIST BLESS THE HOUSE.**

A PRAYER AT NIGHT-TIME
FOR PROTECTION
AND BLESSING:

Visit this house,
we pray You Lord:
Drive far away from it
all the snares of the enemy.
May Your holy angels stay here
and guard us in peace,
and let Your blessing
be always upon us.
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Lord grant us
a quiet night
and a perfect end. AMEN.

HOLY MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL,
defend us in battle. Be our safe-
guard against the wickedness and
snares of the devil. May God re-
buke him, we humbly pray; and
do thou, O Prince of the heavenly
host, by the power of God cast
into hell Satan and all the evil
spirits who wander through the
world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER:

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love
commits me here,
ever this day (or night)
be at my side,
to light, to guard,
to rule and guide. Amen.