



2 The Grove, Kettering NN15 7QQ. **Telephone** 01536 512497

**Website:** <https://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/>

**Email:** [parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org)

**Church Hall/ Upper Room Bookings:** Contact Ewa on Thurs or Fri morning via [parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org) or 01536 512497

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Elvis Jose

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**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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### **MASS TIMES AT ST. EDWARD'S, KETTERING**

- Tuesday - 10.00 am
- Wednesday - 10.00 am
- Thursday - 7.00 pm (*This evening Mass is with music on screen*)
- Friday - 7.00 pm
- Saturday Vigil Mass - 6.30 pm ***After Mass - confession on request***
- Sunday Early Mass - 8.30 am
- Sunday Family Mass - 10.30 am

### **MASS TIMES AT BURTON LATIMER**

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

### **MASS TIMES AT DESBOROUGH**

The **2nd** and **4th** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

### **MASS TIMES AT ROTHWELL**

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **12.15 pm**

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*For the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, please check the newsletter*

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*Arise, shine out Jerusalem,  
for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples...*



*...camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.*

*To respect people's wishes, there has usually been only one Mass Intention per Mass (This Intention might encompass even several people, but it will have been requested by one individual). There are occasional instances though, when there need to be two separate Intentions at a Mass. When this arises, I would be grateful for your understanding.*

## CONFESSIONS AT ST EDWARD'S



### Confessions at St Edward's are on Saturdays after Vigil Mass which is at 6.30 pm.

You can always request confession before or after any weekday Mass.

“The first step we must take to build the Kingdom of God on earth is to rediscover and appreciate the importance of the sacrament of confession, which will allow us to appreciate the sacrament of the Eucharist. *We cannot appreciate the Eucharist while removing the sacrament of Confession from our spiritual life*”. - Fr Gregory

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### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



- + **Mary Roberts** - Her funeral will be held at Holy Trinity, Desborough on Monday,  
**8<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30 am.**
- + **Mary Essex** - Her funeral will be held at the Crematorium on Tuesday,  
**16<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30 pm.**
- + **Crocifissa Nania** - Her funeral will be held at St Edward's Church on Friday,  
**19<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am.**

*In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends. Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away.*



## WHY CAN RESOLUTIONS FAIL?



It's a new year and a new beginning. Have you ever noticed that New Year resolutions often have a repentance nature? Resolutions such as 'to drink less' or 'to give up smoking' directly identify behaviours we readily associate with vice. Even those framed in the positive (e.g. 'to get fit') imply a rejection of the corresponding 'negative' behaviour.

Repentance is central to the Gospel message. In the Advent readings we heard from St John the Baptist to "Repent! The Kingdom of God is near!" Jesus took up the theme of repentance in His preaching and ministry, dovetailing healings with the command to 'go and sin no more'.

Inherent to the New Year resolution concept is the idea of becoming a better person. No sane person aspires to drink more or learn how to smoke better as a New Year goal. Yet so many of us fail to create the permanent change in ourselves that we seek. Why is that?

Repentance is good for us. We all know this, yet, strangely, many Catholics no longer see participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as essential to the practice of their faith. Whether we confess or not, might we need a process for making our confession a more transformative experience? How many of us succeed in such a transformation? Is it the same sins we bring to confession next time? Would a plan to move forward be useful, whereby confession could *transform us* by helping us to confront the sin in our lives and root it out?

There's an interesting suggestion by [Fr Jon Meyer \(click here\)](#) in which he advises we use confession to identify *the counterpoint virtue* to the sin we have confessed. So, if we for example criticise someone and thus degrade them, the counter virtues are humility and gratitude. If one is prone to lying and deceit, the counter virtues are honesty and courage. If we took the name of God in vain, the counter action is to praise God and pray for the grace to act upon that virtue in life.

He points out that we sin because we mistakenly believe that the sin will make us happier. We criticise because we hope it will relieve our feelings of frustration or inferiority, or we lie because we hope it will save us from embarrassment or trouble. Yet sin never brings us happiness. Ultimately, it makes things worse for us and feeds the devil. And it separates us from the God who loves us and desires to be one with us.

The next step, according to Fr Jon, is to visualise ourselves acting and living that counter virtue. Look into the future and see that we will be so much happier if we live the virtuous life rather than the sinful one.

Easier said than done, so he advises making a simple, practical plan to start practicing the virtue. For example, make a goal to affirm and appreciate that person we criticised. This process builds a positive attraction to the good and a natural aversion to the sin by allowing us to experience the fruits of the virtuous life.

And when we back slide, as we inevitably will at some point, we repeat the process: confess the sin, receive forgiveness, do the penance, identify the counter virtue, visualise living the virtue, make a plan, and then act.

All personal growth takes persistence but if we don't have a well-formed road map, we can easily be discouraged by setbacks. With this in mind, it is easy to understand why most resolutions fail as they typically lack one or more of these elements. Think about the resolutions you have made... can they be improved by overlaying this road map for change?

(adapted from [SmartLoving](#))

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## SEEKERS OF THE LIGHT



The story of the Magi has been a favourite for generations. Foreign dignitaries came to honour the newly born King of the Jews. For Matthew, however, the story had highly charged political overtones. For during the time of Jesus, the Persian Magi opposed the eastward expanse of the Roman Empire. Through the juxtaposition of political foes, Matthew communicated his theme. Foreigner seekers would recognise the Jewish Messiah but the leadership in Jerusalem would not. This theme foreshadowed the opposition of the leadership against the ministry of Jesus, and its parallel in the time of Matthew: the opposition of the Pharisees to the new Christian communities.

The scene began with the arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem. People then believed the stars and constellations revealed the will of the divine. The night sky took on a spiritual dimension. The connection between the stars and the affairs of humans produced a class of astrologer-sages, wise men who studied the stars. Even the temples of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iran and Iraq), home to the Magi, were built to

observe the night sky. The presence of these stargazing, foreign sages in the Jewish capital caused consternation. Why were these unclean foreigners present? What did they want? [Matthew 2:3]

This question also caused concern for King Herod as foreign dignitaries were visiting a new born King of the Jews - someone so important, His destiny for them was written in the stars. Herod felt threatened that there would be a new king and so the present administration could be declared illegitimate. God's chosen one was here and the old corrupt leadership would be swept away! The Magi and their question represented not only a threat to the king but to the Temple leadership and city fathers, and to Roman occupation. [2:1-2]

In his panic, King Herod consulted the religious leaders, the chief priests and teachers of the Law. He also called the Magi into a private meeting to find out the details of where this new King had been born. Herod's request to follow the Magi and honour the new king was so transparent and dubious, the wise men had no obligation to partake in his shameful actions. [2:7-8, 12] In the end, the Magi did the right and honourable thing and followed their calling. According to ancient protocol, they approached, bowed, and honoured the young king and His mother with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was the international currency. Frankincense was a pricey, imported incense made from the sap of a tree. And myrrh was the sweet-smelling resin of an Arabian scrub that was used for medical uses and for the preparation of a body for burial. Since God had revealed His will in the stars to them, He also warned them of Herod's intent through a dream, another ancient avenue to receive divine will. [2:9-12]

The feast of Epiphany (a day of obligation) celebrates the revelation of Christ to the pagan nations. The Magi came to seek the newly born King, the one who would be a light to the nations. We might reflect that their encounter foreshadowed the evangelisation success that Christianity would have among pagan people who hungered for God's truth.

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## SEMINARIAN RENVER IN THE PARISH



On Monday, we will be welcoming a seminarian, who started his seminary formation this year at the Royal English College in Valladolid in Spain. His name is **Renver** and his family is originally from the Philippines, although they are now living in Luton.

**CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024**



There will be a prayer meeting held at **St Bernadette's, Rothwell**  
on Thursday **18th January at 11am.**  
Everyone is welcome to join and pray for unity amongst all Christian Churches.

***Prayer for Christian Unity***

*Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one Shepherd. Amen.*

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**COFFEE MORNINGS**



The next **Wednesday Coffee Morning** will be run by **The Desborough Community** after 10.00 am Mass on **7th February**.

**COFFEE MORNINGS 2024**

On **6<sup>th</sup> March** - **The Rothwell Community**

On **3<sup>rd</sup> April** - **Legion of Mary**

On **1<sup>st</sup> May** - **SVP**



## A NEW CARD READER



Parishioners regularly ask me about the possibility of donating to the Parish via credit/debit cards. The reason for this is that we carry much less cash on us, and it would be more convenient for some parishioners to support the Parish in this way. To give people this opportunity, we will install a Donation Station with a card reader at St Edward's Church. This is initially on a 3 months trial, to see how helpful and successful it will be. This device will cost the Parish £15 per month to rent. As always, I thank you for your generosity and please feel free to speak to me if you have questions or concerns regarding the security and use of this reader. Once we have a sim card the 'dona' station can be activated and it will stand next to the statue of the Sacred Heart.

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## THE PARISH YOUTH GROUP



If you would like your son or daughter to take part in youth group activities, please email the parish office and request a registration form. The next meeting will be on **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February**.

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## UCM



**The Union of Catholic Mothers** AGM will be held on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 1.30pm in St Edwards Hall. All members are required to attend this important meeting. Anyone interested in joining the UCM is also very welcome.

## CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST - CAFOD



You will be aware of the terrible conflict in Israel and Gaza. It is easy to feel helpless from such a distance. CAFOD have produced three ways we can respond; prayer, donating and sending a message to our Foreign Secretary. Find out more here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

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## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact Fr Gregory. Parents who would like their children to be baptised are invited to attend Baptismal Preparation on the first Monday of the month at **7 pm** at St Edward's Church. The next meeting will be on Monday, **8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

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## A PLACE OF CALM



**Dear Parents of our youngest children**, we realise how difficult it is for you when your children get 'lively' or 'upset'. Therefore, we invite you to take them upstairs to the organ loft, which is above the sacristy. It is a safe place with a triple sound-proof window overlooking the altar. There is a speaker up there, so you will be able to take an active part in the Mass and your children will become calm and comfortable. Please take care on the stone steps.

## PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



If you are planning to get married abroad or at St Edward's Church, you must give us at least six months' notice. This is to ensure that all the preparation that couples are required to do, and the pre-marriage courses are completed along with the necessary paperwork. You are always welcome to approach me after any Mass, so that you can begin making wedding plans.

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## ST EDWARD'S PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP



**The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

**St. Nicholas Owen Catholic Church - Burton Latimer.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809856073037388/>

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## PARISH CALL AND CARE



The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email

[parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number) [parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number)

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## USEFUL LINKS



**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0808 2000 247

**Refuge website** <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

**Kettering Foodbank** 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

**A list of free food outlets in Kettering** (updated March, 2022):

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Kettering-Food-Outlets-Virus-Update-no32.pdf>

**Mary's Meals** <https://youtu.be/llqBIXrVJzw> / **Right to Life** <https://righttolife.org.uk>

**Redundancy Coaching** <http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self-Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic. Please pass the link on to anyone who may find it useful.

**Safe Spaces** We welcome contact from anyone hurt by abuse, whether that be through your experience within the Church or elsewhere. **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

[safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org)

Please have a look at this page from the Northampton Diocese website:

[Northampton Diocese Resources](#) which gives further information and contact details.

**Safe Spaces** is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church. Please see parish noticeboards for further details.

## WEEKLY/MONTHLY DONATIONS



If there are any Parishioners who would like to join the weekly box system / gift aid scheme, then please do let us know by completing a form, available from the porch table and putting it on the collection plate or through the Presbytery letterbox. To those who already donate through the Gift Aid Scheme, please be reminded that if your tax situation has changed or you have moved house, then please let us know.

There are several other ways of donating as follows;

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "**St. Edward's Kettering**" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). You can make a one-off donation or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.
- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.

**Thank you for any help you can give.**

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## **YOUR LEGACY**

Your Legacy - Invest in the future of your parish and our Diocese. Gifts in your Will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information, pick up a bookmark; contact your parish office, alternatively, go to [www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy) or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or [brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org)

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## **DIOCESAN E-NEWSLETTER**

Our diocesan e-news is now published fortnightly.

Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/#signup>

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