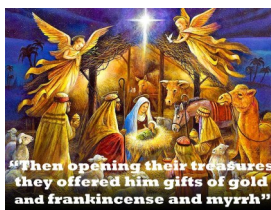
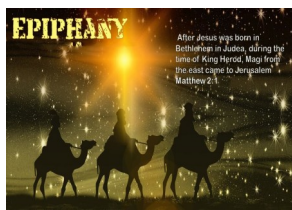


**OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA**  
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**St. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
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**MASS TIMES**

**7th Jan. 2024 - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY - B**

**BRIXHAM:**

Sunday: 10.00am: Sylvia Gilmore RIP (T. Gilmore)  
Monday: 10.00am: **NO MASS**  
Tuesday: 10.00am: Mary Walters RIP  
Wednesday: 10.00am: For the Carroll Family  
Friday: 10.00am: Theresa Novak RIP (M. Novak)  
Saturday: 10.00am: Sr. Annunciata RIP  
Sunday: 10.00am: Kathleen Vidgen RIP (J. Burnard)

**BAPTISMS:** With Prior Appointment  
**WEDDINGS:** Six Months notice.

**DARTMOUTH:**

Saturday: 5.00pm: For a Private Intention  
Thursday: 10.30am: Holy Souls (NDL)  
Saturday: 5.00pm: St. Martin RIP (Sr. P)

**CONFESSIONS:**

**BRIXHAM:** Saturdays: 10.30 - 11.00 am  
**DARTMOUTH:** By Appointment

**ADORATION:** **Brixham:** Every Friday from 9.30 am - 10.00 am. **Dartmouth:** Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 10.30am.

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND:** Please continue to support those who are training to be priests by setting aside £1 week. Oct - Dec. Collection: **Brixham:** £226.00; **Dartmouth** - £15.00. Thanks for your support.

**FOOD BANK:** Please continue to support the needy in our towns. All unperishable items are welcome.

**COFFEE MORNING:** All are invited to the Parish Hall in Brixham for a cup of Coffee after the Sunday Mass.

**OFFERING BY STANDING ORDER:** If all our Parishioners could pay by Standing Order, that would be of great help. It will save a lot of time for the Counters. **Brixham:** Bank - NatWest; Name: Brixham R C Church (*Stella Maris*) A/C No: 04115341; Sort Code: 52-10-18;

**Dartmouth:** Bank: NatWest; Name: Dartmouth R C Church; A/C No: 04517350; Sort Code - 52-30-20.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Your prayers are requested for the Sick of our Parish, especially for those in Hospital & Residential Homes. Molly Hall, Alan Swain, John Smythe, Rosemary Miller, Mary Aylett, Geraldine Osborne, Shala Cripps, Pat Ellery, Ruth Clift, Liz Urand, Pat & Fred Lay and Peter Burr in your prayers.

**SMARTIES:** £233.66 till today. Thanks.

**NEW YEAR PARISH LUNCH** has been booked for Wednesday, 31st January 2024 at the Churston Golf Club. 1 Course - £16; 2 Course - £21; 3 Course - £25. Forms with the Menu are available at the back of the Church. Please fill in and return them as soon as possible.



**BISHOP ELECT:** Canon Christopher Whitehead will be Ordained the 10th Bishop of Plymouth on Thursday, 22nd February at 12noon. Please continue to remember Canon Christopher in your prayers.

**CRIB:** This years Crib Money goes to the Catholic Children's Society of Plymouth. Please be generous.

**MEDITATION:** The word epiphany comes from Greek and it means a 'showing' or 'manifestation'. Who were these "wise men" and where did they come from? In the Greek text they are called 'magoi', which is usually rendered in English as "Magi". Magi were a group or caste of scholars who were associated with the interpretation of dreams, Zoroastrianism, astrology and magic. In later Christian tradition they were called kings ("We three kings of Orient are...") under the influence of Psalm 72:10 ("May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!"), Isaiah 49:7 ("Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves") and Isaiah 60:10 ("Their kings shall minister to you"). We are not told what their names were or how many of them there were. Tradition settled on three individuals, presumably because there were three kinds of gifts. And they were also given names - Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior. We are told, too, that they came "from the east". This could be Persia, Eastern Syria or Arabia - or indeed any distant place. Then there is talk of following a star. The star is rather to be seen as a symbol - a light representing Jesus as the Light of the whole world. As part of that homage they offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gold came to symbolise the kingship of Christ, the incense his divine nature, and the myrrh his redemptive suffering and death. They also came to signify virtue, prayer and suffering. All in all, today's feast is telling us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. From his point of view, we all are equally his beloved children.

**FEAST DAYS:** Monday, 8th - **Baptism of the Lord;**

Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3) - of which Jesus had no need. However, in this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his bloody death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant (Isaiah 53). He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins.

