



1. **We wish you all a very Happy New Year** – may it be full of blessings for you and your families.
2. This coming **Thursday, 6th January, is the Solemnity of the Epiphany**, which recalls the coming of the Wise Men to Bethlehem (as pictured above). As this is, customarily, a Holyday of Obligation, we will have 3 Masses that day – at 6.45 am, 9.30 am and 8.00 pm.
3. **The ‘Backpack’ program builds human and spiritual development.** It has been run in schools, parishes, youth groups, and used with addiction recovery. The formation provided is described by participants as a life-changing. The lessons offer skills in emotional self-regulation, with practical tools for mind and body calming. People flourish as they develop increased self-awareness and learn to instil boundaries for healthier relationships. Contemplative prayer cultivates their choice to make their relationship with God both private and personal. A virtue-based approach to life builds resilience and peace, which are more essential than ever before. **The Backpack program for adults is available from January in our parish.** 12 sessions of 1h30 on Thursday in the Plunket room, from 12 to 1:30 pm, 13th January to 28th April. Lunch and the backpack book are included. Price is £140. Contact Laetbery@yahoo.fr. You can also do the course online on
4. **School Admission forms: FINAL REMINDER.** You should drop off your forms – together with any accompanying documentation – in the post box at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square. Once Father Richard has signed them, you will be contacted to collect them – we do not forward them to the schools on your behalf. If he has any questions Father Richard will contact you directly. Please note, since Mass attendance has obviously been disrupted by the pandemic, forms will be signed on the basis of Mass attendance prior to the pandemic. If you have moved to the parish in recent months, you may wish to contact your previous parish for supporting evidence. Some schools ask for a ‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’ to be signed. These must be downloaded from the internet, by the parents of the applicant, and you must fill in your own details, leaving father Richard to sign the document – the Parish

Office does NOT supply these certificates. **Please submit any remaining forms as soon as possible.**

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni