

# AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 8.1.2012

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage." When Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all chief priests and scribes of the people and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," they told him "for this is what the prophet wrote: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel. "

(Matthew 2:1-6)

## MASS TIMES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

Sun.	8 January	<b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	10.00
Mon.	9 January	<b>Feast: Baptism of the Lord</b>	12:35
Tues.	10 January	<b>Feria</b>	12:35
Weds	11 January	<b>Feria</b>	12:35
Thurs	12 January	<b>Feast: St. Benet Biscop</b>	<b>*12:00</b>
Fri.	13 January	<b>Feria</b>	12:35
Sat	14 January	<b>Feria</b>	12:35

## TRAVELLERS' JOY



Matthew's Gospel account of the anonymous *magi*, who leave familiar surroundings to travel by the light of a star, completes his Nativity narrative with a look at the wider impact of Jesus' birth upon the Gentiles world – upon *us*. John the Baptist later steps aside when the object of his preaching – the Messiah – finally emerges. Similarly, the pagan Magi have sought and found the object of their quest. They now face a long journey home, and a total re-ordering of their mental and spiritual landscape. It is a joyful experience – but carries a cost. God's reign was never going to find instant acceptance = from Herod or others. The Magi's challenge is also ours.

*We returned to our places,  
these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in  
the old dispensation,  
with an alien people clutching  
their gods.  
I should be  
glad of another death.*  
(T.S. Eliot)

## AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

### OF WORDS AND IMAGES

Traditionally, at Ampleforth, the Christmas decorations remained up until the Feast of St. Benet Biscop. This seems fitting when we consider the debt we all owe to this Saxon abbot whose vision of artistic excellence in God's service did so much to enrich worship, and study. Benet (d. 690) not only found French masons for his Romanesque stone monastery of St. Peter's in Wearmouth, but insisted on glazed windows – a craft then new to England.



Benet also set-up an excellent library from books acquired in Rome – along with images of the saints. His six journeys to Rome also brought the Roman tradition of chant and liturgical worship to Wearmouth and its twin monastery of Jarrow. However, all this activity was inspired by far more than mere aestheticism. Benet's main concern was *missionary* – teaching those who *could* read by means of the written word – and the illiterate by a 'visual' Gospel' which opened the treasures of faith to those who would otherwise have been excluded. In terms of 'differentiated learning' Benet Biscop was clearly ahead of his time. ...



The latest group of Chileans from the Manquehue Movement who will work in the College this term joined the monastic Community after supper on January 5, for introductions and a Christmastide celebration. Once a week they will be able to visit monastic sites elsewhere, including Lastingham and Durham. In mid-term they go to Holy Island and Jarrow, and fly home on March 5.

(Back row: L-R) Salvador Correa, Felipe Moreno, Francisco Ovalle, Javier Irrarazaval Francisco Perez, Juan Pablo Del Pino.

(Front:) Rodrigo Vidal, Pedro Pablo Bordachar

### WEEKDAY MONASTIC OFFICE IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

6.00 a.m. Matins

7.30 a.m. Lauds

8.45 a.m. Little Hour

6.00 p.m. Vespers

8:15 p.m. Compline