

EPIPHANY

The Journey of the Wise Men



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord Jesus,
The wise men gave you
gold; they knew
you were a king.

The wise men gave you
incense; they knew
you were God.

The wise men gave you
myrrh; they knew
you would die.

We give you ourselves.
We know you love us.

The wise men followed the
light of a star to find you
in Bethlehem. Help us to
follow your light so that we
can live as children of God.

Amen.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Matthew 2: 1-12

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 King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the 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 the least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Epiphany

(e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation; a poignant, sudden, profound understanding.

THE GIFTS OF THE THREE WISE MEN



Gold- This was a wealth suitable for any king.

Frankincense- This was a valuable resin that people had learnt to extract from the bark of a tree. When burnt, this gum gave off a sweet smell, and was used by the Jews in worship.

Myrrh- This was another resin, sweet-smelling and expensive. It was known to relieve pain, and was used when preparing a body for burial.

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

You might follow people on Instagram or Twitter. But the Feast of the Epiphany encourages us to follow the star, just as the wise men did. They knew the star would lead them to Jesus. In your form make, design, create a star for your form. Display it somewhere you will see it each morning.

This week have a think about messages God gives us to help us in life.

This week add quotes from the bible, to your star, that you think are encouraging and helpful so that you can live lives that follow the star to Jesus.



ST BERNADETTE'S FEAST DAY



It's hard to tell the truth sometimes. But it's especially hard when no one else sees things quite the way you do. Maybe St Bernadette's story will help you out. She was just a young girl who saw something amazing and told the truth about it. Hardly anyone believed her at first, and people even made life difficult for her because of what she said she saw. But Bernadette never backed down, and the truth she told has helped millions of people, even people who live today.



Head over to the staff shared area to find out more about St Bernadette. We celebrate St Bernadette with Mass on Tuesday.

THE GIFTS WE BRING

The wise men gave gifts to Jesus on the first Christmas.

If you were going to visit the baby Jesus, what gift would you give him? Why?

Think of the best gift you ever received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Many people around the world give gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany instead of giving gifts on Christmas Day. We too are called this season to offer our gifts to Jesus. Gifts are not just things. We can give actions and words that show our love for God and for other people.

What gift can you give Jesus that shows your love for God and others?

Epiphany is the season that reveals the fullness of Jesus Christ who comes to make God known to all people.

How can you, through your words and actions, make God known to others?