

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.



EPIPHANY MASS

On Friday we will celebrate together the Feast of the Epiphany with Mass at Lunchtime. We are lucky enough to be joined by Bishop Tom who will be celebrating the Mass with us.

Mass will begin at 12:40pm in the Arts Theatre and those who attend will have an extended lunchtime so they are able to enjoy their lunch after Mass.

We look forward to welcoming you and Bishop Tom to this special feast day mass.

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.



POPE EMERITUS, BENEDICT XVI MAY HE REST IN PEACE

The death of Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI was announced on 31st December 2022. Pope Benedict was pope between 2005 and 2013 and was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He visited the UK in 2010 and his words to young people during that visit encouraged many to deepen their faith and relationship with God. We pray today for Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI that he will be welcomed home to heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

You might follow people on TikTok, 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.

Do the people (the stars) that you follow lead you to Jesus? Do they encourage you to live good lives? Maybe at the start of this new year it is a good chance to unfollow anyone who doesn't help you to live a good and happy life. Who could you follow instead to help you live a better life during 2023 and into the future?

Why not give our chaplaincy instagram a follow. We hope that the content shared on there will encourage you all to get to know Jesus better and to live good, happy and holy lives.

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?

