

ENTRANCE ANTIphon (or a hymn) Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 71)

ANTIPHON: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

RESPONSE: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

LECTOR: O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

LECTOR: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

LECTOR: The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

LECTOR: For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIphon (or a hymn) We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT WEEK (Baptism of the Lord Year A) Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7; Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

*Importance
of Prayer*

Prayer is Life

The Majellan Media podcast series, Prayer is Life, is aimed at providing a better understanding of the importance of prayer. The podcasts are led by Redemptorist priest David Hore CSsR. Details at: majellan.media/prayer-is-life-podcast/



*Wise counsel
for these times*



4 January 2026 The Epiphany, Year A

When we read the Scriptures, as with all great literature, it is often helpful to learn to read between the lines. As we celebrate the great Feast of the Epiphany, we have a perfect illustration of why this is important.

In providing us with the readings for this week, the Church is concerned that we see the connections and recognise the significance of the visit of the 'wise men' is more important than the event itself. The way is prepared by the Prophet Isaiah, who foresees 'the glory of the Lord' breaking through the darkness that covers the earth. Moreover, he also sees that this will attract the nations of the world, and gifts of gold and frankincense will be among those loaded onto their camels.

At the same time our attention is drawn by Paul to the fact he has been specially chosen to assure the world that God's promise, revealed in the gospel of Christ Jesus, is not just for his own Jewish people but for everyone. Matthew too was at pains to remind his readers that Christ's salvation was not just for his own countrymen and women, but for all men and women of all time.

So, while Luke's infancy narrative concentrates on the actual birth of Christ in Bethlehem and the visit of the local shepherds, Matthew moves the story forward and links it with that prophetic vision of Isaiah, noted above. Bethlehem is still centre stage, but there is no mention of a stable: now, we are told, Jesus and Mary are in a house.

The wise men were able to read the signs and trusted in God's guidance. Their gifts are truly symbolic. The gold speaks to us of the new Kingdom of reconciliation, peace and love that is to be established in our hearts. The myrrh reminds us that Christ's body will be anointed after his death. He will literally love us to death and as a result break the bonds of sin and death once and for all. The frankincense points us to the wonder of this child, who is truly the Son of God.

As we ponder the meaning of this feast, we will do well to remember the call of the Second Vatican Council 'to read the signs of the times.' Our world needs wise men and women who can discern the will of God and know how and when to respond to the challenges of our troubled times. The more conscious we become of our dignity as adopted brothers and sisters of the Lord and therefore with him, sons and daughters of the Father, the more likely we are to reach out in compassion to our neighbour and help build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The wise men in the story epitomised the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They had wisdom, knowledge and understanding. They made wise judgments and had the courage to make their pilgrimage. Filled with awe in the presence of God, they worshipped him. We are called to do the same.

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