

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Epiphany of the Lord
8 January 2023 - Year A

"We have come from the East to worship the King."

Something to Think About

Do you think Mary would have been surprised by the wise men who arrived from far away with expensive gifts for her son? Why did the wise men bring such special gifts for the new baby?

The Story

Soon after Jesus was born, some wise men noticed a bright star in the sky. They knew it was an important sign that a new king had been born. They went to King Herod, but of course Jesus was not at the palace. King Herod was angry to hear that another king had been born. He wanted to be the only king. The wise men followed the star and travelled for a long time. They knew the star would lead them to Jesus. When they found the place where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were staying, they gave Jesus their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and they worshipped him. God warned the wise men not to tell Herod where Jesus was, so they went home a different way.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew **2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they kneeled down and worshipped him.

They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video. [Three Wise Men](#)



Group Discussion

Although Jesus is the King of the Universe, he was not born in a palace. Instead, he was born in a humble stable amongst the animals, and he lived a simple life with Mary and Joseph. The wise men recognised how special Jesus was, so they brought him expensive spices from far away to show that they honoured him.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for our leaders, that they will work for justice and peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for the poor and the homeless. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that our families may live in harmony and love. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for people who are travelling on long journeys. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for generous hearts that share our gifts with others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Just like the bright star that led the
wise men to you, you are light for
us, shining your love in our lives.
Help us to follow you always.
Amen.

Group Activity

The Wise Kings Who Visited Jesus

For each child you will need: three circles cut from beige or brown paper, three crown shapes, triangle shapes cut from craft paper or left-over Christmas wrapping paper, gold star stickers, A4 pieces of construction paper, glue stick, scissors, coloured markers.

- 1) Invite children to choose three circles for the faces of their wise men, three crown shapes, and three coloured triangles for their robes. (Older children could cut the triangles themselves from scraps of coloured wrapping paper.)
- 2) Children glue shapes onto the construction paper to make the three kings.
- 3) Coloured markers can be used to add a face to each of the kings.
- 4) Finally, children can be encouraged to draw a big star in the sky, and maybe decorate the rest of the sky with smaller star stickers.





TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR FAMILY.
PRINT A COPY AND PASTE IT INTO THE FRAME.
WRITE THE NAMES OF EACH PERSON UNDER IT.
PUT IT ON THE FRIDGE AS A BLESSING FOR 2020.

OUR **FAMILY**


