

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the feast of the Epiphany. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

The feast of the Epiphany falls on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January but can be celebrated on a Sunday if that enables it to be given greater significance. We are quite late in celebrating it this year, but with the story telling that the wise men find Jesus "on entering the house" it is perhaps a good way to bring light into our homes as we face this new period of restrictions and hold our nation in our prayers

First let's bring into the light all that burdens us and obscures the light of God's love from us, holding out to God for healing and forgiveness our sins and failings:

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord have mercy

May your ways be known on earth, your saving power among the nations, Christ have mercy

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations, Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

Let us pray:

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12  
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Sermon : see additional attachment

The wise men knelt before our Saviour.

Let us also worship him with great joy,  
and make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son:  
grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords:  
grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of  
Nazareth:

protect in your mercy our neighbours and families,  
together with the whole community of which we are part.

We hold out to you for healing and comfort our nation and  
world, everyone who is suffering or afraid in this time of  
pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor:  
show your love for the poor and powerless,  
and strengthen all those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh:

accept the gifts we bring,  
and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you:

give to all the faithful departed  
the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love and we gather our prayers in the words Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and

brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of  
darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**