

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Response: **“All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord”** (Ps.71:11)

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 71:2,7-8,10-13*

Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6*

Gospel: *Matthew 2:1-12*

What is the Epiphany? A divine revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. Hebrew for ‘Epiphany’ is גּוֹלָה שְׁכִינָה, *Golah Shekinah*, revealing the Presence of God to the world.

Christ to the three wise men from the east, is Christ showing himself to the gentiles. **“All nations shall fall prostrate before you”** (Ps.71.11), coming into the Presence of the Lord.

In Christ you will **“grow radiant, your heart will rejoice”** (Is.60:4). For **“your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising upon you”** (Is.60:1).

The Christian should be **“overjoyed”** like the kings **“on seeing the star”** (Matt.2:11) and follow it to the full light with **“heart throbbing and full”** (Is.60:4).

Paul sees such blessings as **“graces of God bestowed on me for your sake”** (Eph.3:2).

In living our call to discipleship how do we use our gifts in service of the Lord, as did the three wise men? They **“offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh”** (Matt.2:12).

The epiphany begins with the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Incarnation. It continues in the mystery of his presence as the Risen Lord in our lives today.

The Lord reveals himself to us today in his **Word**. Are our hearts burning when we hear it? How much do we follow the Bible as our guiding star in the desert of this life? (Matt.2:11).

Jesus is with us always, Emmanuel. Are you with him? The Feast of the Epiphany **celebrates** how he first came and is recognized as our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

How do we find and approach Him? In **Word, Sacrament** and full **Tradition** of the Church.

At Christmas we received the gift of God *i.e.* His Son. What is our gift to God? This week bring someone to the Lord. And may 2010 be a year of deeper relationship with Christ and become his apostle.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Look at the crib or a picture of it. **Which are the wise men? Did they come before or after the shepherds? What is the significance of the local shepherds? What is the significance of the foreign wise men?**

What are the wise men (three kings) doing? They are offering their gifts?

Why did they come and kneel and offer their gifts? Who is Jesus?

Epiphany is the time to offer God something. **What are our New Year resolutions?**

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

My Present Action: **What does Epiphany, God’s revelation, mean to you?**

Your Story and Vision: **Has it made any difference to your life and those around you?**

Church's Story: Explain revelation according to teachings of the Church

Church's Story and Your Story: *How much have you encountered revelation in the Church, divine encounters with the Lord?*

Your Vision and Church's Vision: Seek ways of knowing the Lord and his Church better.
What gifts have you to share with him and with your neighbour? Are you helping to bring others to him?

RCIA

We have seen a great light and we must show the light to the world. We have to be on fire and burning with zeal. This can grow through experiences of the Lord in Word and Sacrament.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

When on the Bluff, in Durban, we went as a group to share a Christmas meal with some poor squatters living at Bayhead. They were overjoyed with our presents and presence. They welcomed us as a Godsend. We rejoiced that we could be with and serve the Lord in his people, a small gift compared to what he has done for us.

LITTLE ANGELINA

Angelina was mystified over the word 'Magi', in the Gospel. Her father explained how the common word 'magic' comes from 'magi,' interpreted as 'wise men.' He corrected her pronunciation to be 'maji', not 'maggie'. Maggie was a name Angelina knew well. It was her great aunt, who created tensions in the family, not by any means of magic but just being cantankerous. Visits from such a person as Maggie, not Magi, could dampen the spirit of Christmas. However, that was the adults' problem, not Angelina's. In fact, in the spirit of the magi she was happy to give Maggie a Christmas present.

IMPORTANT WORD: *Επιφάνια* (Epiphania), Manifestation of God

The Greek word *Επιφάνια*, *Epiphania* refers to the manifestation of God. Hebrew describes it as *גלה שכנה*, *Galah Shekinah*, which means 'revealing the presence of God.' In the present context, it is the revelation of Jesus to the gentiles. The gentiles are represented by the *magi*, also known as wise men or kings.

Traditionally, the Epiphany is a triptych, three important scenes of manifestations of Jesus, *Jeshuah*, the Son of God, each celebrated on different Sundays. The first is the magi coming to Jesus. The second is the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the third is Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. These are insights into the revelation of the Promised Messiah.

Watchword: "They did him homage. Then opening their treasures, offered him gifts" (Mt.2:11)

Hebrew: *וישתחוּ לו ויפתחו את-אוצרותם ויקריבו לו מנחה*

Weyishtaxawu - lo wayiftexu 'eth - 'otsrotem wayaqrivu lo minxah.

Greek: *Προσεκυνησαν αυτω και ανοιξαντες τους θησαυρους αυτον προσηνεγκαν αυτω δωρα*
Prosekunesan auto kai anoiksantes tous thesaurus auton prosenenkov auton dora.

Latin: *Adoraverunt eum; et apertis thesauris suis, obtulerunt ei munera.*

Portuguese: *O adoraram; e, abrindo os seus tesouros, lhe ofertaram dadas.*

Spanish: *Lo adoraron; y abriendo sus tesoros, le ofrecieron presentes.*

French: *Et adorerent l'enfant; puis ils ouvrirent leurs bagages et lui offrirent des cadeaux.*

German: *Und beteten es an und taten ihre Schätze auf und schenkten.*

Afrikaans: *En aan Hom hulde bewys. Daarna het hulle hulle reissakke oopgemaak en vir Hom geskenke uitgehaal.*

Zulu: *Zakhuleka kuye zavula amagugu azo zethula iziphopho kuye.*

Xhosa: *Zaqubuda, zamnqula; zaza zathi, zivule iingxowa zazo, zanikela kuye ngeziphopho.*

Sotho: *Mme ba kgumamela ngwana, ba nto bula mathole a bone, ba mo nyehella ka dimpho.*

Irish: *D'umhlaíodar go talamh ag deanamh omois do. Agus d'oscail said a gcisti agus d'ofraladar tabhartais do.*