

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR for 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

**HYMN: Lead kindly light / We three Kings or any suitable hymn.**

**INTRODUCTION**

**LEADER:** We are today on the 11th day of Christmas. The Lord made known himself and revealed his humble glory as the Prince of Peace to the shepherds of the land. We also know of the Magi who made the long and difficult journey to Bethlehem to pay homage to a newborn Jewish child.

We shall be celebrating the feast of the epiphany on Sunday. For us it is another opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of the Birth of Christ - God Incarnate - and how he is manifested in our lives.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** (Silence for at least 2 mins)

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 (Silence 5 mins)

**REFLECTION:**

1. The Magi cared to understand and appreciate the message of the child in swaddling clothes – the Emmanuel.

Have we made an effort like the Magi to be present at the manger with things more valuable - namely, time, commitment and talents.

**Keep silence**

2. Spiritual gifts abound in our life. Are we willing to share them with others and manifest Jesus to others?

**Keep silence**

**HYMN: Be thou my vision / make me a channel of your peace or any suitable hymn**

**LEADER:** The three wise men were the first non-Jews to whom was revealed the Saviour of the world - opening the Door of salvation to all who come to believe in Christ with the light of a determined faith.

Let us share with prayers confident of His plans for the redemption of all men.

**Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. That the Church led by the Pope may shine forth like a radiant star that guides the flock to experience the warm friendship of the Holy Trinity. For this we pray, ...
2. That we may be the star guiding non-believers to respect our faith as we learn to recognize Christ in the least of our brethren. For this we pray, ...
3. That we may see a reflection of ourselves in the three wise men who trusted in the extra-ordinary star and never looked back at their decision. For this we pray, ...
4. That Christ may be made manifest - as we comfort those in physical and mental pain as well as those who are burdened by doubt and insecurity. For this we pray,

**LEADER:** Almighty and ever generous Father, we thank You for choosing us to manifest Your love and mercy. Continue to manifest the presence of Your Son to us and grant us the courage to submit willingly to Your plans. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BENEDICTION FOLLOWS**

**DIVINE PRAISES**

**CONCLUDING HYMN: Joy to the world or any suitable hymn**

*Written by  
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