

INTRODUCTION:

The Liturgy of the Word today reminds us that while the possession of the truth is important; what matters is whether we are prepared to walk in the light of the truth we possess. Those who claimed to have the truth because they possessed the Sacred Scriptures and were the chosen people, failed to walk in its light and continued to remain in darkness. It was those who recognised the divine light and followed it who eventually arrived at the truth. The readings are proof that when we leave our familiar and safe surroundings and let our life's journey be guided by the light of our faith, our lives will no longer be the same.

READINGS:

First Reading:	Isaiah 60: 1-6
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Second Reading:	Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
Gospel:	Mathew 2: 1-12

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

CELEBRANT:

We come before the Lord, asking that He shed His light and illumine our paths that we may see and hear clearly, and choose wisely, the path we wish to journey. Our response is: ***Hear our prayer, O Lord.***

For the Ministers of the Church and all those who teach the Catholic faith – that they may constantly seek to open the minds and hearts of the people to discover the light of truth in the Sacred Scriptures.... *(Brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For all those in governance and positions of authority – that they may let their decisions and policies for the welfare of their citizens always be guided by divine wisdom. *(Brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For those who may have lost their faith and are groping in the darkness of doubt – that they may discover the divine light of truth and be renewed in hope...*(Brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For all of us Christians – that guided by the light of the Sacred Scriptures, our lives may bear witness to the Good News of our Lord ... *(Brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For our personal intentions and for those who have asked us to pray for them, we pray in silence ... *(Longer silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord. **R/**

CELEBRANT: Lord, our God, listen to our prayer and help us to recognise Your presence guiding us at every moment, that we may always walk in Your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord ... Amen.