



05 January 2025
The Epiphany of the Lord



INTRODUCTION:

In a world where faith is often used to exclude and exploit, and with the tough conflicts and divisions across our planet, the Epiphany message is a timely word. The themes of justice and inclusivity are particularly appropriate, offering the possibility of links between the shepherds (from the Christmas season) and the magi (this week). Either way, the scandalous truth that we must face in this celebration is that the light of God's glory shines on all people and through all people – if we only have eyes to see it!

READINGS:

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: On this Feast of the Epiphany, when the light of Christ was revealed to all the nations of the world, we turn to God our Father, confident that he will hear and answer our prayers:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the whole Church, that all who follow Jesus will continue to lead others to the light of Christ (**pause**), we pray to the Lord...

For peace on earth, that the peace which Christ brings will become a reality for all nations (**pause**), we pray to the Lord...

For all who are seeking meaning and purpose in their lives that, at the end of their searching, they will come to recognise Christ as the source of wisdom and light in the world (**pause**), we pray to the Lord...

For our parish, that it will be a strong community, built on love, and a powerful witness to the presence of God (**pause**), we pray to the Lord...

For all who are sick or suffering, neglected or bereaved, that the light of Christ will lead them out of darkness (**pause**), we pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Father of light, today you reveal to people of faith your Word made flesh. Your light is strong, your love is sure. Draw us beyond the limits of this world into your eternal life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.