



Catholic Parish of King's Lynn

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5HQ

Holy Family Church

Field Lane, Gaywood, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 4AY

DEACON SHAUN MORRISON'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday, January 07, 2024



Dear Friends,
Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.
"All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord"

The link for the live stream of the 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's is:

https://www.youtube.com/live/bxuu99K9meA?si=L4zbpo5yYVwC_uNc

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

CCC 528 -The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

A little story for you:

When I was in M & S before Christmas looking for inspiration, I overheard a conversation between a young couple. They were looking at scented shower gels and I

heard the young man say if myrrh and frankincense was good enough for Jesus it is good enough for your mother! It made me chuckle!

I recently read in one of my CTS booklets the following which I found useful in my preparations for Epiphany:

Let us offer to Jesus the gold of our love for one another and share it with all in need.

Let us offer the frankincense of our faith that we acknowledge Jesus to be God with us.

Let us offer myrrh signifying our willingness to die to sin and be buried with him to rise to eternal life.

From the Office of Readings for The Epiphany of the Lord:

A reading from the sermons of Pope St. Leo the Great

The Lord has made known his salvation throughout the whole world

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: *the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* He spoke of them to the Lord: *The*

Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: *All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.*

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsory

- ℟. The prophets foretold the coming of the Saviour, the angels adored him when he came; today is the great day on which he was made visible.* The Magi rejoiced when they saw his star, and brought him gifts.
- ℣. A holy day has shone upon us: come, you peoples, and worship the Lord.* The Magi rejoiced when they saw his star, and brought him gifts.

Monday 8th January is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



From the Office of Readings for the Feast:

A reading from the Orations of St. Gregory Nazianzen

The Baptism of Christ.

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptised; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptising when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the

Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: I ought to be baptised by you. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. I ought to be baptised by you: we should also add, "and for you," for John is to be baptised in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens, like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honour to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honour to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendour, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsory

- ℟. Today the heavens are opened, the waters of the sea are made sweet, earth is glad, the mountains and hills rejoice,* because Christ is baptized in the Jordan by John.
- ℣. Why is it, sea, that you fled, that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?* Because Christ is baptised in the Jordan by John.

The link to our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V03017usRZiKoTlrwBAKq>

And the link to our Parish Website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

God bless

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison
