

The Epiphany of the Lord

2nd January 2022

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for solemnity)

Place a cross, bible, and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, we hear that the wise men followed the star to visit Jesus.

Opening prayer:

Lord God, let us remember that at Christmas you gave us the greatest gift, the gift of your only Son Jesus.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together

The Story of Christmas (Jesus and the Wise Men) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhngROCM>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how the wise men knew about the king of the Jews...

I wonder why King Herod was worried about baby Jesus...

I wonder why King Herod secretly called the wise men to find the child...

I wonder what made them so excited to see the star...

I wonder what the wise men did when they got back home...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkJGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders will lead others with hope and gladness.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for all who have journeyed far from their homes. That they will find a place of welcome and comfort.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that all the members of our Church will find peace and promise in our Lord Jesus.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for our world, especially for all those people who have lost their way, that they will find joy and peace.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: We Three Kings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0BJonwPCds> (4:30min)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **Colouring In**

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/three-kings-visit-baby-jesus-adoration-of-the-magi>

- **I See God in That (game)**

Play the game (find instructions in the link below) to explore how we can find God in the most unlikely of places! <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/magi-matthew-2-play/>

- **Sunday Connection**

Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special?...

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/epiphany-of-the-lord-sunday-connection/>