

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us...Amen.

## THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING *Isaiah 60: 1 - 6*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you,



and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps.71:1-2.7-8.10-13*

**R. All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **[R]**
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **[R]**
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **[R]**
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **[R]**

### SECOND READING *Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6*

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12*

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew*  
After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'



# focus on sunday

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7th January 2024

Today we come to honour the infant Jesus, we come to worship and praise him for his wonders and to offer him our thanksgiving, which is the Eucharist.



Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

*All bow for following two lines:*  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**



We know little about them, not even their names, though we have given them names. The star brought them into unknown territory and to an unknown king..... They are sort of models of pilgrimage. They set out to follow their dream in life and find their king.

Many a normal life-dream is a huge gift to others. At the end of life a mother said, look out for each other. That her family would speak, care and love each other was her dream, not 'I wish I kept my kitchen tidier'!

Our dreams can be a good and loving marriage, a caring family, a priesthood bringing life to people, teachers really hoping to do good for the pupils, a missionary hoping to care for the poor and forgotten in a strange land. A dream to make our country a better place for the poor; to face illness and death well, to work for lasting peace.

'Trust your dreams for in them are the seeds of eternity', wrote Kahil Gibran (The Prophet). The Magi followed the integrity of their hopes and dreams and what they discovered lasted into eternity. Their guide was the star of God. We have our star too, shared with others, but always guiding us, often into new and exciting ways in our life. Together we are the guided and the guides.

May we be grateful for guides on our path and be, as best we can, wise guides to others. End with a Hail Mary, uniting ourselves with the 'silent dreams' of Mary for her son.

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