



# Sunday Readings - Epiphany

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

60:1-6

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 now 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/. cf.v.11*

**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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

3: 2-3, 5-6

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 Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

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

## GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.'*

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.*



# The Epiphany of the Lord - 7th January 2018

*the word of god*

*saint of the week*

**“We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.”**

The Epiphany of Jesus, his revelation to the world, was accompanied by the offering of three gifts, each of which symbolized a different aspect of the saviour who is both human and divine.

Frankincense, used to make sweetly fragrant incense, is offered in worship to Jesus, the Son of God, the eternal Word of the Father who is adored with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Gold is offered to Jesus the King of the human race, the summit of creation.

Myrrh, which is used for embalming and in making incense, is offered to the Saviour of the world who suffered and died for the salvation of all.

Epiphany means ‘manifestation’. Jesus perfected revelation by manifesting himself: through his words and deeds, his signs and wonders, but especially through his death and glorious resurrection from the dead and the final sending of the Spirit of truth.

Today’s feast celebrates the whole working out of the Incarnation in subsequent history, the abiding presence of the God made man among his brothers and sisters.



**Tuesday 9 January 2018**

**St Adrian of Canterbury  
(d. 710)**

Feeling called to the monastic life, Adrian left his native North Africa and joined the Benedictines in Italy. Renowned for his scholarship and holiness, he was elected abbot of his monastery and later nominated archbishop of Canterbury. Out of humility he declined the appointment to archbishop, but volunteered to go to England as a missionary. He endured various trials and even imprisonment on his journey to Canterbury, since he was taken for a spy. Once in England, he was appointed abbot of the monastery of S s Peter and Paul where he lived for 39 years, actively involved in preaching and education. He died in 710.

*prayer of the week*



**A Prayer for Epiphany**

O God  
Who by a star  
guided the wise men to the worship of your  
Son  
we pray you to lead to yourself  
the wise and great of every land  
that unto you every knee may bow,  
and every thought be brought into captivity  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.