

EPIPHANY

We had the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We had the feast of the Holy Family.

We had the feast of Mary the Mother God.

Today we are privileged to have an important solemnity,

The Manifestation of Jesus to the World.

The Gospel talks of three strangers from the East. Who they were we don't know, where they came from we don't know, where they went after seeing and meeting Christ we don't know. Where the East was we don't know either. They are depicted as ***Kings, Magi, wise men, and even Rich men***. In spite of being unidentified they seem to be well connected, well-known, important personalities. That is why they sought direction from King Herod. Some remote sources classified them as **astrologers** who were well versed with **space, celestial beings, and stars**. They were guided by one of the stars which led them to where the Baby Jesus was. They were guided from that unknown city in the unknown East to Known Jerusalem and known Bethlehem. They travelled back with the knowledge of Christ who was not known in these unknown lands. So Jesus was known through these great men. The light led them to Christ, that light will always led us to Him. Darkness will always take us away from Christ. We lose the star whenever we sin just as the star disappeared in Herod's court and resurfaced when the Magi left the Court. The light gathered the Magi, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus together. It is a sign of unity. It is a means of revealing Jesus to the world.

The Magi encountered difficulties, dangers, and challenges in seeking Jesus. On our journey in search of Jesus we too will face such situations but we are called to persevere like them, consult, and look forward to continue on our journey of faith.

We will be attracted by **Bright Ideas, Visions, and Hope** like the Star, but we should realize the fact that the star gets **dim and will disappear**. **Let's not lose our faith even** if we face these challenges on our faith journey. **Difficulties, hardships, disappointments, challenges, scandals, strong church teaching, should not put us off**. We must be strong and single-minded in following Christ like the Magi. Seeing Christ they offered him the very best they were carrying.

What are you going to offer Christ this year? We must open our treasures of **Love, Care, and Goodness**. Meeting Christ they changed their direction, are we not called to change the direction of our lives after encountering Christ in communion and the other sacraments? **A new mentality, different perspective, and approach** to our vocation are required.

May Jesus lead us to new heights in our faith this year.