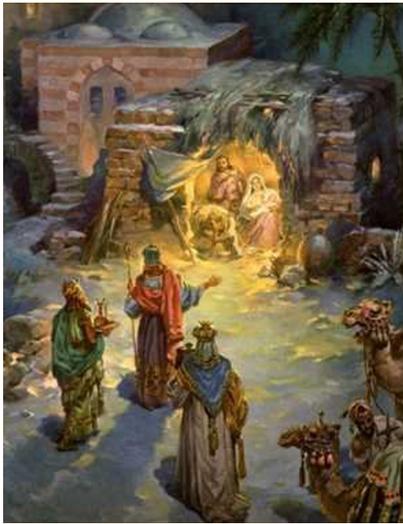


The Parish Clergy:
The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate
Fr. Andrew Stevens, M.A., S.S.C.,
Regional Dean For Southwark Forward in Faith
S. Nicholas Vicarage, 64, Purrett Rd., Plumstead,
London. SE18 1JP
Tel. 020-8854 0461 Facsimile 020-8265 5065
e-mail parishpriest@saintricholasplumstead.org
Web site: www.saintricholasplumstead.org
The Reverend the Hon. Curate Fr. Charles Heard
The Churchwardens:
Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mr Alex Davies
The Churchwardens Emeriti
Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud



In western Christian tradition, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day (Span: el Dia de los Tres Reyes, la Fiesta de Reyes, or el Dia de los Reyes Magos; Dutch: Driekoningendag). Because of differences in church calendars, mainly between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Catholic and Protestant traditions, both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past. Today, most of the Eastern Orthodox traditions follow the western church calendar. The exceptions are some Greek Orthodox Churches and related traditions (for example, Russian and Serbian Orthodox) that still follow the older calendar and celebrate Epiphany as the Theophany on January 19th.

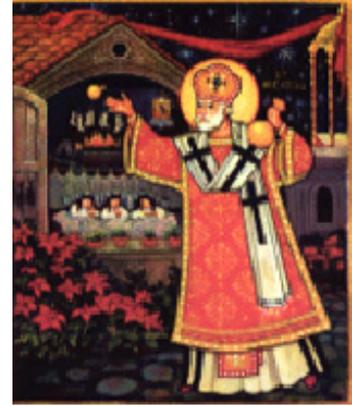
Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gathered here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

THE PARISH AND ANCIENT CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS, PLUMSTEAD

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement



Ramp available for access

A Forward in Faith parish under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham, during the vacancy in See The Right Reverend Peter Wheatley, we are a Eucharistic community who is worshipping in the present, upon the Apostolic Truths of the past, in the hope of finding our future salvation in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

The Mass is offered daily

Sunday	8:00am
	11:00am
Monday	8:00pm
Tuesday	7:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	12:00pm
Saturday	10:00am



Exposition of the BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

Confessions:

Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm, Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.



Please turn off all mobile 'phones

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME

now read on . . .

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Not much thought is given to what the reaction of Joseph and Mary was when the wise men appeared to bow down before the young saviour. Were they stunned? Were they baffled? Or were they waiting for their esteemed guests to arrive after a long journey?

This event should have come as no surprise for those who could see the truth of the Christ-child. After all, this morning's passage from Isaiah makes it quite clear that gentiles would come to bow down and worship the Messiah.

"The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." None of this had been intended as a surprise for God's faithful people.

The arrival of these gentiles, which was seen at the Epiphany, was foretold to indicate the comprehensiveness of God's redeeming love for his creation. The coming of the Christ would result in the toppling of blinkered assumptions, and those who had paid attention were ready to greet the unfolding of God's plan for mankind.

Posada

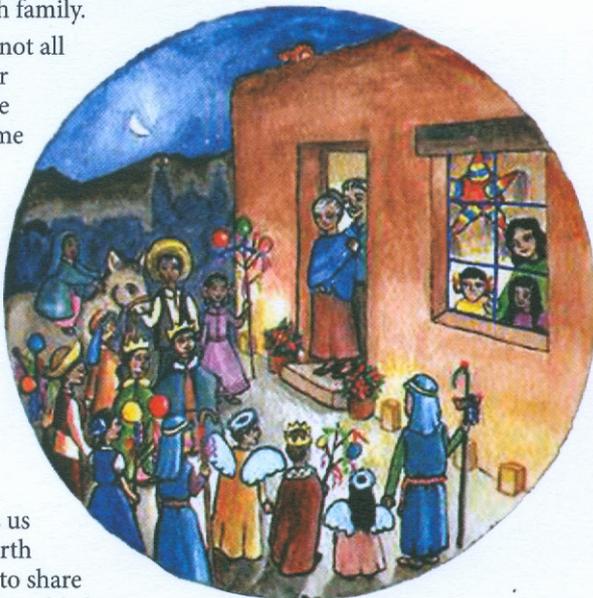
In our parishes we have taken up the Mexican custom of 'posada' – in Advent the Christmas Crib makes a tour of the homes in the community. Each family takes a photo of the Crib in their home and these photographs are displayed in Church over Christmas – the Holy Family at home in each family.

Although not all homes in our parishes have donkeys, some do have stables and cattle and many of them have parents and children. The crib, in many ways, is a family photograph and reminds us that in his birth Jesus comes to share the life of an earthly home. We wait a long time for another family group of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. It is not until he is twelve that we see them again in the Temple.

In between are all those days we consider not worthy to photograph – the days of the daily routine, and the countless episodes that shape lives and weave the pattern of love into our family.

As our 'posada' photographs show the Holy Family in our family setting, so the Holy Family teach us that family life is a way to holiness.

Forward! is published each week by Forward in Faith, 2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG



Forward!

Welcome to our celebration today

Epiphany

What can I give Him?

St Matthew's Gospel tells us that the magi 'took out of their treasures gold, frankincense and myrrh.' Their treasures would have contained many more precious



items suitable for gifts but 'out of their treasures' they selected three appropriate to the child they found in the stable. In the 'treasure chest' of our lives the gifts that we can give Christ change throughout our lives, and are unique to each of us and our situation. At certain times we

might have skills and abilities we can offer, at others we may have more money to give, at others we may have time. Each of us must regularly ask 'what can I give now – at this present time?' For the magi – Christ was found in the manger, for us Christ is found in his Body – the Church, he is also found in every person in any kind of trouble or need; those whom he calls his 'little ones'. All of us have spiritual as well as material gifts to give not least the faith and love which Jesus shares with us, which when offered in praise and prayer, can play a part in reconciling all things to Him.

So also, now that the Divine epiphany of the Word of God has taken place, the darkness of idols prevails no more, and all parts of the world in every direction are enlightened by His teaching. Similarly, if a king be reigning somewhere, but stays in his own house and does not let himself be seen, it often happens that some insubordinate fellows, taking advantage of his retirement, will have themselves proclaimed in his stead; and each of them, being invested with the semblance of kingship, misleads the simple who, because they cannot enter the palace and see the real king, are led astray by just hearing a king named. When the real king emerges, however, and appears to view, things stand differently. The insubordinate impostors are shown up by his presence, and men, seeing the real king, forsake those who previously misled them. In the same way the demons used formerly to impose on men, investing themselves with the honour due to God. But since the Word of God has been manifested in a body, and has made known to us His own Father, the fraud of the demons is stopped and made to disappear; and men, turning their eyes to the true God, Word of the Father, forsake the idols and come to know the true God.

Augustine on the Incarnation of the Word

S. NICHOLAS CHURCH**FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH**

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis

All-powerful God,
you made
Saint Nicholas
a bishop and leader
of the Church
to inspire your people
with his teaching
and example.
May we give fitting
honour to his memory
and always have the
assistance of his prayers
We ask this
through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper

If you are celebrating
a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY
and would like to share it with your Church Family
A £15 DONATION
covers the cost of Sherry
(You may if you wish provide wine of your own choice)
to be enjoyed at the back of church after Mass
Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

The Angelus will be sung at the
Epiphany Crib

HYMNS

Introit:	NEH	47
Gradual:	NEH	48
Offertory:	NEH	56
Communion:	NEH	46
Post Communion:	NEH	52

PALM CROSSES:

Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving

THE PASCHAL CANDLE:

Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving for Theo & Otto

THE SEVEN DAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR JANUARY**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

Jessica Roberts: In thanksgiving

THE SANCTUARY:

For the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council

OUR LADY BY THE LADY CHAPEL:

Joy & Stephen Jahans: In thanksgiving

OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM:

*Fr Andrew: For God's Blessing on the Parish
at the beginning of the New Year*

OUR LADY OF FATIMA:

*Murray Smallbone: For the repose
of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008*

S. NICHOLAS:

*Steve Chwalyk: For the repose
of the soul of Helen Chwalyk 17-8-1926 - 23-2-2011*

THE SUNDAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR JANUARY**OUR LADY BY THE TOWER:**

Gwen Pearce

THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:

Henry Aguh

OUR LADY OF SOPROWS:

Christina Agin:

In memory of Jean Barnes

S. JOSEPH:

Paul Pangrace

S. FRANCIS:**S. MARTIN:**

Reg & Doreen Martin

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:**FLOODLIGHTING**

8th - 14th Obie Okeze:

In thanksgiving for the life of Sonnie Bobo-Jama

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis

INTRODUCTION

The next act of the Christmas story sees the visit of the magi, the wise men from the east, to the infant Jesus. Their journey is fulfilled in adoration.

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet sees the day dawning when the glory of the Lord will be in Jerusalem.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Paul recalls the revelation he received about God's love for all people.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Wise men come from the east to disturb one king and to worship another.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Jesus is the light of all peoples. Let us pray to the Lord for his light and his blessing on the world.

For the Holy Father and all the bishops of the Church: that they may grow in wisdom and holiness of life.
Lord, hear us.

For all earthly rulers: that they may be wise and honourable leaders of their people.
Lord, hear us.

For all communities of the Church: that we may grow in our understanding of the Lord.
Lord, hear us.

For this congregation here today: that we may worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers. Like the magi, may we seek you in all that we do and say, through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

- Olivia Grace Kintu Barbara Brunt Jack Brunt
Murray Smallbone
Fr Gerald Lane Sarah Catherine Namutebi
Fr Charles Ada Smith Amina Chaudhury
Joe Moss Chucks Owilbo Colin Jones Daphne Langford
Bhupendra Pattini Anita Johnson Lisa Bowden
Geoff McCarthy Mary Cook Sue Yurik Wayne Yurik
Josephine Bampton Alison Mules Christina Agin
Victor Boyce Marjorie Unwin Phylis Knight
Lesley Loftus Ruby Arthurs Diane
Brian Goulding Issa Olarewaju Lawal
Doreen Cleaver Mandy McWhinnie
Carol Bohurjak Tommy Bohurjak Jim Webb
Pam Webb John David Cook Fr Timmothy Raphael
Tom Bohurjak Susan Jahans Sarah Burton
Paul Rice Stanley Lewis
Ebere Collins Ofojebe Pat Wenham Liz O'Sullivan
Bill Russell Kay Nelson Connie Guntrip Diane Fulbrook
Colin Cresswell Ian Mackie
Robert McEwan Kay Etherington
Danny Bell Vic Clark Roy Richards Juliet Skinner
Nicky Thomas Dorothy Crook Dorian Joseph
Joan Cosgrove Colin Bendall Pete Gray
Keiran (18 month old baby) Callie
Hazel Clark Olive Verrall Grace Beasley
Brian Marshall Margaret Rusnyk
Jean Hills David Jahans
Inge and Mogens Hansen
Mike Okeze Violet Halley
Biku Maya Bajracharya

IN THANKSGIVING

- Val Marshall Mike Okeze Marie Borland
Teresa Agin Meghan Belcher
Stephen Jahans Beverley Goering
Jill Pearson Murial Taylor

JANUARY	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions
Sunday 1 st	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	R. Martin
Sunday 8 th Feast of Epiphany	G. Agin	E. Buhl	J. Jahans
Sunday 15 th	R. Barzey	P. Alexander	S. Jahans
Sunday 22 nd	P. Channer	E. Crawley	B. Scott
Sunday 29 th	S. Obubo	T. Agin	A. Davies
FEBRUARY			
Sunday 5 th Feast of Candlemas	D. Stevens	R. Martin - Sub Deacon	G. Agin
Sunday 12 th	B. Stroud	S. Jahans	T. Agin
Sunday 19 th	B. Scott	E. Crawley	J. Jahans
Wednesday 22 nd Ash Wednesday	P. Alexander	J. Jahans	B. Scott
Sunday 26 th	G. Agin	T. May	R. Martin

**FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION
JANUARY General Intention:**

Victims of Natural Disasters.

That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

Missionary Intention:

Dedication to Peace.

That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

FLOWERS IN MEMORY

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

THE DEPARTED

Bryan Vickery Mark Jaynes
Joseph Moss Florence Clifford
Colin Thomas Earl
Shane David Laybourne

YEARS MIND

9th Mary Ward
10th Frances Emily Kate Heard
11th Ernest Mooney
12th Michael Young
14th Alice Cannings
14th Dave Vallis

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED:

Sunday 9th October 2011:
Tia-Amber Gardener

THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

Sunday 8th January 2012:
Alexander Temitope Adeniji
Daniel Olamiposi Adeniji

THOSE NEWLY MARRIED

Saturday 14th August 2010 at 3:00pm
Ian Clive John Brooks & Tessa Amelia Hawkins

THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY

BIRTHDAY

10th Victor Barzey
13th Sandra Kabasambu
13th Rosemary Edirin Odafe
14th Alexei Davies

**Sunday Readings: Year B
Weekday Readings: Year 2
Psalter Week 1**

JANUARY 2012

Day	Month	Day	Feast	Prayers
8	Su	W	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Sol DO2 Mass pr, Gl, LI 161, Cr, Pref Epiphany, Eucharistic Prayer I pr R1: Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,10-13 R2: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	MP:40(127) EP:38(125)
9	M	W	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Fest (CWCL: The Baptism of Christ) DO3(3) Mass pr, Gl, LI 179 or LI 735 (two readings only - choice of first reading from OT or NT: alternative readings LI 182 or LI 737), Pref pr	MP:40(131) EP:38(129)
10	T	(G)	FERIA OF 1st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(1) Mass of feria, LII 459	MP:53(222) MP:59(248)
11	W	(G)	FERIA OF 1st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(1) Mass of feria, LII 461	MP:54(223) MP:60(249)
12	Th	(G)	<i>England:</i> FERIA OF 1st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(1) Mass of feria, LII 464	MP:55(224) MP:61(250)
13	F	(G)	FERIA OF 1st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(1) Mass of feria, LII 466	MP:56(225) MP:62(251)
			<i>or:</i> (W) S Hilary BDr, Mem DO4(1) Mass from Com of Pastors or Com of Doctors of the Church, LII 466	MP:189(325) EP188(325)
			<i>Scotland:</i> W S Kentigern B, Mem DO4(1) Mass from Com of Pastors: for Bishops, with opening prayer from National Propers, LII 466	MP:189(323) EP188(322)
14	S	(G)	FERIA OF 1st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(1) Mass of feria, LII 468	MP:57(225)



**THE BLESSING OF
THE WATERS**

The Greek Orthodox Community of
Christ the Saviour, Welling
Invites you to share our celebration
Sunday 15th January at 1 p.m.
Starting at Danson Road entrance
with a procession to Danson Lake
and prayers by the lakeside.
Refreshments afterwards in St John's Church Hall.

The marking of doors with blessed chalk demonstrates our willingness to offer shelter and hospitality to the Magi on their journey to the Christ Child. This, of course, symbolises our willingness to receive all who love or seek Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The chalk is taken home after the Epiphany Mass and the doorpost or lintel of the house are marked in one of two ways: either using the initials of the Magi, or where possible, using their full name and asking their intercession.

The lintel of the main door of the house (and other doors as well) is marked by a senior member of the household in the following way:

20 + K + M + B +1 (year)

While saying the following prayer

The three Wise Men

K	Kaspar
M	Melchior
B	and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became man
20	two thousand,
1-	and.....years ago.
++	May Christ bless our home
++	and remain with us through the new year.

If others are present, the following may be added:

Almighty God, incline your ear.
Bless us and all who are gathered here.
Send your holy angel
who will defend us and fill with grace
all who dwell here.
Amen.

The alternative way, if there is sufficient room near the main door, is to write the names of the Magi in full, followed by "Orate pro nobis" (Pray for us) and to decorate the names with three crowns.

WORD OF GOD

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.

(Isaiah 60: 1-2)



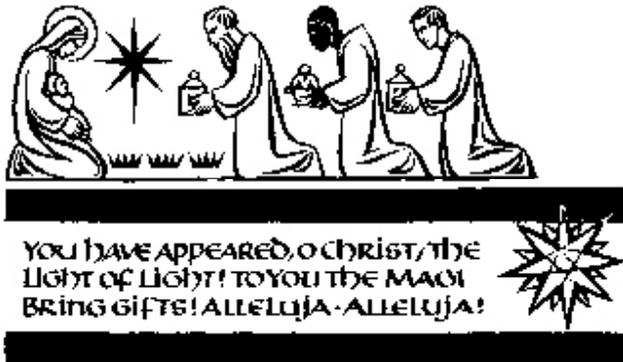
WORD FOR TODAY

Today we are called on not just to remember the first Epiphany. We're invited to be epiphanies or models of God's presence in our world today. What sort of light does our star shine around us and can people look at us and glimpse something of God?



WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, you are the daystar that brings light to our darkness: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you are the wisdom of those who seek to know God: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the glory of God made visible: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
By his coming among us, may almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



Dear brothers and sisters,
the glory of the Lord has shone upon us,
and shall ever be manifest among us,
until the day of his return.
Through the rhythms of times and seasons
let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination,
the Easter Triduum of the Lord:
his last supper, his crucifixion,
his burial, and his rising
will be celebrated
between the evening of the 5th April
and the evening of the 7th April.

Each Easter - as on each Sunday -
the Holy Church makes present the great and saving
deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death.

From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.
Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur
on the 22nd February

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated
on the 20th of May

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter,
will be celebrated on the 27th of May.

And this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the 2nd
of December

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ
in the feasts of the holy Mother of God,
in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints,
and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



FAITH IN FOCUS: EPIPHANY PEOPLE

To follow the star and become Epiphany people we have to be aware of three important challenges.

Epiphany people have first to be people of faith. Imagine setting out on a journey like the wise men and not actually knowing where you are going, following only where a star leads you. Yet this is what faith demands. To be a person of faith means that we trust in God so much that we are prepared to be led, wherever God decides to take us. Being people of faith doesn't mean having all the answers; it simply requires us to be open to God's promptings and prepared to act when others think we are mad to do so. Faith and trust cannot be prised apart.

A second characteristic of Epiphany people is that their faith makes them want to worship. The wise men brought their gifts and worshipped the Lord. Just knowing our God should be reason enough for worship. We bring our gold (the best we can be), our frankincense (our contribution to making the world a more beautiful place) and our myrrh (our pains and our tears as well as the comforting presence we extend to others), and with these gifts of our lives we fall on our knees before the God that our faith journey leads us ever closer to.

And finally Epiphany people are people of change. The wise men didn't simply spend the rest of their lives fawning at the crib. They left enriched by what they had seen and heard and they headed off to tell others what they had experienced. But they heeded the warning of their dream and decided to change their plans and go back home by a different route. Every encounter with our God-made-man challenges us to change. God never wants us to stay where we are; our job is to follow the star.

Epiphany reveals Jesus to all nations. His glory is seen by people from all over the known world. And these Epiphany people are people of faith, people of worship and people of change.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

COLLECT

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, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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 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 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 to be God.

PSALM Psalm 71

RESPONSE: *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 to be 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."

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.