

Solemnity of the Epiphany, Year A - Sunday, 8th January, 2017

The word "epiphany" means, "to show forth."

Today the Church celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (Magi) from the East, and also commemorates two other important moments of public revelation of Jesus to the world: at his baptism in the Jordan and at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.

If we read Matthew's Gospel story carefully, we realize that far from being a children's tale, it is a tragic adult story. Matthew shows us that right at the beginning of the story of Jesus, the one who is to rule Israel is greeted with the cheers of some and the fearful fury of others.

The future rejection of Jesus by Israel and his acceptance by the Gentiles are retrojected (read back) into this scene of the narrative.

The Magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the Messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.

Their coming to Jesus means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the Messianic promise as contained in the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

When we read the story of the turmoil the child Jesus brought into the lives of Mary, Joseph, the Magi, Herod, the whole of Jerusalem, and all the newborn babies of Bethlehem – we are forced to ask ourselves whether the adult Christ challenges and moves our lives in the same way.

When we read the story of the shepherds and their vision of angelic choirs, we discover anew how God can break into our life as well. In remembering and reliving the angelic roles in Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the veil that separates us from the world of the spirit is drawn back.

The experience of the Magi reminds us that all who make the tedious journey to the truth will finally encounter it and be changed in the process.

They can never go back to a "business as usual" way of life. When we meet Christ and see who he really is, we will never be the same – and only then can we hope to begin to share in his mission.

In the end, the Magi went their own way, and because they refused to be seduced by cynicism, because they allowed themselves to be surprised by this great joy, the star to which they had committed themselves appeared again. This is not only the description of the times into which Jesus was born, but also of our times. When we have found our lasting joy in the midst of the encircling gloom, cynicism, despair, indifference and meaninglessness, the only thing to do is to kneel and adore, as did those foreign seekers long ago in Bethlehem.

If we are truly wise, let us do what the wise astrologers did. When we hear the voice of the old king of death and fear and cynicism, let us have the courage to go our own way — rejoicing.

The star and the journey will send us onwards, by newer paths, to come into the presence of the Child of Light and the Prince of Peace, who is the fulfilment of humanity's deepest hopes and desires for light, justice, love, and peace.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

10 Wicht Street, Parow, Cape Town; P.O. Box 1081, Parow, 7499; Tel: 021 591 1911

Fax: 021 592 1337; Email: immaculate@telkomsa.net

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateConceptionParowCatholicChurch>

<http://www.facebook.com/YouthConnectionIC>

WEBSITE: www.parowcatholicchurch.co.za

PARISH PRIESTS:

Fr. Sonny Gadai OFM Cap
Fr. Sean Cahill OFM Cap

SECRETARY:

Beverley Dantu

Office Hours:

**Closed till Monday,
16th January**

MASSES:

Weekday Masses at 8am
First Friday at 7pm
Saturday at 8am and 5pm
Sunday at 8am and 10am

CONFESSION:

Saturday: **11am – 12**

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION:

CLOSED TILL

MID-JANUARY

BANKING DETAILS:

Direct transfers are welcome
to the following:

Standard Bank – Parow
Account Name:

Catholic Parish of Parow
Branch Code:

031 110

Account Number:
071 585 893

7th & 8th January 2017



EPIPHANY

The Epiphany of the Lord

Scripture Readings for the week:

Monday 9th January: Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38,

Psalms 29:1-4, 9-10,

Matthew 3:13-17

Tuesday 10th January:

Hebrews 2:5-12,

Psalms 8:2, 5-9,

Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday 11th January:

Hebrews 2:14-18,

Psalms 105:1-4, 6-9,

Mark 1:29-39

Thursday 12th January:

Hebrews 3:7-14,

Psalms 95:6-11,

Mark 1:40-45

Friday 13th January:

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11,

Psalms 78:3, 4, 6-8,

Mark 2:1-12

Saturday 14th January:

Hebrews 4:12-16,

Psalms 19:8-10, 15,

Mark 2:13-17

Sunday 15th January: 2nd Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6,

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-10,

1 Corinthians 1:1-3,

John 1:29-34