
This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6.

Through the Christ who is to come, all nations will be brought into God's light.

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

To us as to the Chosen People of God, the same promise of salvation is made.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12.

Jesus is recognized by the Gentiles and honour paid to his kingship and divinity.



Points for Reflection

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord we celebrate today reveals to us the true identity of the newly born baby Jesus. The three Scripture Readings are full of symbolisms, which point all to one truth: that **Jesus is the Saviour, not only of the People of Israel, but of all mankind.** God ceases to be the exclusive claim of the Chosen People of Israel. He, in Jesus, is finally made manifest to men and women of every time and place, every race and colour, saints and sinners alike, young and old, simple and learned.

The magi, who from distant places of the East come to worship Jesus as their King, represent foreigners and outsiders who come to know the God of Israel through Jesus, the Messiah whose Gospel is preached to all nations. The whole human family is called by God to know him as the only Father, and Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. Jesus was born to make of all the Peoples of the earth only one People: the People of God.

The new Jerusalem, where the true God is worshipped, glorified and manifested, is the assembly not only of the Israelites, but of all men and women of the world, who, regardless of their national, social, political and economical differences, are willing to welcome and accept Jesus Christ in their lives.

The star, which leads the magi to Jesus, symbolizes the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit, in many different ways, is

unceasingly calling people from all over the world to know God's plan of salvation and to live accordingly.

St Paul in the Second Reading points to the heart of the Epiphany: what was not made known to people in other generations has now been revealed – that the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Chosen People of Israel. All are co-partners in the divine promise, in Jesus Christ.

The magi saw the star and followed it. The people of Jerusalem did not. It means that not all the people who are called by God actually respond to his call. There are people who do not resist God's gracious enlightenments and invitations to a life of brotherly love. They try their best, at least. But there are people who offer resistance to God's plan, out of fear, pride, selfishness or lack of self-commitment.

One day God called us, too. We know what God has done and is continually doing for our salvation. In Jesus Christ, through his life, death and resurrection, helped and encouraged by the witness of other good Christian brothers and sisters, we have come to know the love of God and his universal plan of salvation. We will never thank him enough for the wonders of love he has worked and is working for us. The feast of the Epiphany offers us the opportunity of thanking and praising God for the gift of Faith, and for renewing our determination to submit

to his guidance: to follow every day the light of the Holy Spirit leading us to an ever closer personal relationship with Jesus, our Saviour.

And **it is also through us**, who already know God's plan of salvation, **that the Holy Spirit will reach many other people**, indeed all the people of the world. It is through our lives, through our Christ-like lives, that the Spirit wants to disclose (manifest – "epiphany") the mystery of salvation to those whose lives are still covered by thick clouds but can fortunately come into contact with us. Our lives must be shining like a star: resplendent of Christ's love, in order to be a witness to our Saviour, an appeal and an invitation to follow him as

the One who alone gives meaning to our, and their, lives. The work of salvation is entirely God's work. God, however, does need us to make his wonders of love known to all men and women, whom he has created and Jesus has redeemed.

Let, then, our lives, **our daily lives** at home, in school, in our offices, and as we walk along the streets of Hong Kong, **become a daily Epiphany of Our Lord**, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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Phone: Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Mass Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8 00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 6.00 Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass; Weekdays on call
Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month 8.00 pm

Fr Carlo Tei and Fr Sergio Ticozzi wish all parishioners a very Happy New Year!

