

Observing our Faith - OoF†

Epiphany 6 January



“Adoration of the Magi”, mural in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo.

Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

From 'A Sonnet for Epiphany' by Malcolm Guite, 'Sounding the Seasons', Canterbury Press

About this Festival We celebrate the coming of the wise men when the star comes to rest and they worship the Christ child. 'Epiphany' means appearance and so this feast is a time to

look both outwards and inwards – outwards, as we acknowledge that the gift of God among us



is for all people - and inwards, as we reflect with joy on the coming of Christ in our hearts.

A Word from Scripture

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage'"

Matthew 2.1-2

Reflection

As we look at the map of where the wise men may have travelled,



we remember those who flee conflict in the Middle East and have no settled home. We pray

for their protection and for those of us in the West to take responsibility for our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

An activity to try

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy” (Matthew 2. 10.)



2020 was a year of hard journeys.

What do you want to ask Christ to draw you towards in your Christian life in 2021? Make this your guiding star. Perhaps it is more regular prayer, or to be more patient or even to give yourself permission to let go of guilt or sadness.

Cut out a star shape, decorate it if you like and write on or beside it a word or phrase to remind you of where you want to be led to in the year ahead.

Put a photo on our Facebook page, email it, or Whatsapp it and we'll add it to the OoF webpage.



An example to inspire

Rana Dajani is a Jordanian scientist who noticed that refugee children were not reading for pleasure and started

a project to encourage parents to read to their children. 'We Love Reading has now trained over 7,000 volunteer readers in 56 countries and has brought the joy of reading to nearly half a million children, including tens of thousands of young refugees in Jordan and beyond. In 2020 Rana won the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for the Middle East and North Africa. Her work encourages children to travel in their minds in preparation for becoming global citizens.

The SEC Collect Prayer for Epiphany

**O God, who by the guidance of a star,
revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations:
Grant that we, who know you now by faith,
may at the last be led to see your glory face to face;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**

Next leaflet: Candlemas

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