



St John Plessington Catholic College

Aspire
not to
have more
but to be
more
Archbishop Rummens

Liturgical Theme for the week Week Commencing 6th January 2020 “Good News”

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

Anne Frank



Pope Francis tells us:

“Jesus teaches us that the Good News, which he brings, is not reserved to one part of humanity, it is to be communicated to everyone



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This week we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Jesus, when we remember the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus.

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways. We can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be guided by the words that we read in the scriptures. We can have a deep awareness of our place on the earth which teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power which can lead each one of us beyond ourselves.





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The feast of the Epiphany tells us about the wise ones or astrologers 'from the East' who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own views about what the star meant and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign.

When they ask questions in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" they attract the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "King of the Jews". They continue their journey following the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find the new born baby, the Wisdom of God.





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The gospel does not tell us how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of different nationalities and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise 'God-with-us' in the baby Jesus. They also come to recognise 'in a dream' Herod's threat to kill the baby, and so they return home by a different way.

Today each one of us is given an invitation to be the wise ones of our generation, to join with people of different cultures, to make our own search for wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. But we also have to be on the lookout for those who find themselves, and the power they have threatened by the Good News that the birth of Jesus brings into our world.





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O God, as you guided the Magi by the light of a star,
May Jesus be our light.

O God, you have created a marvellous variety of peoples,
• May we be open to all cultures, races, and nations.

O God, your love surrounds us,
May we faithfully offer Christ the gold of living faith,
the incense of our worship, and the myrrh of compassion.
Amen.

St John Plessington
Pray for us

