

Homily for the Epiphany – Year B

Readings Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12



Fr Michael says:

Isaiah thrills the people with his vision of a restored Jerusalem, ultimately fulfilled in Christ and in the New Israel, the Church: their Faith is renewed and deepened. This is the calling ALL of us share equally, as Paul reminds us today. We too are called to follow the example of the Wise Men, as they seek the Child-King. They started out because of what they had seen, but the star does not guide them, they have to seek and find him, so their journey is not easy, full of danger and doubts – but they persevere!

We too are on a Journey, as we respond to our calling, seek to discover what it is or to follow a dream, as long as we persevere we will find He whom we are seeking. Things are not always clear for us; we might even feel we are losing our Faith, as we doubt we will get there. We need to seek guidance, the star will re-appear. Like the Wise Men, we need to be single-minded. When we find Him, we offer Him our gifts, to reflect and reveal who we are and our openness to what He wants of us. We are awakened and given new life, when we get this far – so that we might share this new life with those around us, especially those who are most in need. The return to our own country is directional, in the sense that we have a new mentality, a new approach to things. We will have new values, new aims, above all a new direction in life, different from what we had been doing hitherto!

Gordon Wilson's daughter was killed by a bomb in Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday 1987. Instead of calling for revenge, he forgave her killers and began a campaign for peace and reconciliation. He said: "I am a very ordinary sort of man. I have few personal ambitions and no political aspirations. I just want to live and let live. Life has been kind to me in the main; I have tried to live by the Good Book. I do not profess to be a good man, but I aim to be. I would like to leave the world a better place than I found it, but I have no exaggerated ideas of my ability to do so. I have hitched my wagon to a star, a star of hope, the star of Bethlehem."