

Homily for the Epiphany of the Lord – Year C

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



Fr Michael says:

Finding the Lord

As always in the Gospels, we need to see everything in the light of the Resurrection – today is no exception! For Matthew, the story of the Magi presents us with a vision of what is going to happen in this light! God reveals Himself to the Jews in the word of Scripture – to the Gentiles He does so through nature – hence the use of astrology. We are presented with the paradox of the People of God who reject Jesus, despite the word and the Gentiles accept Him precisely through these same Scriptures! Thus they will find Him and adore! Our Reading from Ephesians does give hope, because it is through Christ that ALL peoples are called equally: Jews as well as Gentiles! Isaiah's words are fulfilled too in this vision.

Alan was recovering from a motorbike accident in hospital, in the run up to Christmas. One evening he looked out of the window and saw the sky full of stars and he began to think of the Christmas Story and the journey of the Magi. He turned to reflect on himself – a rare event! “I am 23 and what have I done with my life?” he had to reply honestly: “Nowhere!” He was still enjoying the thrills and spills of his sport and now he seems to have wasted the best years of his life. His thoughts went deeper, into his relationship with God and how unlike the Magi, who had to seek the Lord, he had had him from the start of his Catholic Faith journey, but he had given it all up at 15 – he had turned his back on Him! He was in rebellion!

It was at this moment of his deepest depression that a wonderful thing happened, as if he had seen the Magi's star: he saw that Jesus' light had not been put out, it still shone, but was hidden behind clouds. A powerful thought came to him – even though he had abandoned the Lord, the Lord had not abandoned him! The Lord had been searching for him! A wonderful sense of peace and joy came over him – he who had thought nobody cared for him, least of all the Lord – he was now able to say: “From now on, I have a star that will not play me false; I have a compass that will always be true!”

The Magi had brought wonderful and rich gifts to the Child. What could he offer, he asked himself. He had to make a start - what better gift could he have made than to give himself? However, he had to find himself first. Christmas came and went and he was still in hospital, but with what a change in his attitude: his bitterness against life and particularly his accident had gone – he had a gentle and cheery word for everyone and his visitors wondered at what had happened to him – Alan knew it was because he had met the Lord, it was his best Christmas, as he did not have a sight of the angels, but he felt their message in his heart – of peace!

What is our star? Is it the star of the hope of Bethlehem? If so, do not be afraid of any changes you find yourself making: enjoy them and rejoice! Like the Magi, let us walk in the light of Christ and live the full lives of those who are aware of who and what they are, as loved and held by the Lord!