

## Reflection: The Epiphany 2021

Isaiah certainly saw far into the future. His opening lines today are very apt: *“Arise, shine out, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, **though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.*** Paul describes the immensity of God’s Love in Jesus who brought salvation, freedom, redemption to ALL nations, All peoples for All ages, from the beginning to the end of time. What great love we find in Jesus!

The Magi journeyed through difficult terrain, uncertain where it would lead, but felt called to come and meet Jesus and uncover hidden truths. T.S. Eliot reflects on the difficulties they faced on their journey:

*. . . then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
and the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
and the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
and the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
a hard time we had of it.  
At the end, we preferred to travel all night,  
sleeping in snatches. . .*

We are live in dark times amidst promises made but unable to be fulfilled. We face a virus able to destroy life – a more than real example of the destructiveness of sin. Just as the Magi followed the star, like them, we are invited, by struggling through the difficulties and challenges of Lockdown, to follow Jesus, our light of hope. The Magi also show us the importance of community. They supported each other on the journey, and there is a suggestion that they helped others as the journeyed towards Bethlehem. They found the treasure for which they were seeking in meeting the baby Jesus and were able to prevent him from being killed. What is so uplifting in this story is that the power and brutality of Herod was overcome by a tiny helpless baby, unable to speak (apart from the odd gurgle), a baby filled with love and light. Among the discoveries of the Magi was that in the presence of Jesus they experienced his light shining within them - a light they went on to share with others. Their story offers us the light we need especially today. We are able to come and celebrate the eucharist together, to celebrate Christ, the light who gives himself to us so that we can and must be a light for those around us. We are *people of hope*, we are *Christmas people*, we are the *Magi of today* shining Christ’s light in the world, in the darkness and in the lockdown.

**A man is stretched out** on his back across four seats in a theatre. The usher comes along and says, *“Mister, you will have to get out of those four seats. You are only entitled to one!”* The man only grunts and does not move. The manager then comes down and says to the man, *“Mister, you will have to get up. All you are entitled to is one seat!”* The man grunts and does not move. Finally, a policeman is called in. He walks down the aisle and says to the man who is still on the four seats, *“Get out of those seats!”* The man grunts, and policeman says, *“Okay, wise guy, where are you from?”* The man moans and says, *“The balcony!”*