



Epiphany – January 3rd, 2021

FROM THE GOSPEL (Matthew 2:1-12)

'For we have seen his star and have come to pay him homage'

REFLECTION

The Gospel we have just heard tells the story of how the wise men arrive in Jerusalem asking where they can find the new-born king whose star they have followed from the east. Herod of course is not delighted with the news because he fears his own star may lose its place in the light of new competition. He gets even more worried when after consulting the scriptures he finds that a leader will emerge from Bethlehem in the land of Judah.

The wise men continue with their quest and – you know the rest – the star comes to a halt – they enter and see the babe with his mother – they pay homage – and present their gifts and then head back to their own country without reporting to Herod.

Matthew in his Gospel is the only one who tells this story – and the question arises: what does this mean? We sense Matthew is telling the most wonderful story – trying to engage us in the good news that is there for all to share... and then Paul reveals God's secret plan – which was unknown in past generations, that we are all of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them in Christ Jesus, through the Gospel.

That is the meaning of the story of the Magi! Matthew describes beautifully in a story the same truth that Paul affirms in his letter: the truth that Jesus is for all peoples. We come from all over the world and we can all find Jesus and do him homage. He belongs to us all, as we can all belong to him.

He is Journey's end for all who seek the face of God, for all who seek the meaning and purpose in their lives. He is for all of us.



The Revd Canon Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



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In a sense the wise men are the ancestors of all of us who seek.

We are all seekers: we seek for love, for acceptance and for all understanding.

We do not have stars to guide us, but even the wise men had to stop being stargazers and consult the scriptures to find out where Jesus was.

We don't have stars to guide us, but we do have the scriptures and each other in our journey to God.

We come this morning as seekers.

We break the Word on the way to the breaking of Bread.

We believe the word will lead us to him again, and then we can communicate with him through the bread and the wine. In the sacrament of the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist we meet Jesus again. And we meet him in each other, in our frailty and our brokenness. The Lord is present in each one of us here.

But... what do we do when we have found him and acknowledge him as our Lord and Saviour?

At the beginning of this new year we look backwards as well as forwards.

We look back with sadness at the terrible hurts and challenges many have faced in the past year, but we look forward with hope in our hearts as we enter 2021.

Having found Christ in our lives, we must acknowledge Him and when we do – he holds a lantern, lighting our path through whatever lies ahead. So in the words of the carol *'O come all ye faithful'* which we sang in our Christmas services:

'O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him'

for when we truly adore in love, we give of ourselves with every fibre of our being – and surely that is what He deserves of us.

Loving God, this New Year, guide our feet, comfort our hearts and strengthen our wills, that with your hand to lead we may build a better world – in your name.

Amen

