

# Title: Epiphany



## Prayers

### Prayer to St Julie Billiat

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiat

## Scripture

### Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'" So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him. Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

This week in church we celebrate the Epiphany, at its most simple this is the celebration of the Magi (Wise Men) visiting the baby Jesus, worshipping him and presenting their gifts to him. It is traditionally the time when we take down our tree and decorations too. Epiphany means 'revelation' or 'awareness', it marks how the Christ-child was revealed to the Magi by the star they followed, and their deep realisation that he was more than just a child, he was in fact the son of God. You might have heard people say that they've had an 'epiphany' when they have realised something important, this is where it comes from! Nothing was more important than the realisation of these travellers that, when they knelt before the manger and presented their gifts, they were in the presence God! The light of the star led them to the 'true light' a light that 'darkness could not put out'. The wise men went on a journey that led them to the most wonderful discovery. We pray that we too will find wonderful moments of light and revelation on our journeys through this year.

- How can you lead others to see what is really important?
- How can you keep what is really important at the heart of your life this year?

Pray for:

- those who are on long or dangerous journeys.
- those who are looking for something special in their lives.
- people who feel in a place of darkness.
- those who are living in places of conflict or danger.
- a happy and successful new year for each of us.

Father,

you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Lord, thank you for all the gifts you gave to us.

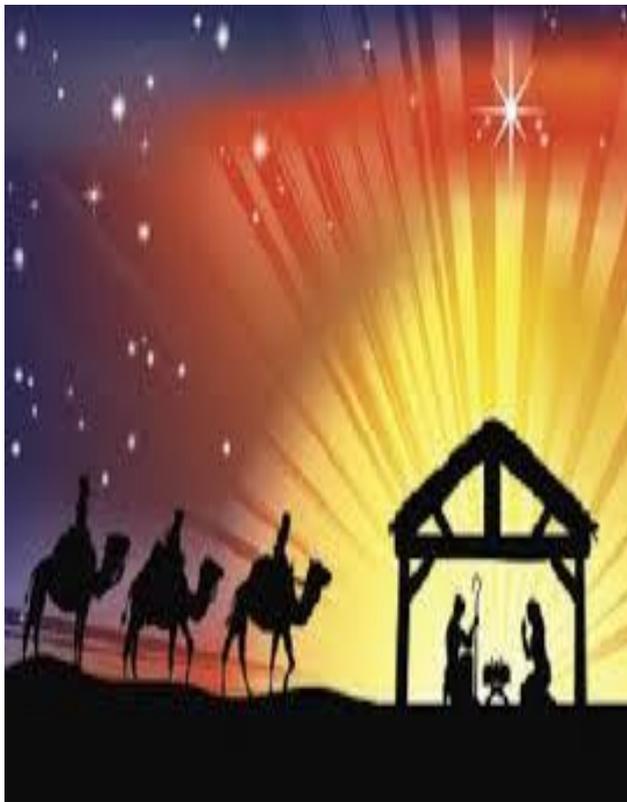
May we share out most valuable gifts with all those we meet today: may we give our time, our love and our care without hesitation. We ask this in your name

Amen

Lord Jesus,

As the Christmas season draws to a close, we think of the gifts that we received from family and friends: we are grateful for them and grateful for what they represent— the love of those closest to us. We are grateful too, for the gifts YOU gave to each of us, gifts that will remain with us long after our Christmas presents are forgotten. Help us to reveal our inner treasures through our actions towards others and to use our gifts to serve you.

Amen



Lord Jesus may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of nations, the Saviour of mankind;

Amen



Through all our journeying Lord, bring us to the place where your joy can overwhelm us.

Through all our searching draw us to the place where we can kneel before the baby King.

Open up the treasures of our gold of obedience and incense of lowliness and send us out in new ways of faithfulness.

Amen.