

Crosslacon Parish Epiphany Service



If you would like to join in the ritual of 'Chalking the doors,' then you will need to find a piece of chalk or a paper and pen to make a sign to place above your door....

Welcome

Praise and Prayer

Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe

To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, your name is proclaimed in all the world.

To you be glory and praise forever.

When the time had fully come, you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

In him the fullness of your glory dwells.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Collect.

Creator of the heavens,

Who led the Magi by a star

to worship the Christ Child;

Guide and sustain us,

that we may find our journey's end

in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Arise shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Alleluia!

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

Glory to you O Lord.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from

the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honour him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honour him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honoured him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

This is the gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you O Christ.

Reflection

Offering of the gifts

Placing of the Star....

Epiphany Carol: We Three Kings...

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,***

*westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

The Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father,
**From whom every family in heaven and on earth is
named.**

We believe in God the Son,
**Who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with
his love.**

We believe in the God the Holy Spirit,
Who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God:
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

The Offering of Gold

We Three Kings...

**Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again-
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

Prayer

Blessed are you Lord our God
King of the Universe:
TO you be praise and glory for ever.
As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
So purify our hearts and minds
That we may be a royal priesthood.
Acceptable in the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

We Three Kings....

Frankincense to offer have I;

**incense owns a deity nigh:
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
TO you be praise and glory for ever.
As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
So may we be presented before you
With penitent hearts and uplifted hands
To offer ourselves in your service.
Blessed be God forever.

Prayers of Penitence.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the
darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our
sins.

We have not held out the word of life
in a dark and troubled world.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to share your bread with the hungry.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have closed our hearts to the love of God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God be gracious to us and bless us.
May your ways be known on earth and in our lives.
May our words and deeds reveal your heart of loving
kindness in the world.
Amen

We Three Kings continued....

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;**

sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Prayer

Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe:
To you be praise and glory for ever.
As you give medicine to heal our sickness
And the leaves of the tree of life
For the healing of the nations,
So anoint us with your healing power
That we may be first fruits of your new creation.
Blessed be God forever.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We Three Kings Concluded....

**Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God, and sacrifice!
heaven sings alleluia,
alleluia the earth replies:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there
shall be no end.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

*You may like to take this opportunity to write a peace
greeting to one another in the comments box on
Facebook live.*

Hymn: O Worship the Lord

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Blessing and Dismissal

Chalking of the doors.

Epiphany blessing at the door....

*Epiphany, also known as 12th night, marks the occasion
of a time-honoured Christian tradition of 'chalking the
doors.' The formula for the ritual-adapted for 2021- is
simple: Take chalk of any colour and write the following
above the entrance to your home...I will be writing this
on a sign and placing it in the window of St John's.*

20+C+M+B+21

*C. M B stand for the three kings; Caspar Melchior and
Balthazar but they also abbreviate the Latin phrase:
Christus mansionem benedicat:
'May Christ bless this house.'*

The + represents the cross and 2021 is the year.

Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless us and our homes and to stay with us through the year ahead...it is also an opportunity to dedicate our year to God at the very outset....

Prayer of Blessing and Dedication

O God of Light,

Bless this (church/ house) and this (church) family.

May this be a place of peace and wholeness of life.

May each member of this church cultivate the gifts and graces you have given us, dedicating our talents and gifts for the good of all.

Make this place a shelter in the storm and haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. May all who come and go here find healing and refreshment and new life through Jesus.

And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of your light.

As we go about our work, our study and play, keep us faithful and make us witnesses to your love.

Amen.