
Epiphany Year C

5th January 2025

Introduction

Today we celebrate the day when the good news of the birth of Jesus was brought to the whole world through the visit of the three wise Kings. They followed the star all the way to the stable in Bethlehem, to worship the infant in the manger. The word Epiphany refers to the birth of Jesus – the manifestation of God in the world – the special way that God chose to come into the world to show the great love that He has for all peoples from all over the world.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. (An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”. (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

Alternatively say:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you; we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation**: (same tune as above)

Alleluia, Alleluia
Three wise Kings
Saw the star
Leading them to Jesus
Our true God who loves us
Tell the world
Of His love

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, Alleluia
We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.
Alleluia

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary for Year C

Matthew 2:1-12

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one **on** your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) as we say together

“Glory to You, O Lord.”

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

“The Gospel of the Lord”.

All reply:

“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”.

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

- How and where did the three Kings find Jesus? (They followed a bright star in the sky that stopped over the stable in Bethlehem, where baby Jesus lay in a manger).

- What were the kings' names? (Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar)
- What presents did the kings bring for Jesus? (Presents fit for a King – gold was brought by Melchior to symbolize Jesus' nobility. Caspar brought Frankincense – like the incense burned in church this expensive item recognises the infant King's holiness. Finally Balthasar, brought Myrrh, an expensive and highly perfumed ointment which was used after death in the preparation of the body for burial. It is symbolic of the suffering and death of Our Lord).
- What other King did the wise men visit before they found Jesus and what did he ask them to do if they found Jesus? (They visited King Herod to ask him where they would find Jesus and King Herod, who secretly wanted to kill Jesus told them to come and visit him again on their return and tell him where to find Jesus. He told them that he wished to go and worship Jesus, but this was a lie).
- Who warned the kings not to go back to tell King Herod where he could find Jesus? (An angel who appeared to them in a dream).

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus,
 Look after all of your family here on earth, especially those who are poor, homeless, hungry, or ill.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **"Hear our prayer."**

Dear Jesus,
 You are our good shepherd, and we are your sheep. Keep us always close to You and never let us be lost or separated from you.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **"Hear our prayer."**

Activity

If there is time, use resources to complete an activity with the children. Possible resources are listed at the end.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Just as the three Kings came to worship you, we give you our hearts as we adore you today and always.

Amen.

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.

Useful resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children's Liturgy with Emily: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld: <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/>

Search for page entitled 'Resources for Children's Liturgy'

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew