

The Epiphany of the Lord Yr C 05.01.25

Isaiah with his marvellous imagery, speaks of Jerusalem growing radiant in the dawning brightness of God which is rising over her. Darkness still covers everyone, but it is giving way to this New Day of the Lord. The very heart of all people is stirred to radiant brightness, as sons and daughters return, as camels and dromedaries throng before you and are drawn to your light. Gold and incense from Saba are offered to you. There is this wonderful sense of the movement of peoples coming, and light shining out towards them.

And the same movement is in the passage from Ephesians. Paul, entrusted with the mystery of Salvation, spreading the grace meant for all the Gentiles, who are moving towards their enlightenment, realising they inherit the same promises, the same inheritance, they are part of the same body of Christ Jesus.

Again, in Matthew's Gospel and infancy narrative we get movement and light. The star guiding the Magi to the Christ-child, the Christ offering himself to them, even as they offer their gifts of gold recognising Kingship, frankincense recognising Divinity and myrrh recognising his Suffering and Sacrifice, prefiguring his mission. The Magi do not go back to Herod, rejecting his exercise of power.

Where are we in this inter play of peoples? Who is guiding, drawing us? Which light are we following, whom do we seek? The Magi's gifts - symbols of wealth, wisdom and power, pale in comparison with the gift of Christ, given as the true Light, by the Father.

In following his Light, are we focused on his Word in the Scriptures? Are we generous in our service of others? Do we spend quality time in prayer? Let us resolve to make practical progress, giving ourselves and others Hope in this Jubilee Year.

