



Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about

astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

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**Liturgy of the Word for Next
Sunday Year C/2**

1st Reading
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses
7:00am & 8:30am

Weekday Masses
Monday & Wednesday - 7:00am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Friday Mass at 10.30am
Rosary 10.00am

Mass Friday 10:30am

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation : 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30 pm
Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am
Sunday 5.00pm Korean Mass

Prayers & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00noon -1.00pm

Weekday Mass
Friday 12:30pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm,

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Guardian Angels Church 4.30pm

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We Three Kings

We three Kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

ANTIPHON:

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



Born a King on
Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown
him again.

King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **R**
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GLORIA SUNG

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Sing to the Mountains

Refrain

**Sing to the mountains,
sing to the sea.**

**Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice.**

I will give thanks to you, my Lord.
You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death.
You are my strength and my song. **R**

Holy, holy holy Lord,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory. **R**

This is the day that the Lord has made,
let us be glad and rejoice.
He has turned all death to life.
Sing of the glory of God. **R**
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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

You are the Christ everlasting,
born for us all of a Virgin,
you have conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

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GIFTS PROCESSION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie.
Above your deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given,
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and
night. **R**

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country
far, to seek for a king was their
intent, and to follow the star
wherever it went. **R**

This star drew nigh to the north-
west, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place
where Jesus lay. **R**

Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and
frankincense. **R**

Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who made both heav'n and earth
from nought, and with his blood
salvation bought. **R**
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REFLECTION HYMN

Song for Epiphany

Behold a star shining
upon a Child's head,
and low bending shepherds
by God's angels led,
three kings all their treasures
before him unfold,
the fragrance of spices,
frankincense and gold.

The incense his Godhead,
God's kingship proclaims,
the myrrh's bitter sweetness

his cross and his pains.
What have we to give thee
but what thou first gave?
Take, Jesus, our homage
and all that we have.



Our faith as the incense
be pleasant to thee,
the myrrh speak our hoping,
the gold charity.
So, Jesus and Mary and Joseph,
farewell, may angels surround you
and God keep you well.

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RECESSIONAL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing over the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this Jubilee?
Why your joyous strains
prolong? Say, what may the
tidings be, which inspire
your heav'nly song?



Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King

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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God, begotten, not made, con-
substantial with the Father; through him,
all things were made. For us men and for
our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(At the words that follow, up to and including
'and became man', all bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For
our sake, he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance, with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead and his kingdom will
have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the
Father

and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of
sins and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to
come. Amen.