



Epiphany

There are people who would think it is most unlikely that a group of Magi would be daring enough to chase a star across a continent to bring presents to a Jewish baby! Imagine the first one saying, 'Will you join me in following that star?', and his long-suffering wife replying, 'It's all right for you go following stars, you must have little else to do!'.

The value in a story is surely in the truth it tries to express; and this story tells us that these people followed their light as far as it went. Renowned for their wisdom, they recognised a greater wisdom in this infant. These highly cultured people left the centre of their civilised world to find a new centre in an obscure village. These rich people traded their wealth for the welcoming smile of a child. It is a meaningful story and one which can be explored very deeply with the help of Catholic Biblical scholars.

And there is another side to the story which comes from the insight of the poet T.S. Eliot. In his "Journey of the Magi", he says,

*"this birth was hard and bitter agony for us,
like Death, our death.*

*We returned to our kingdoms
but no longer at ease in the old dispensation,
with an alien people clutching their gods.*

The Magi already figured that life came out of death, but it is still sad to watch something die - especially your own way of living. Nevertheless, whether we are wise or foolish, if we want to walk in a new light, we have to step out of our familiar darkness (which is perhaps why most people don't follow stars!): do that and nothing is the same again, it seems. Even if we go back we feel like aliens; the centre of life has shifted somewhere else.

For us, Christ himself is the star, leading and inviting us to a different world, and for the one who follows Christ, the old world with its alien gods seems strange indeed.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of **Gabriel Dennis RIP** takes place this Wednesday 10 January at 11am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, with the reception on Tuesday at 5pm.

The funeral for **Ged Connelly RIP** will take place in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Monday 15 January at 10am.

Brian Moore RIP will be received into St Andrew's Cathedral at 4.30pm on Thursday 18 January, with his funeral Mass being celebrated on Friday 19 January at 12.30pm and thereafter to Barnhill Cemetery.

RCIA



a journey in faith

If you are looking to be Baptised this coming Easter..... or if you are already Baptised but wish to be received into full communion with the catholic Church, I invite you to a short meeting where we shall go over the

procedures, and this will be held at St Andrew's Cathedral on Wednesday 17 January at 7pm. It would be helpful to know in advance if you are coming to this meeting by emailing me:

StAndrew@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

The **Journey of faith** preparation evenings will recommence on Wednesday 24 January.

EPIPHANY To EMMAUS



We will follow a programme guided by the liturgical cycle entitled *Epiphany to Emmaus*; this will be of great help not only for those wishing to be Baptised/Received/Confirmed at Easter, but to anyone who wants to immerse themselves more deeply in the scriptures and the liturgical life of the church at this time. Please consider making this commitment to your faith this year.

There will be Tea and Coffee after Mass in the Cathedral Hall this Sunday; please come and join us if you can.

Thank you for your generosity to our parishes. Recent collections are as follows:

St Andrew's Cathedral

24 December: £694

Christmas Day: £1489

31 December: £776

St Mary's, Forebank:

24 December: £385

Christmas Day: £1825

31 December: £560

Our Lady of Good Counsel:

24 December & Christmas Day: £1857

31 December: £743

These amounts do not include the donations from the many parishioners who pay their church contribution by standing order.

*The annual special collection for the work of the Church in the field of **Justice and Peace** will be taken next Sunday at all Masses. There will be a bucket at the back of the church as you leave.*