

Based on the gospel for Sunday 6 January – Matthew 2:1-12

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.”

The Epiphany of the Lord offers us an opportunity to remember and re-encounter the joy of the birth of Christ. Perhaps Christmas already feels like a long time ago. The feasting, presents and excitement have come to an end in our homes.

But today we see the scene in the manger again – this time from the perspective of the “wise men from the East”, the Magi, who come to pay homage to the Christ child.

How can we hold onto the joy that comes from this new encounter, this fresh opportunity? We can get very absorbed in our day-to-day lives and forget everything but our worries. Pope Francis reminds us:

“Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.” *Evangelii Gaudium #2*

Yet we are a people of joy - we are to bring good news, especially to the poor and excluded of this world. We too are to follow the star that leads us to the joy of our encounter with Christ. Can we find a way to allow ourselves to be transformed by this joy, and open our hearts to others?



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Loving God, you led the Magi to the manger by the light of a star and they responded with joy. Grant us the grace to follow our calling to love and generosity of spirit. May we too share the joy of your love with others and bring good news to all.