

The background features a teal-to-blue gradient with faint, semi-transparent circular patterns and a scale. The scale is a large circular arc on the left side, with numerical markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circular elements include dashed lines, solid lines, and arrows, some pointing clockwise and some counter-clockwise, creating a technical or scientific aesthetic.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

6TH JANUARY



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The feast of the Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas. It is the time we remember the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus. These men are sometimes called the three wisemen or the three kings.

Epiphany is a Greek word which means *appearance* or *manifestation* or showing forth and is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles- the Magi, who were not Jewish.

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF THE MAGI?

The Wise men appear only in St. Matthew's Gospel. Read the full story there (Mt2 1-12).

The Wisemen came from the east following a star which they believed would lead them to the infant king of the Jews. When they arrived in Jerusalem they asked where the infant child was.

King Herod was worried when he heard this and summoned the wise men to him and asked them everything they knew about this new king. He then ordered them to go to Bethlehem and look for this king of the Jews and bring him back news of where he was so that he too might go to pay his respects. The Wise men set out on their journey and following the star they eventually came to the place where Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were.

They fell to their knees when they saw Jesus and offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod as of course he did not really want to pay his respects to Jesus. He was jealous of him and wanted to harm him so the Wisemen secretly took a different route home.

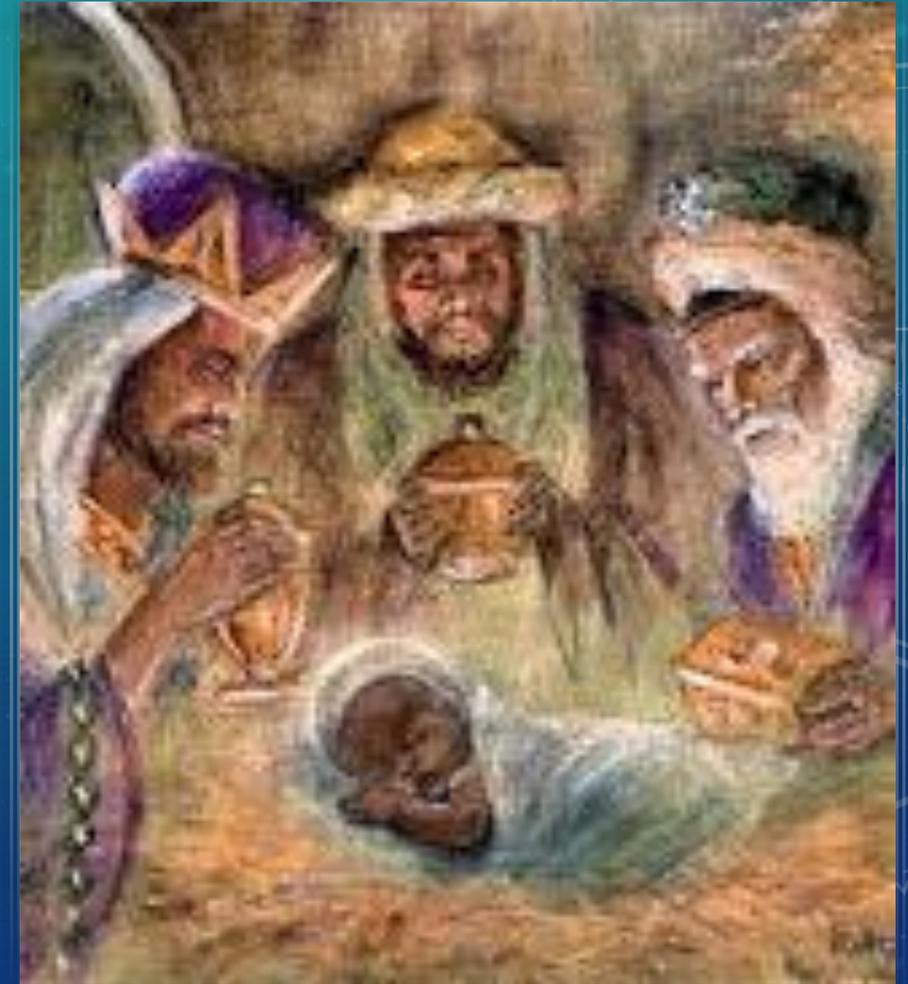


WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE GIFTS?

Gold - the gold represents Jesus as King as well as his divinity. The Magi recognised Jesus as King of the Jews.

Frankincense - is highly fragrant when burned and is used in worship. It is a symbol of holiness and righteousness.

Myrrh - this was used as an anointing oil. It foretells of his death and embalming and is a symbol of his suffering. It was a fitting gift for Jesus, who was born to die for us.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY?

We are like the Magi, a people on a journey to Christ.

This year let us become stars, leading others to Jesus,
as the star led the Magi to him.

What kind thing can I do to help others?

How will I be a good friend to someone?

How will I let my light shine?

Who will I forgive today?

Who can I pray for today?

