

GOSPEL READINGS

1 Luke 2:15-21 **Naming & Circumcision of Jesus**
2 John 1:19-8 Basil the Great & Gregory, bishops
3 John 1:29-34
4 Matthew 2:1-12 CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY

5 Matthew 4:12-17,23-end
6 Mark 6:34-44
7 Mark 6:45-52
8 Luke 4:14-22
9 Luke 5:12-16
10 JOHN 3:22-30 *William Laud, archbishop*
11 Matthew 3:13-end Baptism of Christ
12 Mark 1:14-20 Aelred, abbot
13 Mark 1:21-28 Hilary, bishop
14 Mark 1:29-39
15 Mark 1:40-end
16 Mark 2:1-12
17 Mark 2:13-17
18 John 1:29-42
19 Mark 2:18-22 *Antony of Egypt, hermit*
20 Mark 3:23-end **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
21 Mark 3:1-6 Week of prayer for Christian Unity
22 Mark 3:7-12 Wulfstan, bishop
23 Mark 3:13-19 *Richard Rolle, spiritual writer*
24 Mark 3:20-21 Agnes, martyr
25 Matthew 19:27-end
26 Mark 3:22-30 *Vincent of Saragossa, deacon*
27 Mark 3:31-end
28 Mark 4:1-20 Francis de Sales, bishop
29 Mark 4:21-25 **Conversion of Paul**
30 Mark 4:26-34 Timothy and Titus
31 Mark 4:35-end Thomas Aquinas, pries
Charles, king & martyr
John Bosco, priest

PRAYER DIARY JANUARY



EPIPHANY

Many people only think of Christmas ending after Boxing Day and some think it extends to New Years Day. For most it has long been traditional to take down our Christmas decorations on Epiphany.

I keep my crib up until the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which we celebrate at the beginning of February. It seems a shame to banish the Wise men to the cupboard when they have only just arrived!

The clip art I picked for this month's Prayer Diary says. "Wise men seek him still". The period of Epiphany is a good time for us to be wise, to think and pray about seeking our Saviour Christ in our individual lives and in our world today.

This month also contains the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which extends from a feast dedicated to St Peter to the feast of the Conversion of St Paul, two of the important Apostles in the early church. We should follow their example (and that of the Wise Men) of searching for Christ in our own lives and what that means.

I hope the litany chosen for our prayers helps.

Preparation

Take time to become still and ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray. You might like to use something to help you like lighting a candle.

We pray that the Gospel may come into our lives not in word only but also in the power of the Spirit, and that our love may not be a matter of words or talk but be genuine and show itself in action.
Help us, our Father, to mean this our prayer as we ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading

Read the Gospel passage set for today slowly.
(see back cover)

Notice if any words or phrases jump out to you.
Meditate on these and what they might be saying to you, your church and the community you live in.

Time for prayer for others and ourselves

Take time to think about and pray for:
what you have learned today from the Gospel
the world which God made and loves
those with whom we share our lives
anyone in special need
our parish

The Lord's Prayer

Ending

Creator God,
I offer you this day.
Give me grace to love and serve you
to the praise of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

A LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

The Magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour; we too must search for you all our lives.

Help us to find you, Lord.

The magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of building up your kingdom here and now.

Help us to find you, Lord.

The coming of the strangers from the East marked the showing forth of Christ to the whole world. As Christians we are called to show forth Christ's love in our everyday lives.

Help us to find you, Lord.

You were in the world but they did not know you. You came to your own and they did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room for you in our hearts?

Help us to respond to you.

The Magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the east, We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people.

**Give us the strength to put false security behind us
and live as if we were on a journey.**

God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Ianthe and Oliver Pratt

