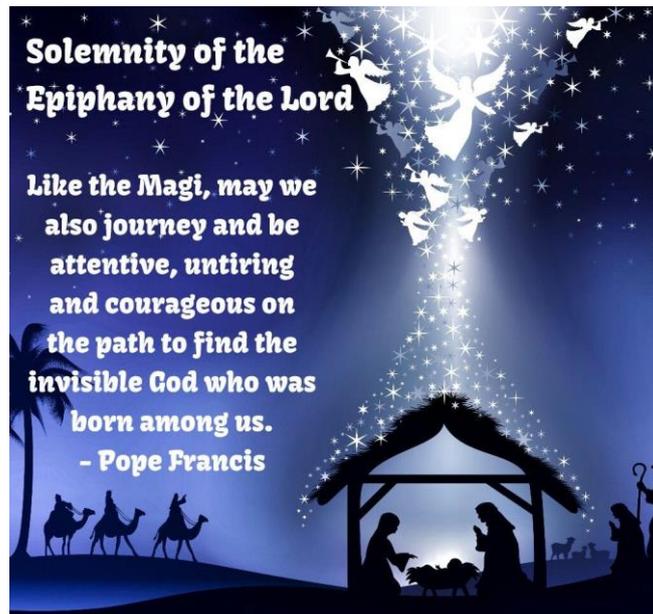


The Epiphany of the Lord



The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the Revelation of Jesus, the Incarnation of God, to the world. But what do we actually know about the Magi. We don't get much information from the scriptures. Who were they? Original manuscripts describe them as Magi, This is from an ancient Iranian word, "magoi" which refers to people who were captivated by the stars and dressed in a bizarre manner. Scripture does not refer to them as kings, nor does it say that there were three of them.

The fact that so little detail is given about them, helps us to focus on two important aspects – the journey they made and what they came to do.

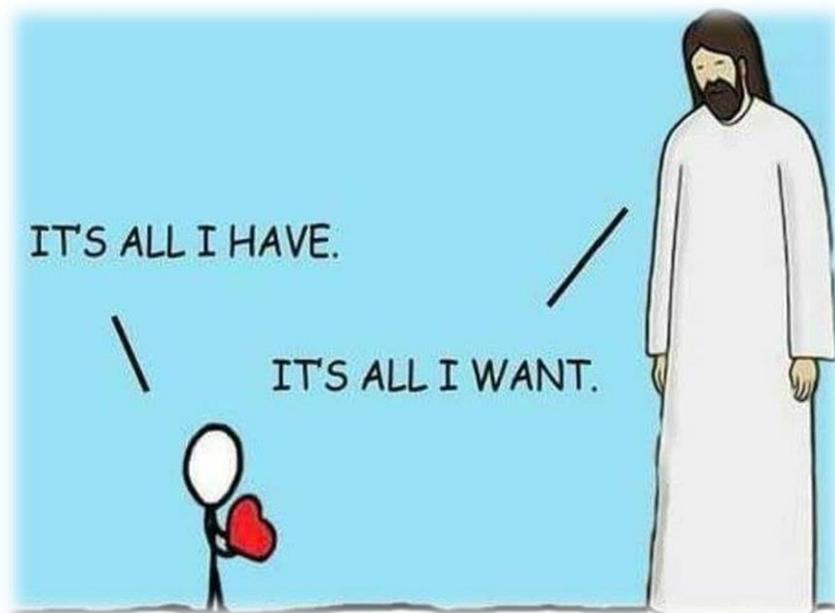
To make their journey they "followed the star".

We have been fortunate just before Christmas to see what is believed could have been the celestial event that led to the Star of Bethlehem. Jupiter and Saturn appeared, to the naked eye, to shine as one. We can imagine the Magi tracking the path of the two planets on their journey until the great conjunction when the planets shone brighter than any star. They had no idea what they were to discover on this important journey. How wonderful that, in the midst of the darkness of the Covid-19 pandemic, God, once again, gives us our own Star of Bethlehem to lead us on our journey.

The scriptures tell us that the Magi were focussed on coming to pay homage to the child, Jesus. They came to acknowledge the Incarnate One. We, too, are called to come and worship the child in the crib who is Lord and God of all.



Our crib, in Church this year, is rooted in the reality of our world. It calls us to be shepherds who smell the sheep. It calls us to be people on a journey, like the Magi, who search for the Light that is Christ. It calls us to be the Incarnation in our world today, bringing love to those we meet.



May the feast of the Epiphany strengthen our faith in the Incarnate God, give us the courage to journey closer to him and show him to the world by our love.