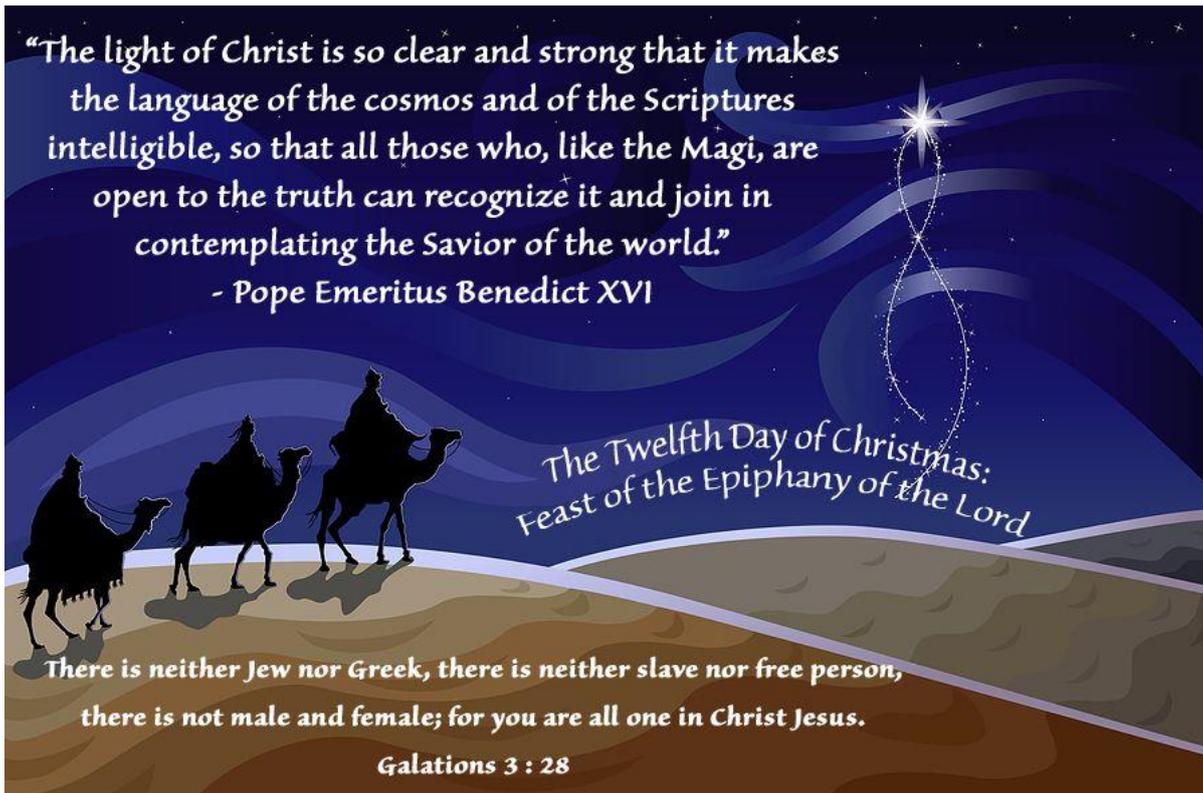


## Feast of the Epiphany



What the story of the Epiphany lacks in detail, it makes up for in both tradition and speculation.

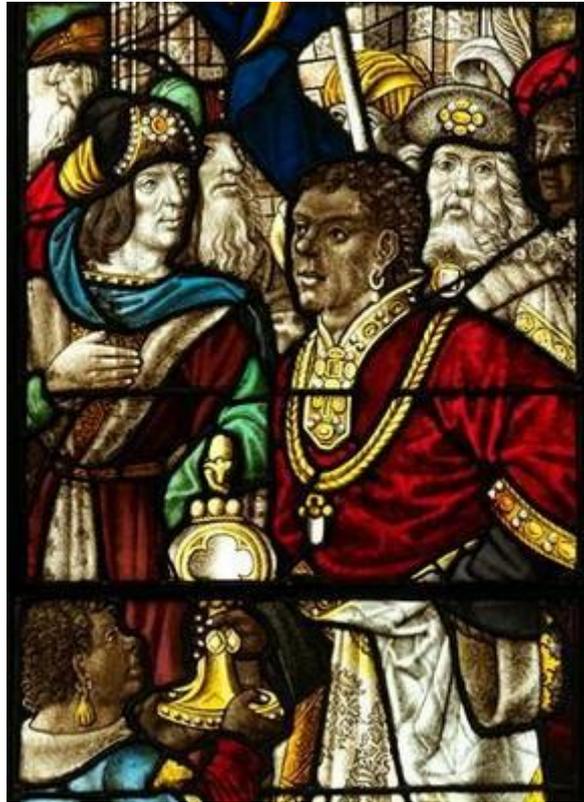
Who were these wise men? Were there more than three? Where did they come from? How old was Jesus when they visited him? Were there really gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh?

This feast shows us that Jesus did not only come for the Jewish people, but that he came to be the Light for all people. Scholars today would consider the Magi to be people of science who studied the stars. As Pope Benedict alluded to in the quote above, the Light of Christ removes the divide between science and religion.

The Gospel tells us that they went into a house and found the child Jesus with his mother, Mary. The story continues later about how Herod demanded that boys up to the age of two should be killed, sending the Holy Family searching for safety as refugees in Egypt. So perhaps Jesus was older when these visitors came or maybe Matthew's Gospel has this story for a particular purpose. A clue is found in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah:

*'Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come.....the nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.....the wealth of the nations will come to you; camels in throngs will cover you.....everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense.'*

Matthew is keen to use Old Testament prophecies and show how they apply to Jesus. So perhaps this is why he has the story of the Magi.



Like the Magi, we are on a journey and these past two years have been like a journey never experienced before. The road ahead of us keeps changing. Covid does not allow us to follow a straight path. Yet, like the Magi, we cannot allow our fears and anxieties; our weariness and confusion; our helplessness and our uncertainties cause us to give up. We must focus our eyes on Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. As we said earlier, the Light of Christ removes the divide between science and religion. Therefore, as people of faith, we need to listen to the scientists. We need to be grateful to God for enabling scientists to find vaccinations. We need to respond by accepting God's gift of the vaccines and booster.

So let us ask our Incarnate God to be with us, bringing us home in his light, especially from the darkness of Covid-19.



*Starlight, star bright  
Lead us on through the darkness.  
Starlight we share you tonight  
Bring us home in your light.*

