

Epiphany

6 January 2019

Preaching the Gospel in the era of Brexit, Trump and the migration of people across the globe and the collapse of rules based on international order.

Preaching the Gospel in a Church so often discredited by the abuse of power at so many levels.

Preaching the Gospel in a world where the Catholic Church is not the only player in the field, where the other churches and other Faiths are increasingly showing us the way.

These are just some of the challenges for this New Year of 2019. *“Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come.”* Jesus is not just *the infant King of the Jews... Before him all kings shall fall prostrate.* The stars in the sky, the constellations of the whole cosmos, point to this birth, to this child. The wise men from the East follow this star, recognise that this birth has meaning for everybody. Indeed, so much meaning that all they want to do is fall down before him and do him homage, to worship him, to offer him gifts, to share his love.

Pagans now share the same inheritance and are part of the same body. If Christmas is, in many ways, a quiet intimate family affair, the Epiphany is a very public, universal affair. Jesus is for everybody. Jesus changes everything. Jesus is to be found in surprising places. And our brothers and sisters, doing homage with us, may well be very different from us.

Epiphany means going on a journey, a journey of discovery, following the star, listening to one another, seeking advice, asking other people the way, attending to our hopes and dreams, engaging with the world as it is, in all its complexity and confusion, developing a spiritual sense and finally doing homage to Jesus who is at the centre of all things.

“Lift up your eyes and look around.....At this sight you will grow radiant.” “We saw his star and have come to do him homage.” Amen.

Fr Michael