

Some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. *'Where is the infant King of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.'*

Emily-May and her parents have come all the way from Taiwan. Winifred has travelled a great spiritual journey. They, too, want to know where the infant King of the Jews is. They, too, have seen his star and have come to do him homage.

Plenty of King Herods will try to deter them, will try to trick them. We Christians are, in a sense, innocents abroad so susceptible to the wiles of evil men.

But it's not the King Herods of this world who see the star; not the King Herods who discover *the place where the child was*; not the King Herods who are filled with delight.

This is the mystery unknown to men in past generations that has been revealed – the mystery of God's mercy and love. We have the privilege, the wonder, the gift of going right into the house of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We fall to our knees. We do him homage. What little gold, frankincense and myrrh we give him, but most of all, we give him our hearts.

On Saturday of this week, we will have the opportunity of entering the house of Jesus in a rather different way. Jesus' house extends well beyond Bethlehem and Nazareth, and indeed Jerusalem. In that house Jesus has a very special place for there, on the margins of our world and our consciousness, the unborn child, the woman with the unwanted pregnancy, the couple who are struggling to conceive, the terminally ill, elderly people with nobody to love and care for them, people for whom life seems to have become a burden rather than a joy. For a few minutes before the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday night we will try to explore these situations in a prayerful and compassionate way. I will make myself available for confessions and we will all commend one another to the love and mercy of God.

But today belongs to Emily-May and Winifred. Today belongs to each of us as we travel on our spiritual journey. We all have different starting points but we all have the same destination, the loving embrace of the Christ child, our Lord and Saviour.

O God who on this day revealed your only begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a **star**, grant in your **mercy**, that we who know you already by **faith**, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Fr Michael