

to taste something of God in our lives. This longing for God is something more than a vague hope or distant expectation. Rather it is a deep movement in our hearts represented by Simeon who “longed to see the Saviour”, the Prodigal Son who “longed to return to his Father”, the shepherd “longing for his lost sheep”, and Mary Magdalene running to the tomb “longing to see the risen Jesus”.

In our contemporary culture it

often seems God has gone missing! We know our world needs a new Epiphany to show the light of Christ. As such, we are all called to be today’s Magi by searching for signs of God’s presence in our world leading to the joyful celebration of the light of Christ shining on us and throughout the whole of creation.

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## The light we all follow

### We respond ...

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn)

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 71)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**LECTOR:** O God, give your judgement to the king; to a king’s son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

**LECTOR:** In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth’s bounds. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings

of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

**LECTOR:** For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**TODAY’S READINGS** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**NEXT WEEK** (2nd Sunday Year A) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 28, Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

#### Let’s Figure out Families Together

All families have issues and are dysfunctional to some extent. A new podcast series, *Figuring out Families*, looks at the issues facing families today. Produced by Majellan Media, experts in a variety of fields are interviewed about the specific issues and what type of assistance is available to wounded families. Some of those interviewed to date include Denis Fitzgerald from Catholic Social Services, Robyn Miller from Mackillop Family Services and Juli Sharpe from Genesis Pregnancy Support. Those podcasts and others are now available at [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)



The Feast of the Epiphany concludes the Christmas season with the story of visitors from the East coming to honour the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This story, told only in the Gospel of Matthew, was developed in the early Christian centuries where the Magi are given names – “Balthasar, Melchior, Gasper” – and, in some accounts, are specified as “kings of Arabia, Persia and India”. Others call the wise men astrologers since they could read the stars; others again name them sorcerers on account of their use of supernatural or magic powers.

Matthew’s more sparse account does not specify their number, names, nationalities, occupations or regal positions. For Matthew they are just “some wise men from the East” who come to pay homage to “the infant king of the Jews”. The remarkable aspect of the story, apart from the encounter with Herod, is that these visitors to Bethlehem are, like most of us, strangers from afar, outside God’s original covenant with the

Jewish people. For the gospel writer, the journey of the Magi announces that God’s covenant is no longer for a single people, but for everyone.

The word *Epiphany* means a moment of sudden, great revelation represented by a new light enabling us to see things as they really are. The birth of Jesus is that new light to announce the Good News of God’s salvation for all peoples and nations. Our response should be that of the non-Jewish Magi – but instead of worshipping Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh, we do so with the gifts of our different personalities, ways of life, cultures and traditions.

St John Chrysostom in the fourth century asked why the star shining in the East was only seen by the Magi? He answered that the Magi did not set out because they saw the star; rather, they saw the star because they had already set out! He adds they were searchers guided by an inner-restlessness.

Pope Francis says the Magi represent all of us who, refusing to let our hearts be frozen, have a longing