

Thought for the week
The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
3rd January, 2020

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

The Epiphany tells the story of the wise men being led by a star to the birthplace of Jesus. Although, upon their arrival, the purpose of that star had ended, its spiritual light is ever present. This star could be emblematic of the greatest gift of all - a light which is available to guide every person to Jesus.

In this story, the wise men had a visual cue which led them to their goal. The same cannot always be said for us, as the destination of our spiritual journey may not always be defined nor the path as clear cut. It can be difficult enough to navigate our normal lives as there are times when we don't know where to go or even the direction we are meant to be heading. So where do you turn for guidance?

Humans have an innate tendency to follow those they trust, be it physically as an infant, or more psychologically as we mature. With this being ultimately how humans learn, we are taught to be careful when choosing our role models and who we look up to; but do we as often consider those who look up to us?

We may not always notice, but our words and actions could be the beacon that guides someone when they are lost. Though unwittingly, we now hold responsibility for what another may choose to learn from us, and it could be how we receive this information that defines what kind of person we are. As Jesus is the light of the world, we should also strive to be the positive light in each other's lives so that "the star of your justice may shine always bright in our minds".



Prayers Please

Please pray for Paul Wailen (Peter Halter's cousin) who passed away on Christmas Day

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;
Maryann and Charles Smith, James Rideout Bellety, Peter Raynard, Grace Rehor, Kitty Cottrell, Roberto Roman Arrieta, Rochmond Buike, Richard Cannings, Henry Clay, Paul McDermott, Doug Buck, Keiran Cotter, Lucy Emma Disouza, Delicia Rose Ingram.