

St. Mun's Monthly

For our young parishioners

Welcome to 2024! Happy New Year!

On January 1st we begin a new year.

January 1st is also the Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God. A special day indeed to begin another year! You may remember to say an extra Hail Mary on that day in her honour.

Also during the first week of January we remember more visitors to the stable coming to worship Jesus. January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany when some wise men came.

The Wise Men

Far away in the East, some Wise Men were studying the sky when they noticed a new star. A new star had a special meaning. It meant that a new ruler had been born.

They set out and followed the star, hoping to find the new king and bring him gifts. On their journey they stopped at King Herod's palace as they thought a new ruler would surely be born in a palace.



King Herod's Palace

At the palace they asked King Herod...

'Where is the new-born King? We have seen His star and know that he is to be a great ruler. We want to worship Him.'

King Herod didn't like this news, for he was King! He didn't want to share his throne with anyone. So he told the Wise Men they must return to him after finding the new king so that he too could go and worship him. However, King Herod did not wish to worship Jesus, he really wanted to harm him.

The Wise Men Find Jesus

The Wise Men left the palace and followed the star which led them to the stable in Bethlehem. There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. They worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Can you colour this picture ?

Gifts for a King

The Wise men were named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar.

Gold was brought by Melchior. Gold is a precious and expensive metal often worn by kings. This was a sign of Christ's Royalty.

Frankincense was brought by Caspar. Frankincense is a type of incense, which when burned gives off a perfumed smell. This was a sign of Christ's holiness.



Myrrh was brought by Balthazar. Myrrh is a perfumed ointment used to prepare the dead for their burial. This was a sign of Christ's humanity and His suffering and death.

The Wise Men Return Home

After the Wise Men had presented their gifts, during the night they all had the same dream. In their dream an angel warned them not to return to King Herod's Palace. The angel told them that King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus. The Wise Men instead went straight home by another way.

Joseph's Dream

Like the Wise Men, Joseph too had another dream. An angel told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because King Herod wanted to harm baby Jesus.

King Herod realised that he had been tricked by the Wise Men and was very angry. He gave orders to kill all boys aged two or younger in Bethlehem and the surrounding area.

By doing this he thought baby Jesus would be killed, but he was safe in Egypt. Joseph and Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until it was safe to return to their homeland.

The Christmas season ends on January 7th followed by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated January 8th.

During this season the greatest event of all happens. Jesus, whose birth was promised to God's people was born! We call this event The Incarnation. No wonder there is so much celebrating and rejoicing!

