## Gospel for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Feast of the Ephiphany, celebrating the coming of the 3 Wisemen

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king.

During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said,

"Where is the child born to be king of the Jews?

We saw his star in the east & have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was worried,

and so was everyone else in Jerusalem.

Herod brought together the chief priests & the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them,

"Where will the Messiah be born?"
They told him,

"He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea,

you are very important among the towns of Judea.

From your town will come a leader,

who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel."

Herod secretly called in the wise men

and asked them when they had first seen the star.

He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child.

As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left.

And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him.

They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh & gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and so they went back home by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

For you to think about: The word 'Epiphany' means showing or revealing. On today's Feast day Jesus was 'revealed' to the wise men or the foreigners/strangers who travelled from a distant land to find Him. The story is missing a lot of facts but the message is clear – there are no strangers to God or Jesus; everyone is loved and treasured equally. Can we behave that way too?

