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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Epiphany of the Lord

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “revelation”. The metaphor of light is found in both the first reading and the gospel text. So what does this mean for us?

Jesus is our light. So how does this light manifest in us? We can take inspiration from the journey of the magi or the three wise men as they are popularly known. They were from another religion in the east and they studied astrology. Through their studying of the stars, they come to realise that something extraordinary had happened and set about on a journey to find it. So how do we apply this story to our own lives?

If we see that our destiny is to follow the star, who is Jesus, we, too must be like the wise men. First, we can begin to pay more attention to the scriptures. Study the word of God more diligently. Be acquainted with it. Next, we can be more curious like the wise men. Ask questions - they asked Herod who in turn consulted the chief priests and the scribes. Sometimes, we may consult the wrong people but if we do not ask, we never know anything.

After that, look up and follow the ‘star’. This means that it is important to look for people we can emulate or guide us in our path. It could be the saints that have gone before us or spiritual guides amongst us. We have to ask for the gift of discernment to not fall into the trap of the “Herods” of our times - people who deceive and have ill intent.

When we find the ‘star’ - the truth or treasure from God, we would be like the wise men, fall and worship in total surrender - in prayer so that we can be in total union with Christ. And for us to connect with God, we cannot be stingy with our gifts. The wise men offered gold, frankincense and myrrh. We in turn offer the gold of love of kingship, the fragrance of frankincense in divine worship and the sorrow of myrrh of our lives. We give them all to our Lord.

And after all that, we need to remember the wise men’s example and return by another way. After following the star and seeing the light, we cannot remain the same, we have to commit to change our lives. We can begin in a small way but we have to start. If we can begin to do so, we then can say that we have experienced an epiphany today!

Reflection by Hope

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 8 JANUARY Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Monday, 9 JANUARY The Baptism of the Lord	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; 3:13-17 The Lord will bless his people with peace.
Tuesday, 10 JANUARY	Hebr 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28 You gave your Son power over the works of your hand.
Wednesday, 11 JANUARY	Hebr 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Thursday, 12 JANUARY	Hebr 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45 O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Friday, 13 JANUARY St. Hilary	Hebr 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12 Never forget the deeds of the Lord.
Saturday, 14 JANUARY Blessed Peter Donders, CSsR	1 Jn 3:14-18; Mat 22:34-40 The Lord loves those who give with joy.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm,
4.00pm, 6.00pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour
11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday
7.30am to 7.00pm

Sunday
8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

14 January, Blessed Peter Donders, Priest

Peter Donders was born in Tilburg in Holland on October 27, 1809. From his youth, he felt called to the priesthood, but because of the poverty of his family, his schooling was cut short so he could take up the weaver's trade of his father. This did not prevent him from teaching catechism to children in his free time.

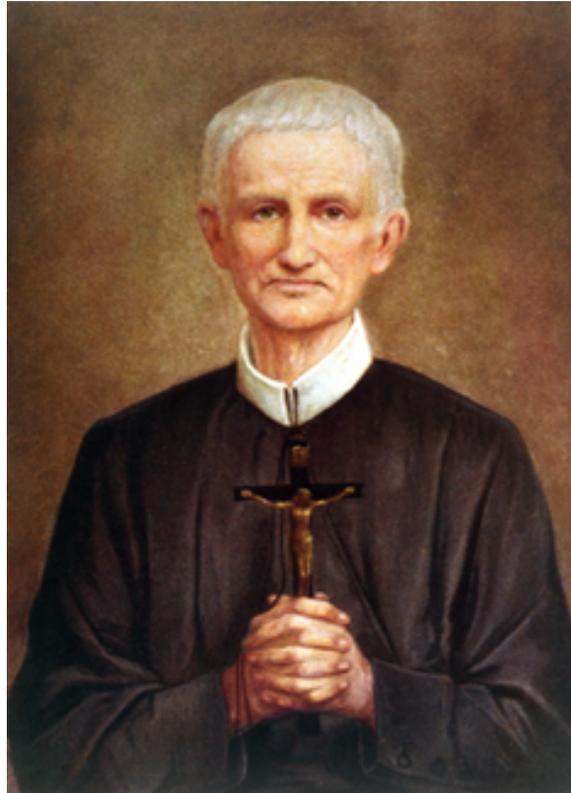
He also had a good influence on young people his age. At the age of twenty-two, he entered the minor seminary and was ordained a priest on June 5, 1841. He set out as a missionary for Suriname, which was then a Dutch colony.

For the next fourteen years, he dedicated himself to the resident Catholics and also visited the slaves of the plantations as well as the military garrisons and the native Indians and black slaves along the rivers.

He asked to join the Redemptorists to whom Pope Pius IX had confided the Apostolic Vicariate of Suriname. He was invested with the religious habit on November 1, 1866 and professed his vows on June 24, 1867.

Religious profession, gave him a more vivid sense of the apostolic life in community, allowing him to leave Batavia more often to give himself to the conversion of the native Indians and slaves.

But the name of Donders remained bound to the leprosarium of Batavia. He died among his lepers, poor among the poor, on January 1887, mourned as their benefactor and invoked as a saint. Pope John Paul II beatified him on May 23, 1982, during the 250th jubilee year of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.



Operating Hours For Festive Seasons

Church Reception operating hours will be as follows:

21st January- 7.30am to 1pm
22nd to 24th January - closed

Giftshop operating hours will be as follows:

21st January - 8.30am to 1pm
22nd to 24th January - closed

Canteen will be closed on 21st January.

Schedules during the Festive Seasons

Mass on Chinese New Year Eve, 21st January will be at 10pm.

Masses on Chinese New Year Day will be at 8am, 10am, 12pm & 5.30pm

Masses on 23rd & 24th January will be at 9am and 6.30pm being Public Holidays

