

Epiphany Year A

Gifts
Children
Herod
Wise men from the east

Theophany

Gifts

- not because he needed them but because of who he was
- given in love

- we give people gifts because we need them, want them to think well of us
- quite often it's a sign of our neediness
- return empty-handed: they have in fact given us something
- We bring gifts today: ourselves, singing, participation
- our hands are empty, so ready to receive what the baby can give us
- we receive spiritual sustenance: the body and blood
- We are lifted to God, as he comes to us
- Admirabile commercium

Not like Herod

- His hands were full, and he was threatened by the baby. SO threatened he wanted it killed.
- You can see this symbolically
- child within, new ideas
- Baby is powerless.
- Gandhi did not have anything. He had only his two empty hands and his Hindu belief. But the powerful British Empire, with all its gunboats and armies, was not able to win the fight against his empty hands. They had no chance against a small faithful Hindu.

Hindu Zoroastrian Wise men

- Followed star
- Refused to cooperate with Herod
- Gandhi again

We are very powerful when we act without any of the trappings of power. This is when the layers that cover us are thinnest, and our lights can shine out most brightly.

'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. ... There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.'

Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven