

Epiphany

showing forth, shining forth;
the light in the darkness
light which all this world's darkness can never overcome.

That is the theme of the Epiphany: the shining forth of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, who is "the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1.24).

Many events in the Gospels are particularly associated with the Epiphany.

- the coming of the star-led Magi, gold, and incense, and myrrh "sacred gifts of mystic meaning" acknowledging the infant as King, as God, and as sacrifice.
- the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, next week.
- the miracles of Jesus, in which his divine power is manifest.

But today: "He is the wisdom of God": Christ as the Epiphany of the wisdom of God.

Wisdom: childlikeness of baby

Wisdom: kindness compassion

Wisdom: selflessness

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God ... For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1.19-25)

Be not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The temptations to conformity.

The spirit of the age.

expediency, of common-sense, of majority opinion (or majority sentiment).

family honour.

fads.

Christian community, we often confuse God's will with ours. **Irregular verb.**

But the wisdom of God is now manifest in Christ. In God there is no un-Christlikeness at all.

In the series of Gospel lessons for the Epiphany Sundays, first comes the Epiphany of divine wisdom, then the Epiphany of divine power in the miracles.

Wisdom has to precede action.

Wisdom includes analytical thinking.

Discerning wisdom for this church and these parishes
What would JC see if he were to come among us?

The message of the Festival of Epiphany is threefold; call, revelation and mission.

Call.

Mary received her call at the annunciation

Joseph received his call in a dream

The shepherds

Wise Men received their call

God still calls humanity. Think about the ministry you can offer.

Revelation.

He appears first to the outcast – the shepherds.

Then He appears to the foreigners – magi

Mission.

- Mary is to be the Mother of God on Earth.
- Joseph must care for his family; both require sacrifice.
- **And the shepherds and the wise men are you and me – sharing the message with others. Go and do it.**