**Mass of the Feast of the Epiphany**

Below are the official *Roman Missal* texts for the Feast of the Epiphany together with alternative prayers for use in Masses with children according to the provision of the *Directory on Masses with Children* (1973) that, “since these prayers were composed for adult Christians, the principle simply of choosing from among them does not serve the purpose of having the children regard the prayers as an expression of their own life and religious experience, the text of prayers of the *Roman Missal* may be adapted to the needs of children, but this should be done in such a way that [preserves] the purpose of the prayer and to some extent its substance as well . . .” (n.51)

**Collect**

O God,

who on this day revealed your only begotten Son to the nations

by the guidance of a star,

grant, in your mercy, that we who know you already by faith,

may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*alternative opening prayer*

O God our Father,

today we celebrate the wise men

who followed the star to Bethlehem,

to see the Christ child lying in the manger.

May we see the beauty of his birth,

as you reveal your Son to us and to all people.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB translation)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you,

though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you,

your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full;

since the riches of the sea will flow to you,

the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense

and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 (Grail translation)

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,

to king’s son your justice

that he may judge your people in justice

and your poor in right judgement.

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

In his days justice shall flourish

and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea,

from the great river to earth’s bounds.

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,

all nations shall serve hm.

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry

and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak

and save the lives of the poor.

**All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

**Second reading**

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers, you have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery, as I have just described it very shortly. This that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12 (JB)

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**We saw his start as it rose**

**and have come to do the Lord homage.**

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel + according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.'

When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel'.

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.'

Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Bidding prayers**

On this feast day when we remember the three wise men travelling from the East to see the baby Jesus, let us pray that we may know Jesus better and serve him.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Let us pray that we may use our gifts and talents in the service of others.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The gold brought to the Christ child reminds us of the worth of every human life, of every person we meet. Let us pray that we may treat everyone with respect and love, making the world a better place.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Mary wondered at the visit from the kings and pondered all that happened in her heart. Let us ask her to pray for us . . .

**Hail, Mary, full of grace . . .**

**Prayer over the offerings**

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,

on these gifts of your Church,

in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh

but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received: Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*alternative prayer over the offerings*

Lord,

look upon the gifts we bring to your altar

like the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

brought by the wise men to the Christ child.

May we receive your gift of Jesus

with joy and peace.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Preface**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ

as light of the nations,

and, when he appeared in our mortal nature,

you made us new by the glory of his immortal nature.

And so, with the angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions,

and with all the hosts and powers of heaven,

we sing the hymn of your glory,

as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

**Prayer after communion**

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,

always and everywhere,

that we may perceive with clear light

and revere with true affection

the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*alternative prayer after communion*

Lord,

go before us with your heavenly light

so that we may see clearly the many gifts you give us:

in our families and homes,

in our friends and schools,

in Jesus born again in our hearts this Christmas time.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Solemn blessing**

May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,

pour out in kindness his blessing upon you

and make your hearts firm on faith, hope and charity.

**Amen.**

And since in all confidence you follow Christ

who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness,

may God make you, too, a light for your brothers and sisters.

**Amen.**

And so when your pilgrimage is ended,

may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the start

and whom they found with great joy,

the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**

Mass texts: English Translation (2010) of the *Roman Missal*

Alternative prayers & Bidding prayers: Jesuit Institute (2018)

Readings: Lectionary (Jerusalem Bible and Grail translations)