

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

Pastor – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Victoria, BC, Canada

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ to the whole world. On this day, God reveals His Son not only to Israel but to all nations. The child born in Bethlehem is shown to be the Saviour of all humanity.

For our reflection today, I would like to focus on one beautiful and powerful symbol of the Epiphany: the Star. The Star had only one mission and one role - to lead the Magi to the Saviour, Jesus Christ; the eternal Light of the World. Through the visit of the Magi, it seemed the whole world was gathered at Bethlehem. This is the beauty of the Epiphany: people of different cultures, different traditions, different ways of thinking, and even different faith backgrounds are able to come together to one point: Jesus Christ, the hope of humanity. As Saint Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:28: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” The Star was God’s divine arrangement to make this gathering possible. There are many interpretations for the appearance of the Bethlehem Star. Some say it may have been a comet. Others suggest a conjunction of planets: perhaps the alignment of Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Still others believe it may have been a super nova. From a spiritual point of view, what matters most was its function: the God of miracles provided a divine sign to guide the Magi to the Divine King.

Theologians and biblical scholars have long held that the Star of Bethlehem was not an ordinary celestial body. Its purpose was to supernaturally guide the Magi to the birthplace of Jesus, revealing the Saviour to the Gentiles, fulfilling prophecy, and shining as a divine light of hope. Saint John Chrysostom described the star as a special manifestation of God, much like the pillar of fire in the Exodus; appearing within the atmosphere, rather than a distant star fixed in the heavens. The role of the star is clear: to lead others to Christ. And this, dear brothers and sisters, is also our role on earth. We are called to be lights, or little stars, that lead others to the true Light, Jesus Christ.

During the Rite of Baptism, a candle is lit and presented to the baptized with the words, “Receive the Light of Christ.” This is not merely a ritual; it is a mission. Every Christian is called to receive Christ, the true Light, and to reflect that light in our daily life so that others may



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<https://sacredheartvictoria.com/>

encounter Jesus through our words, actions, and through our love. We are called to be lights for those who have lost their faith, for those who struggle with moral confusion, for those who feel hopeless, discouraged or lost in life, and for those searching for meaning. Jesus himself tells us: “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Let me share with you an inspiring story of a Catholic woman from Kerala, South India. Her name is Anjana Shaji, a resilient woman who transformed her physical challenge, a partially developed right hand, into a powerful witness of hope. She founded a craft brand called *One Hand Embroidery* producing products with intricate designs that have inspired countless people.

Anjana dreamed of becoming a social worker and serving society. With great passion and determination, she completed a Master’s degree in Social Work. However, because of her physical limitation, she was repeatedly denied employment despite attending many interviews. What began as a painful disappointment eventually became a beautiful turning point in her life. She discovered her artistic talent, embraced embroidery, and turned her hobby into a successful business. Today, Anjana is an inspiration; especially to those living with disabilities. She says that *One Hand Embroidery* is not just the name of a brand, but a message of hope and motivation for anyone facing challenges in life. Through her life and work, she shines as a light, a tiny star giving hope to many hearts. Like the Star of Bethlehem, Anjana became an instrument of God’s guidance. And so are we called to be. The Star did not draw attention to itself; it led others to Christ. In the same way, Christians are called to place themselves at the service of God, to become instruments of His grace so that others may be drawn to salvation.

On this Feast of the Epiphany, let us ask ourselves: Are we willing to be stars that lead others to Jesus? Even a smile on our face can change a person. When our smile is born of faith and love, it becomes a small ray of God’s light that touches another heart. May our lives shine with faith, hope, and love, so that all who meet us may be led not to us, but to Christ; the true Light of the world.

“Be a Star That Leads to Christ”.