

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2024

‘Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!’ (Isaiah 60:1)

Coming at the end of the Christmas season, this proclamation echoes the 1st reading of the Christmas Eve mass: ‘the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’. Both of these citations come from the book of Isaiah, offering a vision of hope and sustenance to the entire world. These 12 days of Christmas are the promise of light and hope.

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at the Vatican, inaugurating a Holy Year under the theme of ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’ In the foyer of our churches, there are cards with prayer thoughts as we enter this holy time. Please take one and add it to your prayer discipline.

Epiphany is from the Greek meaning revelation or manifestation. The light illuminating the world is a new-born child cradled in the love of Mary and Joseph. In Baptism we are enlightened by this light, embraced in the love of God and commissioned to shine in our unique way.

The imagery, symbols and events of these holy days serve as a prologue to the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. They alone present the well known details of Jesus birth which are integral to our annual Christmas celebrations.

May this light be reflected in our lives as we begin a New Year.

Peace and light to you all and Happy New Year!

Fr. Don