

**Entrance**

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

**Antiphon Wis 18: 14-15****Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**First Reading****Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12**

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance. "From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20**

Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates he has blessed the children within you.

2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command.

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees.

**Second Reading****Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

**Gospel Acclamation****cf. 1Tim3:16**

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel****John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion****Antiphon Cf. Jn 1: 12**

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord our God, we humbly ask you, that, through the working of this mystery, our offences may be cleansed and our just desires fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.

## Homily

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas, Year C

Dear friends, as we begin this New Year together we continue our Christmas celebrations of Emmanuel – God with us. God is indeed with us as we look forward to this New Year and we pray that this will be a good year for us and our families and our parish. This year please God we will have a new roof on our Church and be able to discard the buckets once and for all!

Today we listen to the Gospel taken from the first chapter of St John known as the Prologue and for many years this Gospel was recited by the priest at the end of Mass as it summed up the whole work of salvation. There is no mention of the infancy narrative in John's Gospel we hear quite simply that **'the Word became flesh and he lived among us.'** This is what we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus, the Word, the true light of the world, being born as one of us. John goes on to say that **'we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.'**

On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and we remember the three wise men who came from afar, searching for the new-born Christ-child; they followed the light and were guided by the star by which the mystery of the Christ-child was revealed to them. When they found him they recognised him as someone special and they paid him homage and offered him wonderful gifts of great treasure.

The Feast of the Epiphany emphasises that Jesus was born for all people, no matter who they are. God sent his Son into the world for all and he revealed himself to the whole world through the Magi, the three wise men.

Jesus is a light for everyone and he made salvation available to all; the Feast of the Epiphany brings all people together and breaks down any barriers or divisions that may exist today.

The Magi laid before Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – and through their generosity and giving they received much more. As we begin this New Year and reflect on Jesus, the Light of the World, and as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this week, what is the treasure, the gold, frankincense and myrrh that we lay before the Christ-child?

## **Homily**

**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas, Year C**

As we celebrate Emmanuel, the gift of God with us, we focus on Jesus the Light of the World who came to bring light and life to all people. I think that Christmas and the Epiphany invite us to be lights particularly in the darkness of our world for those who struggling and in need. We are called to be lights and to share our love, hope and joy with others.

Once again let us bow down before the Christ-child and adore him Christ the Lord as we offer ourselves to him in this New Year of 2022.

Happy New Year to you, your families and loved ones, with love and prayers as always. God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

## **Bidding Prayers and Synod Prayer**

### **Christmas 2021**

#### **Priest:**

As we begin this New Year together and continue to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour we bring all our prayers before Our Heavenly Father.

#### **Reader:**

For the Church and Christians everywhere: may they be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and be beacons of light to all this Christmas. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace this Christmas and an end to violence, hatred and division everywhere. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are poor or in need: following the example of Christ may we always help and serve them particularly at this Christmas time with love, generosity and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For migrants and refugees, particularly our refugees here in Wallasey; may we do all we can to help and support them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in our parish who are sick or housebound: may they come to know the love, peace and the comforting presence of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the faithful departed especially **Ian Morton, Elizabeth Naylor, Eric Bushell** and all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

We pray through the intercession of Mary our mother: **“Hail Mary...”**

In silence we bring our own private prayers and intentions before the Lord.

#### **Priest:**

Loving Father,  
As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas  
we offer these and all our prayers to you,  
through your Son Jesus,  
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

## **Bidding Prayers and Synod Prayer Christmas 2021**

### **Synod Prayer**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. **Amen**