



## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is a manifestation and sharing of the Good News of Jesus as the new born King and Saviour to all the nations and peoples of the world. The readings of God's Word for this feast are filled with messages of light in place of darkness, the making known of the mystery of Christ's saving love once hidden and known by some now open to include all peoples and the hope of finding the new born king as we search for him on our journey of faith. A journey led by the light of the Holy Spirit. The light of the bright star. Indeed, the light we all need to watch over us, in these challenging times of Covid-19.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany calls us to do what the three wisemen did. To look for Jesus in the daily contexts and experiences of our families and daily lives. To be guided by the light of the bright star which is the light of truth that brings meaning, happiness and peace to our lives.

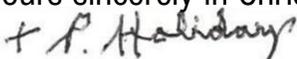
The journey of the three wisemen was not an easy one. They had difficulties in searching to find Jesus. The wisemen had to travel a long way through the desert to find the new born King. They had to ask questions and answer questions to King Herod. The light of the bright star had to guide them to the crib in Bethlehem. Their hearts were filled with joy in finding the new born king and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

God's Word for this feast offer us encouragement and hope as we begin a challenging New Year with the Coronavirus still a great threat to the health of the people of the world. At the start of the New Year some will begin work for the first time. Some begin school or university for the first time. For most of us we will continue as before celebrating the joys of life and facing life's challenges. But we must not give into negative attitudes but seek to be positive. To look for new opportunities. To be people of hope because Jesus our King, Saviour and Light is with us.

The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope to Israel and to us 'Arise Jerusalem for your light has come'. The glory of the Lord has come to lead you home. To build you up again. This prophecy has been fulfilled with Jesus birth. What do we have to do as a Christian Community as we begin a New Year? How will we grow in faith, hope and love? How will we reach out to help others in the face of Covid-19? What gifts and talents do we have to offer our Parish Church and Community? How will we share and witness to the Good News so that the mystery once hidden of God's saving love for all peoples of the world will be made known?

Let us begin this New Year looking for new opportunities with a positive mind set. To be the Diocese of Kroonstad living Pope Francis hope for the Church. 'Living Fraternal and Social Friendship'. How we need this in the light of Covid-19 caring for ourselves and for others. We are called to walk as brothers and sisters in the one Lord God.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

  
Bishop Peter Holiday