



Kids Church – The Epiphany

In the Gospel today, we are going to hear about Jesus' three special visitors and three special gifts.

Listen carefully to the Gospel and think and pray on what gifts you can give to the baby Jesus.

Wishing you a happy Christmas!

Linda

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.

Some things for you to think and talk about with your children:

Reflection

How many wise men followed the mysterious star that led them to Bethlehem?

Traditionally we believe that there were three visitors for the newborn king. The Gospel doesn't tell us an exact number, but we assume that they each brought a gift.

Can you remember what their gifts were?

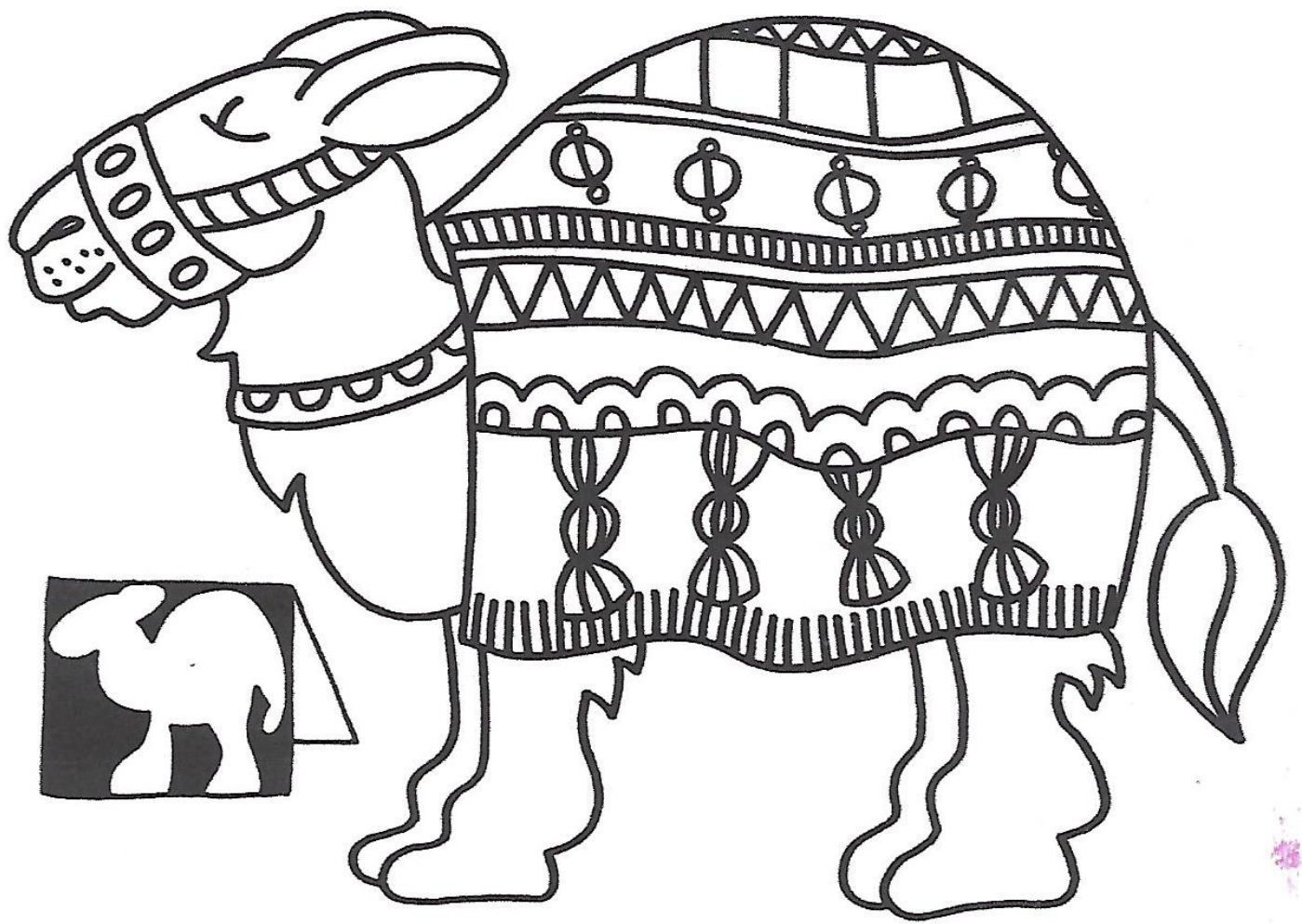
They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was a gift suitable for a king; frankincense was a sweet-smelling incense which was used for worship and as a sign of holiness; and myrrh was an ointment used to prepare people for burial (this gift reminds us of Christ's humanity as the Saviour who would eventually suffer and die for the sake of the world).

Where did the wise men come from?

We believe that they came from the East (an area of Babylon/Persia or Iraq/Iran as we refer to them today), and were stargazers or astronomers. They believed that the appearance of the bright new star in the heavens was a sign that a new king of great importance had arrived in the world, and they set off in search of the truth and to see if they could find him.

Do you imagine they were surprised to find an important king in such humble surroundings?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt to receive such important visitors who had travelled so far to see baby Jesus?





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Keep talking about what this gospel reading means, while you're talking make some mini-cards. Cut out the camel templates carefully and decorated brightly. The three wise men would have travelled on very elaborately decorated camels!

When you're done, finish your time with prayer, you could sing:

... sing the Epiphany Song:

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
three kings journey from afar.
In the darkness of the night,
be our guide, our love, our light.
Let us come to worship him,
baby Jesus, Christ our King.

(To the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle little star')

