

# Epiphany House Blessing

Sunday 3 - Sunday 10 January

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January we will bless the church doors, and you can bless your own home.

It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

One way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 21

The letters C, M, B have two meanings.

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "**May Christ bless the house.**"

The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2021 is the year.

## Blessing your home.

- 1) Light a candle. Its light reminds us that Jesus came as light into the darkness of the world in which we live.
- 2) Say together: **Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here. Amen.**

*One or more of the following prayers maybe said:*

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. **Amen.**

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*One person or a number of people can write the inscription whilst he following is read.*

The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, [M] Melchior, [B] and Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus [20] two thousand, [21] and 21 years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless our home [+ +], and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

## **All say the Lord's Prayer**

May this new year be one of hope, joy and comfort. Lord be with us as we continue to try and love you and our neighbours. Guide us and protect us. **Amen.**

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. It is a reminder to let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions. You may wish to mark other entrances/door ways, or rooms in the home. Carry the candle with you as you go so the light of Christ fills the home, and say the prayer but adapted to the room (e.g. may all who rest and sleep here...).

If possible, take a photograph of you and your family blessing the house and share it on Facebook/ Twitter and with your friends and the church by emailing or WhatsApp a picture to Revd. Becky:  
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