

Small steps in faith make a holy day



Epiphany

Read

Matthew 2:1-12

The star went to where the child was.

Think

Christianity grew out of a tiny group of Jewish people, but it soon became apparent that the gift of salvation was intended for all people, all nations of the world. The story of the Magi, foreigners from the East, illustrates the universality of the Christian message.

Talk

How can we become more attuned to God's grace guiding us towards Christ as we make our way forward in life?

Who or what has been your 'star of Bethlehem'?

In what way have you been a guiding light to somebody else?

Pray

For the grace to be open to God's plan for our lives, we pray to the Lord.

Act

With enthusiasm and sensitivity, share your faith with a non-believer. Be sure to listen deeply in return.

4 Jan 04

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Baptism of Jesus

Read

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Jesus is baptised.

Think

This Gospel scene of the heavens opening and the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus is dramatic indeed and serves to remind us of Jesus' unique origins. The scene depicts an extraordinary outpouring of the Father's love encapsulated by the words 'You are my Son, my Beloved...'

Talk

'You are my beloved' Was there a time when you uttered these (or similar) words? Tell the story of your beloved. What do your reflections reveal about the love God has for you?

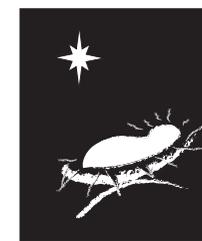
Pray

'You are my beloved.' These are also God's words to you. Take these words to prayer. Allow them to resonate in your mind and heart as you go about your day.

Act

'You are my beloved.' To gain deeper insight into today's gospel, ask a parent of a newborn what it means to have a beloved son or daughter.

11 Jan 04



The Christmas season

Emmanuel means 'God is with us'.

At Christmas we celebrate the awesome reality that God came to dwell among us in the human flesh of Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

By sharing our earthly experience in all its joy and in all its suffering, Christ has shown us that God's loving presence is closer to us than we could ever imagine.

How can we grow in our awareness of this truth in the midst of our everyday lives?

Some simple, practical suggestions are offered here, coinciding with the special celebrations that occur during the Christmas season.

In the Church calendar Christmas is a season, not just a day. It begins on the feast of the Nativity and closes with the Baptism of the Lord.

Enjoy the Christmas season!

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Nativity

Read

Luke 2:1-14

The birth of Jesus.

Think

In the birth of Christ, God 'speaks' to the world. That Word is Love. Jesus is the Word-made-flesh. In Jesus, God speaks to us in the depths of our humanity. God tells us that we are never alone. There is no aspect of our experience that cannot be touched and healed by the Divine Love.

Talk

Share Christmas memories around the dinner table. Listen with your heart, not just your ears.

Pray

Maintain a 'sacred space' in your home. Place a nativity scene there. Dim the lights and light a candle. Gather there with loved ones. Sing 'Silent Night' or your favourite hymn of praise.

Act

Who is grieving a loss this Christmas? Drop by and say G'day. Help with a chore. e.g. mend a fence or drop in a casserole.

25 Dec 03

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Holy Family

Read

Luke 2:41-52

A learning curve for Jesus' parents.

Think

Our ongoing conversion to Christ is often a surprising and painful process. In today's Gospel Mary and Joseph are faced with their son expressing his faith in a manner offensive to them, yet at the same time teaching them. The finding of Jesus in the temple poses a challenge not only to their parental patience but to their faith.

Talk

Open your photo albums and share some precious memories from your family history. What is one gift your family has given you?

Pray

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, stir our hearts, awaken us to the your gifts in our family and faith family.

Act

Plan a simple action of outreach to a family in need, e.g. a refugee family. Invite somebody who has little family support to your home for a meal.

28 Dec 03

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Mary

Read

Luke 2:16-21

Mary pondered these things in her heart.

Think

On 1st January we celebrate Mary, Mother of God. In Jesus, God offers the gift of salvation to the world. In welcoming Jesus into her womb, Mary receives that gift of salvation for the whole world. Her faithfilled 'yes' with which she welcomes Christ unfolds throughout her whole life as she treasures and ponders the action of God.

Talk

What is one of the 'big' questions of faith and life which you are pondering at present?

Pray

Today we also celebrate World Day of Peace. With Mary, pray for peace: peace in our hearts and peace among the nations of the world.

Act

Today, do something to contribute to peace in your own home. This might mean letting go of a grudge, forgiving someone, defusing a conflict or simply choosing to be warmer and more affirming than usual.

1 Jan 04