

**Sunday 3 January 2027**

*The Epiphany (Year B)*

**First Reading - *Isaiah 49.5-7***

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord called me,

even before I was born,  
to gather Jacob and Israel  
back to the Lord;  
a great task,  
for which the Lord God  
is my strength.

And now the Lord says,

'It is too light a thing  
that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,  
and to restore the survivors of Israel.

I will give you

as a light  
to all  
nations,

that my salvation may reach  
to the ends of the earth.

Amongst the nations, the powerful

may despise you,  
reject you,  
and enslave you.

But the day will come

when kings  
will stand in your presence,  
and princes

will bow down,

because the Lord,

the faithful,  
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel,  
has chosen you.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - *Galatians 3.26-29***

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

All those who are

baptised into Christ  
are equally adopted  
as children of God.

There is neither

Hebrew nor Greek,  
slave nor free,  
male nor female;

for all are one  
in Christ Jesus.

And all become inheritors,

together,  
of the promises made  
to Abraham  
and his descendants.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - *Matthew 2.1-12***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod,  
after Jesus was born  
(in Bethlehem of Judea),

Magi from the East  
came to Jerusalem,  
saying, 'We are looking for the child  
who is born  
to be king of the Jews.

For we observed his star, at its rising,  
and we have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this,  
he was troubled,  
and all Jerusalem with him.

He called together  
the chief priests and the scribes,  
and enquired of them  
where the Messiah  
was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;  
for it is written in the prophets:

"You, O Bethlehem,  
in the land of Judah,  
are not the least  
amongst the ruling cities  
of Judah; for out of you  
will come a leader, who is  
to shepherd  
my people Israel."

Then Herod called secretly for the Magi,  
and learned from them  
the exact time  
at which the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem,  
saying, 'Go and search for the child;  
and when you have found him,  
bring me word,  
so that I may also go  
and pay him homage.'

So the Magi set out;  
and there, ahead of them,  
went the star  
which they had seen  
at its rising;  
until it stopped  
over the place  
where they would find the child;  
at which  
they were filled 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.