

## Fr Callistus Khathali

### **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - 2022**

In this part of the world the feast of the epiphany is celebrated on a Sunday between the 2nd and the 8th of January. In other parts of the world it gets celebrated on the 6th of January.

I will focus my reflection on the two pillars of this feast:

- 1. Christ revelation to the gentiles and the entire world.**
- 2. The role of our intellectual capabilities in the divine revelation**

When the child Jesus was presented in the temple, the old prophet Simeon made a prophecy that is celebrated in this feast. This is found in **Luke 2:29-32**, especially **verses 30-32** with the words, ***"For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, a light to enlighten the gentiles, and give glory to Israel your people."*** The new born child was born in time and space, and at a particular location, and yet *he was born for all nations, his kingdom had no boundaries*. This is today revealed through the wise men, also known as the Magi that came all the way from the East to seek the new born king.

The three wise men were specialists in the reading of the movement of the stars, a knowledge they surely acquired through education. It was this knowledge that helped them to discover the star that indicated the arrival of the king of the universe. This is the star that they followed from their country up until it stopped above the place where the child Jesus was. **It is also interesting to note that even king Herod used the specialists in the Torah (the Old Testament) to find out where and when the Christ was to be born. We have been reading from some prophets, especially Isaiah during the time of advent.** These prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah. We see two sciences working together and defining the divine event of the coming of the Messiah.

***The Catholic Church has always emphasized the relationship between faith and science, especially in her teachings on "fides et ratio" (faith and reason).*** We see this relationship in the three wise men. It was science and knowledge that made them take the pilgrimage to the place where Christ was born. Upon their arrival, ***they did not just see a child, but the king of kings, and the king of the universe. They gave homage not just to a child but to The King. The gifts of gold (with a royal significance), frankincense (with sacred connections of this King), and myrrh (oil used to anoint dead body of a king) are an indication of who they believed this child to be.*** Upon arrival when the child Jesus was, science gave way to **the encounter with the Divine.**

Let us pray for ourselves that we continue to make use of our scientific means for seeking the real Truth, and that when we meet him, our knowledge will give way to the Truth, and the source of our absolute knowledge.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate of the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions. Have a wonderful day.