

Gifts

Today, on this feast of Epiphany we remember the Magi; those mysterious visitors from the East, whose eyes were open to what the heavens were revealing; who travelled great distances, risking everything in search of a new-born King; whose prophetic gifts revealed extraordinary insights into the nature and future of this King.

As we enter this new and uncertain year, I'd like us to reflect upon the symbolism of these gifts and allow them to inspire our prayers, as we offer the gift of ourselves to that same King.

The first gift was **gold**; gold for a King like no other.

We bring to you Lord everything that is precious to us; all we treasure and hold dear; our memories, our friendships.

We thank you for all that is precious within us; that we are indeed your treasure.

We offer you our gold, our prosperity; our possessions. May we hold them lightly, never allowing them to possess us.

We offer you our power, our roles, our influence. We let go of those things we cling unhealthily to. We bring you our hopes...

The second gift was **frankincense**, used in worship to symbolise prayers rising to God. This King would reveal how close we already are to God.

We offer our worship; all that we are. We offer to you anything that stands in the way of true worship. We give you our past, our present and our future. We give you all that we have inherited and all that we need to surrender. Lord help us to be open to your presence and guidance as incense fills a holy place.

The third gift was **myrrh**, used both as a perfume in times of celebration and as a spice to prepare the dead. This King would understand what it is to be one of us.

We offer to you all that brings joy to our lives and a smile to our faces; all that we dream of, all that we look forward to.

We offer the shadows of our lives, the contradictions, the sadness, the things that are crushed; the losses, disappointments, the sacrifices and fears. We offer our little deaths and our final death.

We offer you the gift of ourselves. May something precious and beautiful for you be born in us today. Amen