

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of the Epiphany Cycle C (2 January 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isaiah 60:2-3:** "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines.... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."

**Psalms 72:7-8, 12-13:** "Justice shall flower in his days.... May he rule from sea to sea, and ... rescue the poor ... and the afflicted .... He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save."

**Ephesians 3:6:** "The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, copartners in the promise ..."

**Matthew 2:** "[The magi] saw his star at its rising ... And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed...."

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. ... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it." (#23)

"At one extreme, we find those who doggedly uphold the myth of progress and tell us that ecological problems will solve themselves simply with the application of new technology and without any need for ethical considerations or deep change. At the other extreme are those who view men and women and all their interventions as no more than a threat, jeopardizing the global ecosystem, and consequently the presence of human beings on the planet should be reduced and all forms of intervention prohibited. Viable future scenarios will have to be generated between these extremes, since there is no one path to a solution." (#60)

"[St. Francis was] a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." (#10)

"I point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, ... the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious

responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle." (#16)

### † **Comment for the day:**

“Epiphany” means “manifestation,” a presentation of what’s happening. Today’s feast manifests our Lord bringing universal salvation. The Magi represent all the peoples and nations on earth. In *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis writes that “all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another,” and that we are “closely intertwined ... with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself.” (42, 66)

A major manifestation of our time is the climate crisis, and more and more people are getting the message. The recent United Nations’ conference on climate change (COP26) made clear that world leaders have many ideas and good intentions but lack the requisite commitments. That’s also true of many among us in the faith community. Pope Francis urges all Catholics to take the matter seriously.

The Magi in the Epiphany story were all Gentiles but committed to their task. They are symbolic of all the peoples of earth, “members of the one Body of Christ, partners in the promise of God's creation,” and trusted stewards of it. That means us. Yet we all live amidst threats to the environment, from the now-regular wildfires and extreme weather to droughts and flooding that already impact the poor and vulnerable most of all – those who have contributed least to the problem.

Like the Magi, we disciples of Jesus are called to side with the Creator and help bring light to all the nations: by doing what we can to offset the damage that is being done to our “common home.” We can adjust our lifestyles in small ways, like consuming less meat, energy, and plastic; and in bigger ways, like installing solar panels on our homes and advocating for climate action. In these and other ways, we will be offering a gift to the Savior by caring for his heavenly father's creation.

### † **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Option 1:** That we take seriously the damage being done to the environment that sustains all life and realize that God has entrusted to each of us care for His creation, let us pray to the Lord ....

**Option 2:** That we each take practical steps to reduce pollution in our communities, let us pray to the Lord ....

## Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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