

The Epiphany season concludes with the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple ('Candlemas') on 2nd February (which conveniently falls on a Sunday this year). The season appropriately focuses on the mission and unity of the Church, called to reveal Christ to the world. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18th to 25th January.

A thought for the day

'It is through these (Nativity) stories that Christ continues to come to me today, and invites me to become part of the story of his life.....Am I willing to be numbered among the wise men who fall down and worship Jesus as saviour? But my question doesn't put the challenge half as strongly, or half as beautifully as the story does.' *Hubert J Richards*

A prayer for the week for ourselves

Lord God, our Father, you have shown us your Son Jesus today in the words of scripture and in the bread of life by which he shared himself with us. Let his light shine in us and let our hope and joy reflect this light that our Christian community and each one of us may show forth his goodness and peace for all to see. We ask this through the one who is the light of our lives, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Walking together in faith

Sunday, 5th January 2025 **Epiphany of the Lord**

The Sunday Eucharist:

10.15am **San Eugenio**, Playa de Las Américas;

12 noon **San Blas**, Golf del Sur;

(Unfortunately, due to the 'Kings' parade' and festivities locally, we have had to cancel the 6.00pm Eucharist in Los Gigantes).

Welcome to everyone to our worship. Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany means 'manifestation.' It is a sort of second Christmas, certainly here in Spain, and it is in fact Christmas itself for much of the Christian East. Epiphany proclaims that Jesus belongs to and is given to the whole world as its Saviour and Lord. Symbolised by the magi, the wise men, the world brings to him its variety of gifts including its cultures and different identities. We here today bring him the gift of ourselves, not least our faith and love as we meet him in worship and through our fellowship with one another.

Important information regarding the reception of Holy Communion
*Holy Communion is distributed in both kinds. If you wish, you may receive in one kind only, but to receive from the chalice, please drink (sip!) from it. Intinction (dipping the wafer bread into the chalice) is more infection risky and is not approved in this Diocese. **If you require gluten-free bread, please let us know before the service begins.***

Today's readings

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 *God's people, a light to all*

In a vision, the prophet sees an immense number of peoples flocking from everywhere to the light of God. They are bearing gifts of gold and incense.

Psalm 72: 1 – 2; 7 – 8; 10 – 13, with the response:

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service.

Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 *All nations called to be in Christ*

Jesus Christ came to unite all: *all people*, without any distinction or condition, are called to join God's people.

Matthew 2: 1 – 12 *Following the star, the light of God*

Those who are over familiar with the faith often fail to keep searching and growing in it, whereas those who were once far off but diligently engage in the journey of faith are, like the wise men, overjoyed when they find the Christ. Their life then takes a different, more hopeful path.

Eucharistic Prayer B (pages 8 – 9) with a short preface for the Epiphany followed by the Lord's Prayer and Communion rite (page 21).

Church financial giving

A collection will be taken during the Offertory.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider using the Gift Aid envelope provided, or available at the back of church. It would increase your donation by 25%. Contributions at any time are also most welcome by bank transfer to either our euro or sterling accounts. For security reasons the details have had to be withdrawn from the pew sheet.

Please contact our treasurer Gwen Furmston, in church (San Eugenio) or by email to sgfurmston@gmail.com

We are a completely self-supporting Chaplaincy. Your generous giving is very important to us and much appreciated, helping us to maintain an Anglican presence and ministry in south Tenerife.

Our Charity Shop in Los Gigantes

Open this week 10.00am – 2.00pm Tuesday to Saturday

Every Tuesday San Blas church is open from 11.00am to 12 noon for private prayer or for someone to chat or pray with you, or just come and find peace and rest for a while. Coffee available. Open this week as usual.

Thursday, 9th January 2025

Eucharist, 10.30am at Espiritu Santo - *Epiphany (transferred)*
(Readings: for the Epiphany, as above)

Every Friday at midday. A weekly opportunity for regular St Francis church members and others to meet in a friendly and informal way at the Kiosco restaurant in San Blas commercial centre (middle square)..

Next Sunday, 12th January Baptism of the Lord

Eucharist: Times and locations as today

Many thanks to all who kindly donated toys at our Los Gigantes Carol Service. These will be distributed by the parishioners of Santiago del Teide tomorrow, 6th January.