



DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 3/YEAR 1 /EPIPHANY

The focus for the week is that of Epiphany, in particular the visit of the Magi (also referred to as Wise Men and Kings) to the infant Jesus, who was probably about two years old by the time of the visit.

SEAL link – New beginnings

Values link – Reverence (they knelt down and worshipped Jesus)

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Greeting: Peace be with you Response: and also with you. (use this or a similar greeting with which pupils are familiar)</p> <p>Play music which takes up the theme Eg We three kings or Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar etc</p>	<p>WE THREE KINGS (whole school) Matthew 2 v 1-12 Prepare three shiny crowns, each with a letter on – C, M and B. What do pupils think you will be thinking about today? Introduce ‘Epiphany’. You are going to tell a story that is celebrated on Jan 6th – Epiphany – by many Christians. What do the pupils think the letters stand for? Take some answers, leave them guessing and then tell the story of the Visit of the Magi to Jesus - use drama or an appropriate Bible version or a DVD clip. Focus on how far the Magi/Wise Men/Kings had travelled and how important they were. What does this tell us about Jesus? They followed a star – can we follow anything or anybody which will help us to find Jesus? Ask about the mystery letters again and explain that Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar are the traditional names given to the Wise Men – but we do not actually know their names and there might have been more or less than three. Explain that worship for the rest of the week will be about ‘Epiphany’ which celebrates the showing of the new king, Jesus, to the world.</p> <p>THREE GIFTS (whole school) Matthew 2 v 1-12 Have three gifts wrapped in ‘baby’ wrapping paper – ask what might be inside them – answers will hopefully reflect the baby theme. You could have some unwrapped examples of the sorts of things that are bought for babies. Unwrap the gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh – and explain that these were the gifts given to Jesus by the Magi. Explain their significance – gold for kingship, frankincense for worship and myrrh for the death that Jesus would suffer. These are important reminders or symbols of who Jesus was and what he had been born to do. You could look at symbols that relate to the school eg the school badge, and think about how that is a reminder of what the pupils at school are to be and to do.</p> <p>CELEBRATING EPIPHANY Matthew 2 v 1-12 There are plenty of opportunities for acting out Epiphany traditions in worship and throughout the school. The custom at Epiphany in Germany, and several other European countries, is a children’s festival - Three Kings’ Day. After a service at church, children go from house to house to gather</p>	<p>Provide a quiet moment to think or pray. Look at a picture/painting of Jesus being shown to the wise men. Ask pupils to imagine that they are there, looking at Jesus and he is looking at them. Suggest the following: ‘Say Jesus’ name quietly. Tell him your name. I wonder what else you’d say to him’.</p> <p>Pray for pupils’ homes. Let them copy or trace the inscription (20 + etc) onto their hand, tracing the shapes with their finger: Bless, O Lord God almighty, our homes, this year, that in it there may be health and friendship, kindness and goodness, love and forgiveness,</p>	<p>You could use the dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord In the name of Christ, Amen.</p> <p>OR Send the star child and the kings with a teacher to put the blessing above the main entrance of the school (see third act of worship) OR Hand out a package to each class teacher - a star on a cane, three crowns and bag with the prayer and a strip of paper, blutac and a marker pen / chalk. Send them back to hold their own class blessing ceremony. (see third act of worship)</p>



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	<p>offerings for children in need in developing countries. They are dressed as the three kings and carry sticks with stars on the top. At each home, they sing songs and remember the birth of Jesus. They are known as 'sternsinger' or star-singers. This year at each house they visit they will paint this code: "20+C+M+B+13" eg on the wall. The numbers stand for the year: 2013. The crosses are not 'pluses' but reminders of Jesus Christ and his cross. The letters are the first letters of the traditional names of the wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar (see Monday) but more importantly they stand for the Latin Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ bless this house). Think about how the pupils could support children in developing countries</p>	<p>through Jesus the King, we pray, Amen</p> <p>Lord, accept our gifts to you. They are not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices of praise and lives lived for you, because you are our light and our salvation. Amen.</p>	
	<p>CELEBRATING EPIPHANY (class or key stage worship) Matthew 2 v 1-12 Bake or buy a cake and hide a plastic baby (sometimes a bean or a coin) inside it - share out the cake to find the baby (or bean or coin) – see below. The tradition of king cake dates back to the Middle Ages when a popular devotion during Christmas was placed on the Three Wise Men (or Kings) who followed the star to find Christ. The twelfth night after the birth of Christ marks the end of Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany. Thus, Twelfth Night in some cultures became a time for pageants and giving special presents to children. Along with gifts came the celebratory cake, or king cake. Today's king cake is a confection made of braided Danish pastry, laced with cinnamon. It is iced in the colours of purple (justice), green (faith) and gold (power). Hidden in each king cake is a tiny plastic baby (or bean or coin). The person who finds the baby must buy the next king cake or host the next party. Think about the importance of 'remembering' with younger pupils and pick up on the ideas of justice, faith and power with older pupils.</p>		