

Blessing a Home and Chalking the Door



A simple service for
Epiphany-tide

Introduction

6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany, which recalls the visit of the Magi to see Jesus in Bethlehem. Epiphany means revelation – it is one of the ways that Jesus was revealed to the world.

Their arrival at the home where Jesus was staying prompted an Epiphany tradition of marking the doorways to our own homes with a reminder of that visit, and asking for God's blessing on the household for the coming year. We can use this simple service to ask God's blessing on our own homes.

Location: Outside the main door of the home

Peace be to this place and to all who enter here.

All Amen.

Gracious God, as you led the wise travellers to Jesus by a shining star, so make us a light in the world, leading others to worship Christ. We ask it in his name.

All Amen.

Bible Reading from Matthew 2

...after Jesus' birth, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, 'Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews?' ...King Herod sent them to Bethlehem...The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was...The Magi went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they returned to their country on a different road.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Magi left home and safety to seek you.

Help us to step out in faith this year.

Lord Jesus, God protected you and
the wise travellers from Herod's plans.

Protect us from all evil this year.

Lord Jesus, wise travellers offered gifts to you.

We offer you all that we are this year.

All Amen.

**This verse from the Carol 'The first Nowell'
may be said or sung:**

At Bethlehem they entered in,
On bended knee they worshipped Him;
They offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Chalking the Door

Chalk is used to mark the door, or the doorframe, or the floor near the entrance, with this mark or something similar: The mark represents the year and the traditional names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

C M B – may also stand for ‘Christus Mansionem
Benedicat’, which is the Latin for,
‘May Christ bless this dwelling.’

 The three letters CMB could be replaced with
other signs, such as the name Jesus, or the Greek
word ICTHUS (meaning ‘fish’). This was used by the early
Christians as a special sign – the letters stood for ‘Jesus
Christ, Son of God, Saviour’.

Prayer

Loving God, may all who cross this threshold and see this
sign know your faithfulness this year and be reminded of
the story of your Son Jesus Christ. We ask it in his name.

All Amen



Prayer for those who live here

May the Lord watch over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth and for evermore.

All Amen.