

Epiphany 1, 2025, 12 January. Pusey House, the Principal

Zechariah 8.1-8, Romans 12.1-5, Luke 2.41-end

And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,

after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers

We meet in the bright light of Epiphany

-Monday- celebrated feast of Epiphany,

The feast of the Epiphany ‘underlines the destiny and universal meaning of this birth. Becoming man in the womb of Mary, the Son of God came not only for the people of Israel, represented by the shepherds of Bethlehem, but also for the whole of humanity, represented by the Magi.’<sup>1</sup>

Epiphany -shining forth, manifestation

Why does God need to be made manifest?

When modern people consider -lots of reasons –

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<sup>1</sup> Benedict XVI's Homily for Feast of Three Kings, VATICAN CITY, JAN. 6, 2011

Something about modern life, closes us off from contact with God,  
world may proclaim glory of God, we are stuck somewhere –  
don't get to the destination

-struggle with hearing voice of God, believing in God, with the  
radical freedom which is an ideal, an ideal which affects us all, -we  
can choose who we are, define ourselves,

-or, some say, that something about modern culture displaces idea of  
God to search for wholeness, healing

-culture where references to God in public life suspect, unwelcome

[-finally -struggle to find God, to know how lives ordered by  
God – makes it hard to know how to live together- great  
commandments, not imposition, order of things – fail to love one  
another if we lose capacity to know and love God

Modern problems – but the problem with finding God there in S,  
God is manifest

Came to his own, own received him not

Magi, coming from the east, find him with a struggle

-this corresponds to all our seeking after truth more generally –

Most wonderful thing—the world is intelligible, the order of world  
corresponds to order of mind—

World is both luminous, but hidden,

-serious thing: Herod helps magi find infant Christ, also seeks to destroy him – search for knowledge, for wisdom is contested, can be dangerous

-Gospel today invites us to embrace arduous vocation – God is manifest for the world, and hidden from world

-God is manifest to us, and hidden from us—

-inviting to renew our search for God who manifest to us—  
invitation to transformation –

Tomorrow, octave Epi- celebrate baptism – THEOPHANY, 1 of 3,  
magi, theop, cana

Today: return to infancy of our Lord, largely hidden from us,  
precious account

Embrace vocation of finding and living in divine wisdom

after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers

-Word becomes speechless, cannot be bound, wrapped in swaddling clothes, eternal, unchangeable, passes through all the stages of human life,

Like transfiguration- occasionally -see wisdom ,

Manifestation in Christ -to us

And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,

Pattern of Epiphany in old lectionary- BCP, also early church- Gospel  
– Epist

Next week- divine marriage to wedding, what is his incarnation, transforms, invited see transformation of whole lives in particular gifts

-Epi 3, double miracle, leper, cent servant

-healing of sicknesses of human heart: evil: wrath, vengeance, conceits- makes unclean clean, goodness overcomes evil

PATTERN CORRESPONDS TO PATTERN OF WISDOM

INSCRIBED ON UNIVERSE: Most wonderful thing—the world is intelligible, the order of world corresponds to order of mind—World is both luminous, but hidden,

Today- manifestation of wisdom

Vocation to find wisdom, find divine wisdom, person of Jesus-

Find him in daily struggles, disappointments, find him in pursuit of true, beautiful good,

Find wisdom connects highest to lowest, gives direction

What wisdom is manifest:

after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers

ZECH FULFILLED : <sup>3</sup> Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.-iN CHRIST

probing of the meaning of God's law – great books of old coventant

-res appearances, search menaing of scripture

-invitation for us to do same- tomorrow ,BAPT THEOP -HOLY TRINITY

-in relation to genesis – God speaks Word, spirit of God descend, hovering over water –

Coming out of Egpyt, deliverance from slavery, land of promise

Ezek – wather from Temple

-do not limit what is manifest to these things:

-know of God not some patina or icing layered over natural world- natural world complete in itself, religious k. , optional extra

-wisdom

The light which shines on the world is already the light who is the wisdom in everyone who has ever lived – ‘the light that enlightens every man’ says St John, the light which is the light of all human wisdom, whether a person has heard of this birth or knows the Lord Jesus, he still thinks and speaks in the wisdom which is the word and Logos of God

The light which the magi adore, the wisdom manifest in the boy in the Temple cannot be contained in any narrow or personal sphere- his wisdom and purposes are inscribed on the universe – his wisdom is the truth and pattern which the scientist, the mathematician, the philosopher and the theologian all search in different ways in in different forms.

Wisdom goes all the way to the root of things, to the core of things

Divine wisdom, has come to temple, wisdom sweetly and powerfully ordering all things

-wisdom with a character and purpose, go to depths of human need and wrong, descend to hell, and raise up

-wisdom manifest in and through all confusions

-Hosea, now Joel, people forgetting God, making God out of nature of their passion, exploiting and using one another, corruption of those in power, and God’s wisdom sweet and powerful

-is possible to search for truth of things without knowing God, but  
God inspires and knows our search

-all reflective activity is under God's will toward self-  
communication

-pattern inscribed, intelligibility, is the voice of God, often not  
recognized, inspiring search for truth and goodness

Divine wisdom manifest, out into the world, comes down,

Not by conversion of Godhead into flesh, but raising manhood to  
God

-direction of all our studies,

Magi follow star—not just vague wisdom, but person we meet in  
Lord Jesus, his wisdom, his mind, inscribe into universe, furthest  
galaxies and stars, and most intimate ground of our being

-all our knowing takes us to him, leads to him

-BITS OF TRUTH NOT ENOUGH, WE WANT THE TRUTH

How is divine wisdom manifest in us?

Vocation, world is luminous, hidden

-we are not just talking about this transformation, but we are living  
it—

Possible to get lost in the world, to be caught up in the forces and pressures which want to use of for own ends, algorithms which get us to buy, stir up passions and

-Sunday by Sunday, we turn attention in focussed way to the wisdom of God

-old forms, not just because used, because they express and manifest wisdom of God

None of us can fully escape this blindness, but we shall certainly increase it, and weaken our guard against it, if we read only modern books. Where they are true they will give us truths which we half knew already. Where they are false they will aggravate the error with which we are already dangerously ill. The only palliative is to keep the clean sea breeze of the centuries blowing through our minds, and this can be done only by reading old books.

LECTIONARY, SOMETHING OF THAT CHARACTER, OLD FORMS, tempered by time,

Not, of course, that there is any magic about the past. People were no cleverer then than they are now; they made as many mistakes as we. But not the same mistakes. They will not flatter us in the errors we are already committing; and their own errors, being now open and palpable, will not endanger us...



Be ye transformed, active engagement,

Take this with us—daily prayer, READING OF SCRIPTURE

-one practice – Examen –Examination – contemplate our day, for what to be thankful, where is God present, where turned back – where have I been like scribes, say where Jesus is , but not go myself

-NEED HELP, ASK

-Focussed way – how does Gospel help us to find Jesus:

1) Magi- go to Herod, calls scribes, search the scriptures

-ultimate ‘old book’ book of Arche, origin and principle, not archaic, ever present, living, but not CAPTURES

2) BVM St J loose Jesus – in Jerusalem, great festival,

Warning, possible to loose Jesus, loose divine wisdom, where most present, life of Church great festival

-superficial not enough

3) sought him sorrowing – type of our lives

Repentance

-TROUBLES, when come, sorrow, sickness, disappoint, financial struggle,

God manifest where we are – a stronger, tax man, BUSINESS,  
fisherman,

Seek him sorrowing – even when seeking what is good, vocation,  
seeking where we have not yet arrived .

FATHER'S HOUSE – church, temple, - in prayer,

In SACRAMENT OF ALTAR, cannot get these things somewhere  
else

=then, learn that the whole world is FATHER'S HOUSE

Divine wisdom is manifest, change us,

Take us deeper in to the fabric of things, deeper into ordinary daily  
life, deeper into studies

Raise up, give direction orientation

Transformation of trials

-VOCATION, DOES NOT JUST HAPPEN TO US, he came to his  
own,

RELIG EXPERTS, JOURNALIST OF DAY – HE'S OVER  
THERE,

Let us come ,

Wisdom, person, has a face, face of Jesus, face we are invited to see  
in one another