

# Worthing Deanery Prayer

The theme of this week 9th January 2017.



## Epiphany

### Reflection

The theme of the readings on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January are about “Epiphany” meaning ‘to show forth, to manifest, to reveal or a sudden realisation’. The Magi are the first “foreigners” and non-Jews to recognise Jesus as the Son of God and Saviour of the world yet they bring gifts fit for a King: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold for kingship, frankincense for worship and finally myrrh, an ointment used to relieve pain – an indication of how Jesus would save humanity on the cross. The story also shows us the fact that foreigners were the second set of visitors to see Jesus after the shepherds. How do we welcome the stranger into our schools, into our friendship groups and into our country today? Those who flee from war, oppression, famine and religious persecution. We fear what we don’t know or understand but we learn immeasurable knowledge and further our understanding of the human spirit in the meeting of hearts, minds and cultures in our encounters with new visitors and foreigners who become our friends. How will you welcome the new boy or girl or teacher or refugee this year in your school?

### Prayer

Almighty God and Father, you revealed the star to the Magi, strangers from a far off land. We ask you to guide us to follow this star by showing love and concern in our words and deeds to all the strangers we encounter in our own land. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### From the bible

**“Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh”**

Matthew 2: 11b

