The Tradition of House Blessing on the Feast of Epiphany

The Feast of Epiphany, celebrated on 6 January or the nearest Sunday, marks the revelation of Christ to the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—who journeyed to adore the newborn King. This event symbolises the manifestation of Christ to all nations and is a day of joy and spiritual renewal for Christians worldwide.

The tradition of house blessing on Epiphany is rooted in the desire to invite Christ into the home and to seek divine protection for the household throughout the year. Historically, priests would visit parishioners to bless their homes during the Christmas season. However, as this became less feasible, families began to take up the practice themselves, often led by the head of the household.

The Ritual: Chalking the Doors

One of the most recognisable aspects of the Epiphany house blessing is the inscription made above the main doorway using blessed chalk. The formula for the current year is written as follows: **20 + C + M + B + 26** (for 2026).

C, M, B: These letters stand for the names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

They also represent the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this house."

The numbers mark the year, and the crosses (+) symbolise Christ's protection and salvation.

This simple yet profound act is a public witness of faith, a way to consecrate the new year to God, and a reminder that every home belongs to Christ.

The Blessing Ceremony

The ceremony typically involves gathering the family at the entrance of the home. The leader (often a parent or guardian) makes the sign of the cross and offers prayers, sometimes sprinkling holy water in each room. The blessing may include readings from Scripture, such as the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-9, and intercessions asking Christ to remain in the home and bless all who dwell there.

A sample prayer might be:

"Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love may be a reflection of your glory."

Symbolism and Significance

The doorway is a powerful symbol—representing hospitality, protection, and the threshold between the world and the sanctuary of the home. Marking it with prayer turns the entrance into a statement of faith, reminding all who enter that the household is dedicated to Christ.

The Epiphany house blessing is more than a seasonal custom; it is a spiritual practice that invites Christ's presence into daily life, entrusts the new year to God, and strengthens the bonds of family and faith.

Have you signed up? Why Flocknote?

Parishioners and visitors are invited to scan the QR code to sign up and register with the parish. If you have any questions, please reach out to our parish office: acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding News

The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Our Lady of Fatima Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk. In an emergency, please call the Police 000 or information can be provided to STOPline anonymously. Phone: 1300 304 550 Email: AOB@stopline.com.au Online: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com https:// brisbane-catholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/

All are invited to our first morning tea catch up for the new year at Presbytery/Parish Office on 8 January 2026 at 9:30 am. Bring new friends and develop a bond through friendship filled with grace. A friendship that does not have any boundaries in color, age or position. Please bring a plate to share and enjoy a delightful morning after the 9am Mass.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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PARISH OFFICE

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MASS TIMES

Tue: 5:30pm—Holy Mass
6:00pm Eucharist Adoration
Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat 9 am
Saturday 4.30pm (Vigil)
Sunday 9am & 5pm

CONFESSIONS

Tues: 6:00pm to 6:30pm (or by appointment)

BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the month 10.15am

PIETY STALL

1st Sunday each month

SCHOOLS

Our Lady of Fatima School
www.ourladyoffatima.qld.edu.au
07 3275 1152
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St Stephens School Algester
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Please check out our Parish Webpage and Facebook Page for regular updates.

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To receive the Parish eNewslet-

Happy New Year !

The Christmas and New Year period is always a wonderful time for families to get together and enjoy the season. It is also a period of rest, relaxation and fun. Many of our families take time-off during this time to enjoy each other. It is so important that we have this time to refresh and rejuvenate ourselves for the year ahead and to experience memorable moments with our loved ones. I hope that everyone is enjoying the break and each other.

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany. We continue the joyful celebrations of Christmastide. Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, has entered our world and our lives and He continues to give us hope.

Most of us have sweet memories of the time that our parents brought us, as little children, to kneel at the Christmas crib and to pray. In the crib, we see a powerful image of the baby Jesus who had his arms reaching out, as if to embrace everyone in the world. That image sums up perfectly the meaning of His Epiphany, or manifestation, to the wise men from the East: Jesus, in sharing our humanity, invites men and women of all nations and races to share in His kingdom.

The symbolism of this Gospel story gives us deeper insights into God's love for us and how we can better live the Christian life. The Magi were gentiles, sincere men seeking the truth, and they made a long, dangerous journey to find Jesus. They offered Him gifts which were perfectly appropriate: gold, which acknowledged His kingship, incense, which represented His divinity, and myhrr, which indicated the sacrifice He was to make for us. They were obedient to God's invitation, in the form of that special star, to come and worship Jesus, the Light of the World.

The submission of the Wise Men, following the star, should show us a lot: to show our own submission and obedience to the call of God. Just like the Wise Men of the Orient, we are also called to be faithful followers of Christ. As Christians we have to be alert to how the Lord reveals himself to us, to how he calls each of us, as he revealed himself to the Wise Kings. They knew how to listen to the call.

The New Year has just begun and we should resolve to take a step forward in our faith. This is time for us to sort things out so that this year we can follow Jesus more closely than we did last year.

Let us pray today, Day of Epiphany, that we will receive the best of gifts: that Jesus, our Savior, Light of the World, will enlighten our minds and will place us on the road that leads to Him, as He did with the Three Kings.

God Bless, Fr Dang