

The Journey of the Magi

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For the journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.



Weekday Masses

Monday, 7.30 pm; Tuesday &
Wednesday, 10 am; Thursday,
7.30 pm; Friday, 10 am;
Saturday, 11 am.

Confessions

Saturday 7.15 pm—7.45 pm.

Anniversary Masses this weekend:

Saturday Vigil 8 pm: Patrick
Loftus, Red Row, Culdaff

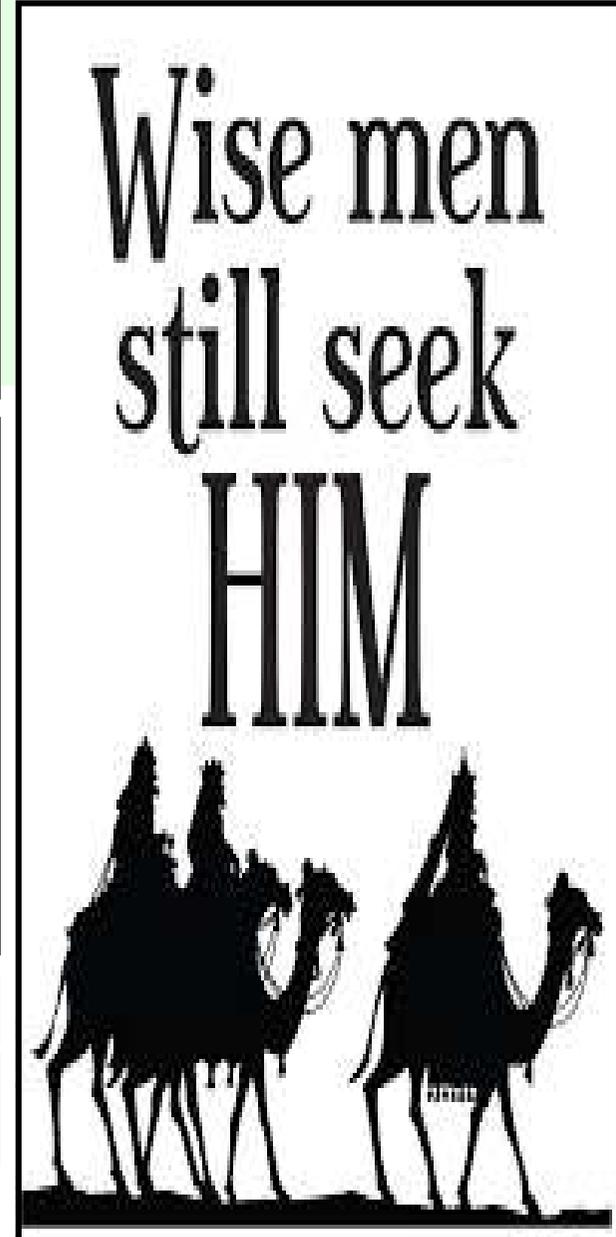
Sunday 11 am Nellie
McDermott, Drumley

Next Weekend:

Sunday 11 am: Denis
Doherty, Leiter, Culdaff

Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.



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Collections Weekly Offering : €1,185;
Development Collection €375 Your
generosity to our collection is much
appreciated.



First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6
Jerusalem shall be a
light to all nations.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
Gentiles are coheirs in
the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12
The Magi seek out
Jesus and do him
homage.

Counters for the Month of January :

Barbara O'Connor, Roger Mooney,
Bernadette Scott, Maria Finnegan

The Readers rota will be available next
week. We have new readers this year so
if they would let us know which Mass
they attend so they can be added to the
list.

The new envelopes have now been delivered.
If you have not received a box and would like
one, then see Fr Haan in the sacristy after
Mass.

Whist

1st Vincent Lynn, Carn
2nd John Doherty,
3rd Mary B Doherty,

Tickets Wendy Farren, Mary Hirrell,
Dolores O'Donnell, Nell Gallagher, Pat
Porter, Annie McBride

Other Winners

Mary Quigley, Nell Gallagher, Sarah
McDermott, Bridgid McCauley, Wendy
Farren, Kevin Lafferty, Treasa
McLaughlin.

**Whist next Friday at 8 pm in Bocan
Hall. Snowball next week: €130 on 182
or better**

The Holy Family Padre Pio prayer group
will hold their monthly meeting in the
Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty,
Derry, on Tuesday 8th January starting
with Mass at 7.15pm, There will be a
1st class relic at the meeting, and all are
welcome.

Pro-Life Trust are taking up of their annual
Church Gate collection on **Saturday 5th &
Sunday 6th January.**

The Church in Jerusalem Epiphany Prayer

O God
Who by a star
guided the wise men to the worship of your
Son
we pray you to lead to yourself
the wise and great of every land
that unto you every knee may bow,
and every thought be brought into captivity
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

A Creed to live by in 2019

Don't undermine your worth by comparing
yourself to others;
it is because we are different that each of us
is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people
deem important;
only you know what is best for you.
Don't take for granted the people and things
closest to your heart;
cling to them as you would your life,
for without them life is meaningless.
Don't let your life slip through your fingers
by living in the past, or for the future;
by living your life one day at a time, you live
all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something
to give;
nothing is really over until the moment you
stop trying.
Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than
perfect;
it is this fragile thread that binds us to each
other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks;
it is by taking chances that we learn to be
brave.
Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's
impossible to find;
the quickest way to receive love is to give
love;
the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too
tightly;
and the best way to keep love is to give it
wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams;
to be without dreams is to be without hope;
to be without hope is to be without purpose.
Don't run through life so fast that you forget
not only where you've been, but also where
you're going.

Life is not a race, but a journey to be
savoured each step of the way.

THE DEEP END: 'We observed his
star at his rising'
The Wise Men were probably
astronomers and philosophers, but most
importantly they were 'seekers',
looking to the skies for something that
would bring them closer to God. They
would have been familiar with the
prophecy about a new King who would
be a very powerful leader, and they
may have been watching the skies for
years, waiting for the right
astronomical sign which would foretell
His birth. Many astronomers have since
tracked the skies from that period, to
try to identify what 'star' the Wise Men
could have seen. Some have identified
Jupiter, not a star, which in 6bc was
following that correct trajectory across
the sky over many months. One must
admire the faithful and determined
journey that these Wise Men set out on,
a journey which involved many risks.
The Wise Men represent all peoples of
all cultures and faiths who make such
journeys in search of God.

We often look for signs in our own
lives, especially when we are looking
for answers. Let us have the courage to
move out of our comfort zones in
search of Jesus, just as the Wise Men
did. They had no idea of what awaited
them, but the Gospel speaks of their
delight and joy when they arrived to
that place.

*'We often make do with looking at the
ground ... I wonder if we still know
how to look up at the sky? Do we know
how to dream, to long for God, to
expect the newness he brings, or do we
let ourselves be swept along by life, like
dry branches before the wind?'*

Pope Francis

Jane Mellett