

# EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME



## **Epiphany Blessing of Homes**

**\*20 + C + M + B + 21**

The letters of this blessing have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They are also the abbreviation of the Latin phrase "*Christus mansionem benedicat.*" "*May Christ bless the house.*"

The numbers recall the year in which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The 4 crosses represent the protection of the Precious Blood of Christ, which was prefigured by the Passover lamb. Jesus was born an infant to die as a man. It would be the three nails driven into the cross that would bring us salvation. We are sanctified as we adore his death, just as the Three Magi were sanctified by their adoration of His birth.

The inscription is made above the front door or any of the doors in the house, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and protector of the beginning and end of things. This blessing "baptizes" the ancient Roman observance of the first month. This practice also calls to mind the ancient celebration of the Passover; when Jews marked their doorposts with the blood of the lamb.

The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature of Jesus, the New Adam- the 1st man, who was made from the dust of the earth. It also reminds us of our own human nature-remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

## ~Epiphany Home Blessing Prayer~

*Standing outside your home*

The beginning of the Gospel of St. John: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be..... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:1-3.14)

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance, you can also do this on other doors inside the home*

\*20+ C + M+ B+ 21

*Prayer after the inscription*

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. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from St. Joseph's Mission Parish, UK

