



## The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

is one of the oldest Christian feasts. Throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man.

Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance:

the [Baptism of Christ](#); (now celebrated on the Sunday after The Epiphany) [Christ's first miracle](#), changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; Now celebrated on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord. the [Nativity of Christ](#); and the [Visitation of the Wise Men or Magi](#).

Each of these is a revelation of God to man:

At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son;

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus let his glory be seen and the miracle reveals his divinity as Christ—the Anointed Son of God;

At the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him;

At the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth.

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is at least as important as the celebration of Christmas. In Italy and other Mediterranean countries, [Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany](#)—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child—while in Northern Europe, it's not unusual to give gifts on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between). In Poland there is a custom of having the main meal of 12 courses (mostly Fish dishes) on Christmas Eve. Even in recent times the Epiphany was a more important Feast in the Irish Catholic Calendar, and was referred to as "[Little](#) or [Old](#) Christmas".

## Children in Crossfire

GIVING CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE

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Advent  
Appeal  
2011

### Reminder

The Advent Appeal material of **Children in Crossfire** was delivered to the homes of our Parish at the beginning of Advent. Though this is not a parish collection it is one which I am happy to support and I to encourage you to do so also.

I would appreciate if you put your donation for this charity in the envelope supplied and either bring it to Mass this Weekend (6.30 pm in St. Mary's Oratory, 10.30 am in St Eugene's Glenock). Or send it to St. Patrick's Primary School by any pupil in classes P4 or above on Monday 9th.

You can also send your contribution directly to

**Children in Crossfire, 2 St. Joseph's Ave, Derry BT48 6TH**

Thanking you in anticipation,

### CELTIC GARDEN MONTHLY HEALING MASS:

The dedication and blessing of the new shrine to St Ita, foster mother of the saints of Ireland, will take place on Sunday 15th January 2012 at 3pm in the Celtic Prayer Garden, Lenamore Road, Muff. This will be followed by a Healing Mass celebrated by Fr Neal Carlin in St Canice's Oratory. All welcome to attend. Refreshments afterwards in IOSAS Centre

**Thanks and appreciation**, to all who contributed so generously to the Christmas Collection. In these times of lower incomes and greater demands on the family budget it is encouraging and humbling to be so well treated.