

Epiphany Reflection

The announcement of Jesus' birth inside a religious tradition i.e. Judaism, was an announcement well received, accepted by angels, but those outside of this faith tradition needed a way to hear of his birth announced in another way, by three men. The Jews had already received a prophesy of a Messiah, but so also had a sect of a Persian religion called Zoroastrians. Magi is a Persian word meaning Priest. They also believed in a powerful God and the expectation of a virgin birth, a Messiah who would be heralded by a star. And in many ways, as were the Jews, waiting in expectation, looking for a sign.

According to an article I read a while ago, the average person spends 5 years of their life waiting, in queues, 2 years on the telephone and 6 months at red lights, in total 7 ½ years doing nothing, but waiting In Advent I wait for peace, waiting for the living Word to be born in me, for the grace to respond to my call, my birthing to calm the chaos around me.

I/We wait for the Word to find a home in me, so that I can become transformed and become epiphanies in the lives we live, not as kings, majesties, as such, although we are indeed sons and daughters of the king, but we come as poor shepherds, 'nobodies' called to bring Epiphany, revealing God in me to you, Peace on Earth in our lives and to those we meet.

It's a long journey from Christ to Epiphany. In these last months, many of us will have laughed and cried. I have been lonely, remembering things I had forgotten, good and bad or rather not remember, but I have been graced to deal with it and to let go, to accept all that makes me, me because that is who I am to God. He sees the truth in me, what's happened, but also my potential, that is where He dwells.

Epiphany is meant for me, God came for me, gave Himself to me; and the best gift I can bring is myself, as freely as I am able, to Him. He is always waiting for me, He longs for me to be free in Him, to be His and He to be mine in me. He wants and dreams that I will reveal an epiphany to all I meet and receive and give His blessing every day, through this amazing grace.

The three Magi's journey began with a star, what spurred them into such a risky journey, what stirred them to set out- a dream they had held from reading studies highlighting their own prophesy of a Messiah and a star?

Each of us at some time in our lives receive a light in our lives, a call, a shake-up, calling us to leave a place, a situation, and to journey, as Mary and Joseph did, also the Kings, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Jesus, John and many disciples since. All called to leave, risk, seek, set out to an unknown place, to be faithful to the journey placed in front of us, following in Faith, following the light, setting out with courage, a change of life, a new journey, turning around, a Metanoia.

This is the true purpose of our lives, a journey but as with the Magi, never travelling alone, a communal journey, never a lonely quest. A personal journey, but like our Faith, never a private one. We are each called to encourage the other, when one falls, the other picks them up, a light for each of us to follow.

My first light I believe, is the grace to see my own goodness and self-worth, faith in myself and hope and trust in God. When I am graced to believe in myself, I can find my star, my purpose in life, my call, as Jesus and John did, as the disciples did and the saints who have gone before me. I am called to stand on their shoulders, to allow myself to be the lamb around the neck of Jesus and be carried safely home. Sharing my life with the lives of the Community. As Paul says, I then begin to leave behind all childish things, less of me, a wider life, if I am willing to travel and bring my gifts and lay them down at the feet of others.

Pat Kennedy MPS.