

SUNDAY Plus

2nd Sunday after Christmas **Divine Office Week II** Year A

You are going towards God



All of us must search together. First and foremost, by giving [a] good example in our lives, with joy, living the joy of the Gospel, not discouraging others, but rather looking for ways to encourage young people to hear the voice of the Lord and to follow it and to serve in the Church.

Pope Leo

Epiphany house blessing

Have you ever visited a house and seen something like 20 C+M+B 20 chalked over a door and wondered what it means?

The numbers and letters are a time-honoured Epiphany custom celebrated in many places across the world.

C+M+B stands for the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the traditional names of the Magi. It's

also believed that the letters are the initials of the Latin words meaning "Christ, bless this house" (*Christus mansionem benedicat*).

The first 20 is the century and the second figures are the year, so, for 2026, 20 C+M+B 26 would be chalked over the door.

The Epiphany Blessing places God at the entrance to the home and the entire family under God's protection. It invites Jesus to be a daily guest in the home, the family's comings and goings, conversations, work and play, joys and sorrows.

Lord of hope, as this Jubilee Year of Hope ends, let me continue my pilgrimage through life in a spirit of hope, joy and confidence in your incredible love. Amen.

Where are you heading for in the course of your life?

You are constantly doing, saying or thinking about something. This happens all the time, at every moment of your day.

The fact is that you are looking forward to something, whether close or far away and you tend to that, in the hope it will bring you a crumb of happiness.

This longing for happiness is present in every human being. In fact, by heaping up money, seeking glory and pleasures, people are only trying to find happiness.

Have you not perhaps sought this happiness until now in any place and thing on this earth?...

Allow your fantasy to build freely in your mind that happiness you have dreamed of. Try to imagine all that you have ever wished to have and ask

yourself: what if there still is something that lasts even longer?

You will always have the same answer: if it is possible to reach something even better, that is, if your soul is still unsatisfied, then you have not reached your happiness your purpose. And whatever limitations you might still have to overcome they shall always be an impediment towards the perfection of your happiness.

This means that you long for happiness, but a happiness without limitations: an infinite, eternal happiness.

Everything in this world is limited; That is why things are not enough to satisfy our souls. Still, every living creature under the sun longs for happiness... this longing can be fulfilled by the infinite and eternal God.

St Maximilian Kolbe OFM, Stronger Than Hatred: a collection of spiritual writings

READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus
24:1-2, 8-12
Ephesians
1:3-6, 15-18
John 1:1-18

Monday:
1 John 3:22 – 4:6
Matthew 4:12-17,
23-25

Tuesday:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday:
1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday:
1 John 4:19 – 5:4
Luke 4:14-22

Friday:
1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday:
1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Our search for happiness

What is happiness? What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsatisfied and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved; therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen once more to the words of the Apostle: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 21

