

Many millions of Christians call today, 6 January, the Feast of Epiphany

In tradition, where the birth of Christ is celebrated on December 25, the arrival of the Magi is celebrated on January 6, called the Feast of Epiphany. This feast is in Eastern Christianity celebrated with more magnificent festivities and church services than 25 December. It was originally within Christianity the day of the giving of presents, following the example of the Magi. This tradition is specifically observed in Spanish speaking countries and in the Eastern Church. It is only in recent years that the Epiphany was again included in the celebrations of some branches of the Western Church, including some of the Protestant churches.

Epiphany considers that the Messiah was revealed to the Gentiles, while Christmas, the birthday, is celebrated as the day when Jewish believers, such as the shepherds, worshipped the new born King. This is why amongst Gentiles in the East, where the Magi came from, it became an important day of remembrance and celebration of an **“epiphany” of the meaning of the light and love of Christ for the gentile nations**. They also emphasize the revelation of Christ by the Father at Jesus’ baptism with the words: *“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”* (Matt 3:17.) They remind each other also of the first miracle, when Jesus turned water into wine, and the Bible says, this was to reveal the **“glory of Jesus”**.

For most of us it is the day when Christmas decorations are packed away and when we “leave” the contemplation of the meaning of the birthday of Christ, **expecting an epiphany of the glory of the Son of God, as it was revealed to his followers through his miracles, parables and teachings!** The real, complete and final epiphany of the glory of Christ can only be understood when we remember his suffering, and his glorious resurrection, contemplated during Lent and Easter.

It is a day when we may pray that Jesus will not leave us, *but show us the fullness of his glory*, through his kindness and his victory!

This song and prayer may guide our minds and hearts to desire a personal epiphany of Jesus - the light of the world!

*Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine Jesus shine, Fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire!
Flow river flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord -
And let there be light.*

*Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me!*

*As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me! Shine on me!*

*Shine Jesus shine, Fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire!
Flow river flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord –And let there be light.*