

# Entering the New Year

God of all time,  
help us enter the New Year quietly,  
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
mindful that our steps make an impact  
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.  
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,  
help us enter the New Year reverently,  
aware that you have endowed  
every creature and plant, every person and habitat  
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.  
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,  
help us enter the New Year joyfully,  
willing to laugh and dance and dream,  
remembering our many gifts with thanks  
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

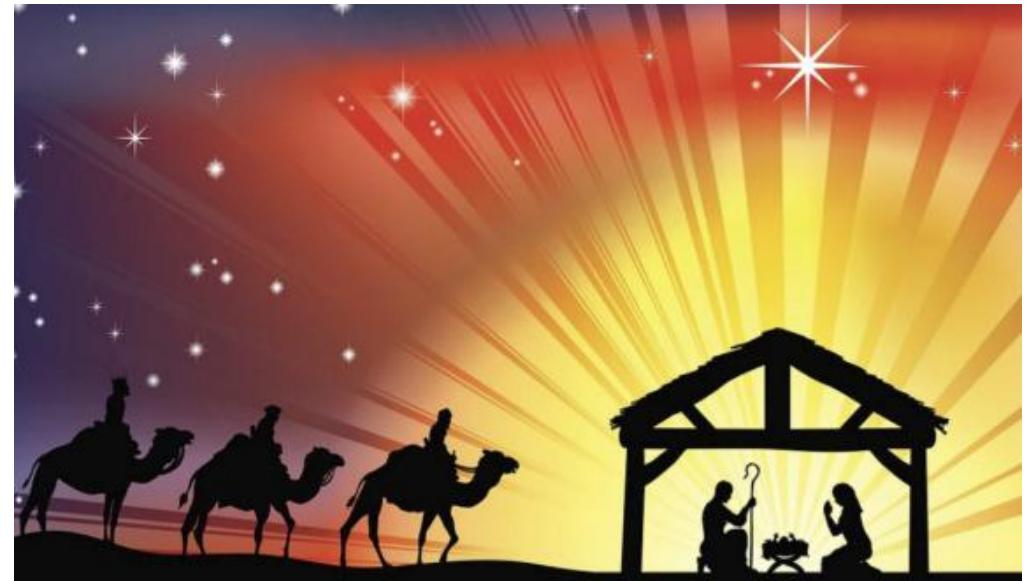
May we welcome your lavish love.  
May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.  
May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days  
ahead.

*- Vinita Hampton Wright*



# The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6

- This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. This was prophesied in the Book of Micah.
- They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- Gold is an expensive gift expressing how precious Jesus is.
- Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God. It was a sign that Jesus should be worshipped.
- Myrrh was used to keep things fresh, and it was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. By bringing it as a gift to Jesus, the wise men foretold his suffering and death.
- What gift do I bring?





We saw his star as it rose and we have come to worship him.

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts.  
Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning “to reveal.”



# Nollaig na mBan is also celebrated on 6 January

- Oíche Nollag Na mBan, Women's Christmas, has long been recognized as a day to celebrate the very important contribution of Irish women to society.
- It was considered as a day of rest for women after the Christmas rush and pressures and they would gather together for some relaxation and a very well deserved break.
- Is sean traidisiún é go dtiocfadh mná na hÉireann le chéile ar an 6 Eanáir, Oíche Nollag na mBan, traidisiún atá fós beo sa lá atá inniu ann.

# A Blessing Prayer for Nollaig na mBan

---

We pray for all the women in our lives - mothers, wives, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, friends.

“May your home be trimmed with love  
With joy wound 'round and round,  
May laughter raise the rafters  
And merriment abound  
May your hearth glow with the smiles  
Of all your kith and kin,  
And may heaven grace your humble place  
As the good Lord dwells within.”



---

## Jubilee Year of Hope

- Pope Leo XIV will conclude the Ordinary Jubilee by closing the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany.



We reflect together on our experience of this year, including our Loreto Pilgrimage to Knock for the Jubilee of Hope in May...

## Loreto Pilgrimage to Knock 1st May 2025



**"I come as a pilgrim of peace and an apostle of hope."**

*Pope Francis*





**And in Rome in April,  
July and August ...**



Pope Leo XIV –  
'Jesus tells us,  
"You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world."  
The Church needs your beautiful witness of faith.'



OFFICIAL HYMN

# Jubilee 2025

- [https://youtu.be/7uXO8lUcEZI?si=OLM0a2rlQT\\_NZPME](https://youtu.be/7uXO8lUcEZI?si=OLM0a2rlQT_NZPME)
- As we reflect together, the beautiful music of the Jubilee Hymn in Rome and in our liturgy at Knock led by Loreto College, Mullingar resounds in our memories of these events...