

**A SHORTER BLESSING OF HOMES – EPIPHANY A. D. 2021**

*The mother of the household lights the candle and says:*

May the light of Christ shine in our home and in our hearts

*Leader:* In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*ALL:* AMEN.

*Leader:* Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

*ALL:* NOW AND FOREVER.

**READING OF THE WORD OF GOD:**

*Reader:* Brothers and sisters,

let us listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see Him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed Him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*(Luke 19:1-9)*

*ALL:* PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**PRAYER OF BLESSING:**

*Leader:* Lord God of heaven and earth,  
You revealed Your only-begotten Son to every nation  
by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who live here.  
Fill them with the Light of Christ,

that their concern for others may reflect Your love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*ALL:* AMEN.

*The home and all present in it may be sprinkled with Holy Water  
from the Baptismal Font on the left of the Sanctuary  
in St Mary of the Crays' Church.*

*During the sprinkling the minister / leader may say:*

*Leader:* Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ,  
Who by His death and resurrection has redeemed us.

**CONCLUSION:**

*Leader:* May Christ live with us,  
keep us free from all harm,  
and make us one in mind and heart,  
now and forever.

*ALL:* AMEN.

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*Epiphany-tide is a time for blessing homes and other buildings by marking  
the lintels of the doorways with blessed chalk. The traditional marking  
commemorates the three Magi (traditionally named: Caspar, Melchior and  
Balthasar) and gives the calendar year already recently begun. The  
markings for this year are: "20 + C + M + B + 21" (the three initials of  
the magi's names between the number of the year, separated by four crosses).  
The letters could also stand for a Latin blessing:*

*a Latin blessing: CHRISTUS, MANSIONEM BENDICAT.  
in English: MAY CHRIST BLESS THE HOUSE.*

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**A Prayer at Night-time for protection and Blessing:**

Visit this house, we pray You Lord:  
Drive far away from it all the snares of the enemy.  
May Your holy angels stay here and guard us in peace,  
and let Your blessing be always upon us.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. AMEN.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

“What good deed must I do, to have eternal life?”

“If you would enter into life, keep the Commandments.” *(see Matthew 19:16-17)*

- Christ – through the example of His own life and by His preaching – attested to the permanent validity of the Ten Commandments.
- The Decalogue contains a privileged expression of the natural law.

It is made known to us by divine revelation and by human reason.

*(see the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2075, 2076, 2080)*

About Loving, caring for and respecting God, First and Foremost, in daily life:

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. You shall not have strange gods before me. You shall not make thyself any graven thing; nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth. You shall not adore them nor serve them.
2. You shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain. *(swearing)*
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD’S Day. *(if fit, well and able-bodied take part in Holy Mass every Sunday, or Sat. evening, and keep the whole day for the Lord).*

About loving, caring for and respecting others, as oneself:

4. Honour *(care for, respect and obey)* your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill. *(Includes: Abortion, harming oneself, overeating or drinking, often anger, violence and unforgiveness / grudges)*
6. You shall not commit adultery. *(Includes fornication, and other sins mis-using the gifts of our sexuality outside of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony).*
7. You shall not steal. *(Stealing)*
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. *(Lying)*
9. You shall not covet *(desire)* your neighbour’s wife *(or husband)*.
10. You shall not covet *(desire)* your neighbour’s goods.

*(also see: Exodus 20:2-17, and Deuteronomy 5:6-21).*

## THE PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH & EASTER DUTIES A. D. 2021:

from the Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos: 2041 – 2043

The first precept

**(‘You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labour’)** requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and resting from these works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The second precept:

**(‘You shall confess your sins at least once a year’)** ensures preparation for the Eucharist (Holy Communion) by the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which continues Baptism’s work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept:

**(‘You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season’)** guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.” *(In 20210 the time for fulfilling these Easter precepts / duties is from Ash Wednesday until Trinity Sunday: 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. to 30<sup>th</sup> May).*

“The fourth precept:

**(‘You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church’)** ensures the times of asceticism *(discipline)* and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

The fifth precept:

**(You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church’)** means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material need of the Church, each according to their ability.”

*(There used to be a sixth precept: ‘You shall not marry within certain degrees of kindred without dispensation’. However, the Church still requires us to marry in accordance with her teachings, rites and rules as laid down from time to time. In England and Wales all couples are required to give at least six months’ notice and to attend some Marriage Preparation Course. About getting married, wherever, whenever, please see your Parish Priest. Thank you.)*