

6. **A SHORTER BLESSING OF HOMES –  
EPIPHANYTIDE A. D. 2024**

*The Mother of the household lights a/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: (Luke 19:1-9)

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 com-  
plained when they saw what was happen-  
ing. '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.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*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

*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 re-  
cently begun. The markings for this year  
are:*

**“20 + C + M + B + 24”**

*(the three initials of the magi's names be-  
tween 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.**

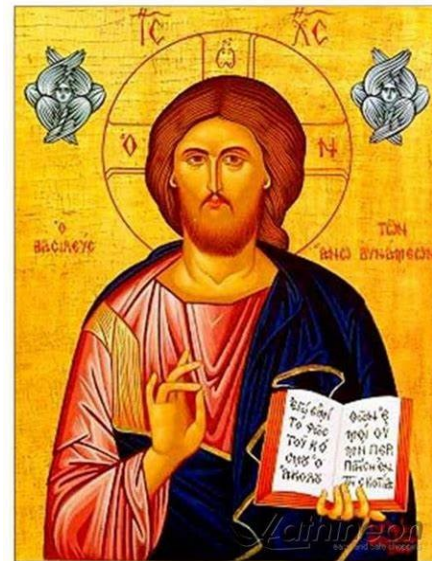
**“20 + C + M + B + 24”**

**IN THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO ST MARK:**

**As soon as Our Lord Jesus Christ  
is Baptised by His cousin John in  
the River Jordan (Mark 1:9-11), He  
is tempted in the wilderness by  
Satan (Mark 1:12-13).**

**He then preaches the Gospel  
with the call to repentance / con-  
version / return to God (Mark 14-  
15) and the call of the first disci-  
ples: Simon Peter, Andrew, James  
and John (Mark 16-20).**

**In Capernaum He teaches in  
the Synagogue and a man pos-  
sessed by an unclean spirit (a  
demon/devil) confronts Him.  
(Mark 21-28).**



**Keep Our Lord Jesus always  
before your eyes and mind and  
heart. Stay close to Jesus, and stay  
close to Mary our Mother:  
keep the Rosary with you always.**

**+ J. M. J. +  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  
The Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time B  
28th January 2024**

**DATES FOR**

**YOUR DIARIES AND CALENDARS:**

**2nd February 2024, the Feast of  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  
in the Temple in Jerusalem, also  
known as: CANDLEMAS.**

**PLEASE BRING IN YOUR CANDLES TO BE  
BLESSED AT 9:15AM HOLY MASS.**

**ALSO, PLEASE BRING IN YOUR PALM  
CROSSES FROM LAST YEAR, BY SUNDAY  
11TH FEBRUARY (Our Lady of Lourdes) TO  
BE BURNT TO MAKE THE ASHES FOR ASH  
WEDNESDAY:**

Lent begins with

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
on 14th February**

(also known as St Valentine's Day!)  
Ash Wednesday is

**a Day of Fasting  
and Abstinence,**

that is: reducing one's food and re-  
fraining from Meat, and if not a meat-  
eater, then refrain from something  
you usually eat. Perhaps party on

**Shrove, or 'pancake',  
Tuesday on the 13th February!**

**GOOD FRIDAY,  
a Day of Fasting  
and Abstinence,**

will be on  
**Friday 29th March  
and**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
will be on  
Sunday 31st March.**

**PUTTING ON  
THE ARMOUR OF GOD**  
(please see - Ephesians 6: 11-17).

1. I place upon my HEAD the HELMET OF SALVATION as a protection against all thinking, speaking, seeing, which is not of You.
2. I place upon my CHEST the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS as a protection against all unrighteous thoughts, all fear and anxiety, all sickness and all harm to the body.
3. I place upon my WAIST the GIRDLE OF TRUTH that I may be truthful at every level of my being.
4. I place upon my FEET the SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, that I may be the messenger of Your GOOD NEWS to others.
5. I place in my LEFT HAND the SHIELD OF FAITH with which to quench all the flaming darts of the enemy.
6. I take in my RIGHT HAND The SWORD OF THE SPIRIT with which to attack the stronghold of the enemy.



**PRAYER FOR PROTECTION**  
In the Name of Jesus Christ, I take authority over every demon and all demon activity in this place, in myself and in all present here. By the power of the Blood of Jesus, I bind every evil force and power of the air, the atmosphere, the fire, the water, the earth and the underground, and I claim the Blood of Jesus upon the air, the atmosphere, the fire, the water, the earth and the underground, and I forbid any communication, or interaction with Satan, or any other evil spirit, or person anywhere, living or dead, and I seal this room (place) in the Blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**JESUS,**  
**through Your Precious Blood,**  
protect me (and...) from all harm, evil and attacks of the devil, now, today, (...) and at all times of special difficulty or danger, and forever. Amen.  
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**HOLY MICHAEL,  
THE ARCHANGEL**  
**defend us in the day of battle.**  
**Be our safeguard**  
**against the wickedness**  
**and snares of the devil.**  
**May God rebuke him,**  
**we humbly pray, and do thou,**  
**Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,**  
**by the Power of God thrust down**  
**to hell Satan and all**  
**the wicked spirits who wander**  
**through the World**  
**for the ruin of souls.**  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER TO OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL:**  
**ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR,**  
**TO WHOM GOD'S LOVE**  
**COMMITTS ME HERE,**  
**EVER THIS DAY (NIGHT) BE AT MY SIDE,**  
**TO LIGHT, TO GUARD,**  
**TO RULE, AND GUIDE. AMEN**

**LECTIO DIVINA:**  
**(Holy Reading Sacred Scriptures/  
The Holy Bible)**

1. **PREPARATION:**  
Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. **LECTIO:**  
**READ/**Listen to the text.  
Read the text OUT LOUD perhaps twice or more.  
Read it out loud slowly and prayerfully.  
What is the text saying ?  
What is happening?  
What word or phrase 'jumps off the page and hits you between the eyes'?
3. **MEDITATIO:**  
**REFLECT.**  
What is the text saying to me?  
What is God saying to me?  
What strikes not just my mind, but my heart as well?
4. **READ** out loud, or listen to the text again.
5. **ORATIO:**  
**RESPOND.**  
What do I want to say to God?  
How do I want to respond?
6. **CONTEMPLATIO:**  
**REST.** Rest in the Lord.  
A time of silent communion of love.  
In the love of the Lord Who loves you.  
Just 'being there...'  
  
End this quiet time of a couple of minutes, or longer, by saying:  
**'Glory be to the Father,**  
**and to the Son,**  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and ever shall be,**  
**world without end.**  
**Amen.'**

7. Try and sum up what God has said to you, or the whole prayer exercise in one word.

And, how might I make this Word of God alive and active in my day and in my life

8. Be ready for a surprise!

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**Please, set aside and make the time to listen to Fr Chris Alar at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge Massachusetts, USA, on his Site:**

**EXPLAINING THE FAITH:**

**Our Lady of Cuapa,  
Nicaragua,  
and World War III**

**[approved Apparition of our  
Mother Mary to Bernardo:  
April/May—October 1980]**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Q44F5qyQKeM?si=ESuQHy8po5LokZop>

given on **6th January 2024**

- 1) **Pray the Rosary daily for Peace; and also**
- 2) **Read, meditate upon and pray the Sacred Scriptures with the Rosary;**
- 3) **Do the First Five Saturday Devotions;**
- 4) **become Living Temples of God**