

Epiphany - also known as Three Kings' Day - is a Christian festival, which starts on 6 January.

It is a special date in the Christmas story as it's when people celebrate how a star led the **Magi** - also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

The gifts given by the Magi were symbolic of the importance of Jesus's birth. **Gold** represents his royal standing and importance. **Frankincense** was a valuable perfume for a royal birth (he was to be born to a king). **Myrrh** was to anoint him and remind him that even kings were mortal and would need to be embalmed.

People celebrate epiphany with:

Parades of decorative floats

Costumes of the kings bearing gifts

Light and music shows

Clowns and jugglers

Christmas gifts

Children write letters to the Magi requesting presents

Children leave their shoes out overnight to find presents in the morning.

Holy Communion

The Holy Communion is also known as the **Eucharist**. It is a re-enactment of the **Last Supper**, the final meal that Jesus Christ shared with his disciples before his arrest, and eventual **crucifixion**. At the meal, Jesus ate bread and wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him. Communion means, simply, 'togetherness' and this is a **ritual** to show the togetherness of Christians and God.

The Last Supper was Jesus' last meal before he died and he shared two signs with his followers: **Bread** as a symbol for his body being broken, and **wine** as a symbol for his blood being spilled when he was crucified

Features of the church:

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| Altar | a table where the bread and wine are blessed during the Eucharist |
| Cross | a cross with Jesus on |
| Organ | to be played during hymn singing |
| Font | a large stone bowl containing holy water used to baptise babies |
| Pew | is a long bench seat or enclosed box, used for seating |
| lectern | a stand where the Bible is read from |
| Pulpit | where the priest delivers sermons |
| Candle | to be lit when praying |

Baptism is a sign of becoming a part of the church.

Jesus was baptised by a man named John the Baptist.

In infant or child baptism, water is poured over a baby's head over the font. Baptism is a sign that someone belongs to Christ, which is why it is sometimes called "Christ-ening".

The water in baptism symbolises one of two things:

- 1) Getting clean:** Through baptism, Christians show that they have been made clean by receiving God's forgiveness for the things they have done wrong.
- 2) Moving from life to death:** When Christians are baptised by immersion – pushed backwards under the water and then brought up again – they show that an old way of living has gone.

In adult's baptism or believer's baptism a person may choose to be baptised once they have decided for themselves that they want to live as a Christian. This could take place in a river, a church baptistery or even a swimming pool.