

## **An Epiphany tradition - 'Chalking the Doors'**

On or near the feast of the Epiphany, and conveniently close to the beginning of a New Year, the tradition has been to ask God's blessing on homes and mark the door post or lintel with chalk that has been blessed for that purpose. The doors are chalked with the legendary names or initials of the three Magi, and the numerals of the New Year, connected with a series of crosses.



The initials C, M, and B commemorate the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but also stand for the Latin prayer-request *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house." In this way, the door of a house would be marked as follows:

***20+C+M+B+21.***

Please take a piece of chalk and using the prayers below mark the door of your home and ask for God's blessing upon it. It is also something that you might consider offering to do for your families, friends and neighbours. Having this marking near your front door will certainly be a talking point with those who call to see you; people will want to know what it means!

### **Prayers to use as you 'Chalk the door'.**

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

*God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

*Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.*