



# Coloma Catholic Life.



## Pope Francis' Homily

**Pope Francis' homily was delivered by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, during the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 recitation of Vespers in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a moment of Eucharistic adoration and the singing of the traditional *Te Deum* hymn of praise and thanks to God. Below is an overview of the homily.**

At the close of the year 2020, Francis said his thoughts were of families "who have lost one or more members, of those who have been sick, of those who have suffered from loneliness, of those who have lost their jobs."

"Sometimes someone asks: what is the point of a drama like this?" he said, referring to the coronavirus pandemic. In the face of such a jarring question, "We must not be in a hurry to answer," Francis said, noting that "Not even God responds to our most distressing 'whys' by resorting to 'higher reasons.'"

Rather, "God's answer follows the path of the incarnation," the birth and death of his only Son for the salvation of mankind. God is a shepherd, he said, asking, "which shepherd would give up even a single sheep, thinking that in the meantime he has many more left? No, this cynical and ruthless God does not exist. This is not the God whom we 'praise' and 'proclaim Lord'" in the *Te Deum* hymn.

(Traditional: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y-JHqnV0\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y-JHqnV0_Q)  
Contemporary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqpqia-DXC8> )

## Pope Francis

**Prayer Intention for January:**

**Human Fraternity.**

'May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.'

Video:

**Tweet:** Jesus is the eternal Word of God, who has always thought of us and wanted to communicate with us.

## Liturgical Year

Week: 2nd Sunday of  
Christmas

Colour: White



Francis then recalled the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, who finds a man nearly beaten to death on the side of the road and, instead of passing him by, takes him to an inn and pays for his treatment. In the parable, the Good Samaritan does not give the wounded man “a speech to explain the meaning of what happened to him, perhaps to convince him that it was basically for his own good.” Instead, “the Samaritan, moved by compassion, bent over that stranger, treating him like a brother, and cared for him doing everything in his power.”

This story, Pope Francis said, can be a place where meaning is found amid the pandemic: “that of arousing compassion in us and provoking attitudes and gestures of closeness, care and solidarity.” “This is what happened and is happening in Rome in recent months; and above all for this, tonight, we give thanks to God: for the good things that have taken place in our city during the lockdown and, in general, in the time of the pandemic, which unfortunately is still not over.”

Despite the loss of life and the massive economic fallout of the pandemic, there are many people “who, without making any noise, have tried to make the burden of the trial more bearable,” the Pope said, adding, “the blessing and praise that God likes most is brotherly love.” He pointed to the work carried out by doctors, nurses, volunteers, and healthcare workers throughout the pandemic, saying these are the people who are on the frontlines, and because of this, “they are always in our prayers and deserve our gratitude, as well as many priests and men and women religious.”

Francis also voiced thanks to those “who strive every day to carry their family and their service to the common good forward in the best way possible,” and gave a special shout-out to school administrators and public officials who are “detached from private interests and also those of their party” and who, in his words, “truly seek the good of all starting from the most disadvantaged.” “All this cannot happen without grace, without the mercy of God,” he said.

Noting that it is normal to think in terms of self-preservation when crises erupt, he questioned how it is possible, then, “that so many people, with no other reward than that of doing good, find the strength to worry about others?” “What drives them to give up something of themselves, of their own comfort, of their time, of their possessions, to give to others?” he asked, explaining that, even if they are unaware of it, “the strength of God pushes them, which is more powerful than our egoisms.”

“For this we give praise to him, because we believe and know that all the good that is done on earth day by day in the end comes from him,” he said, adding that when looking to the future and the new year that awaits, “we again implore: May your mercy always be with us, in you we have hoped.”

This is the link to His Holiness’ Christmas Day “Urbi et Orbi” message  
[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201225\\_urbi-et-orbi-natale.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20201225_urbi-et-orbi-natale.html)

Below is the link to His Holiness’ message for the celebration of the 54<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a long, but beautifully written call for ‘A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace’.

## Epiphany of the Lord – 6<sup>th</sup> January



On Wednesday the Church celebrates the Epiphany, marking the visit of the Magi to worship Jesus, the new-born King. The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word 'epiphainein' meaning 'reveal' and it comes to us in the liturgical sense from the Latin, 'epiphania.' This sense of 'reveal' in the Christmas period is seen when the Christ-child is revealed to the shepherds, the lowest of society, by the angels, to the Magi, the wise men by the star and their God-given wisdom. The Magi were Gentiles and regarded as unclean by Jewish society.

We Three Kings traditional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANXV46f3jo0>

Contemporary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrsWF3JlScw;>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuLo7l7daqM>

For Catholics this day is a Holyday of Obligation. This was reinstated by the Bishops of England and Wales from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of advent 2017. Check local arrangements for Mass on this day or alternately you can live stream Mass through this link <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Jesus' baptism which closes Christmastide is also an epiphany, a reveal, when we see the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit revealed. God's revelation of himself in human flesh is given to the disciples through Jesus' teaching and given greater emphasis at the Transfiguration, another epiphany, when Peter, James and John witness Jesus as the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) and are told by God: 'this is my Son, listen to him.' In the Catholic Church the season of Christmas continues until the Baptism of the Lord, which is the Sunday after the Epiphany

## Religious Festivals This Week

### Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (1666 CE) – Sikhism



This day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of the tenth Guru, who instituted the Five Ks and established the Order of the Khalsa on Vaisakhi (Baisakhi).

Gobind Rai was born on December 22, 1666. His father was Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Guru of Sikhism. In 1675 at the age of nine he became the 10th Guru on his father's death and was the last of the ten human Gurus of the Sikhs. He was a student of Punjabi, Sanskrit, Brj Bhasha, Arabian, Persian and a number of other languages, and was highly regarded for his wisdom and leadership qualities. Throughout his life he wrote many poems about love, the worship of the Divine,

equality and the putting away of superstition and idolatry.

On his birthday, historical lectures are conducted and poems are recited in praise of the Guru. Special dishes that are unique to this occasion are prepared and served during the festivities. Like other anniversaries

associated with the lives of the Gurus, the day is referred to as a gurburb, and is marked by the ending of an akhand path, an unbroken reading of the whole of the Guru Granth Sahib. This lasts for 48 hours.

In April 1699 Gobind Rai established the Order of the Khalsa after which point all initiated Sikh males were given the name **Singh** (meaning **lion**), and females the name **Kaur** (meaning **leader**) to emphasise equality and to remove caste distinctions. The Guru asked his devotees to bless him with initiation into the Khalsa and became Guru Gobind Singh. The Guru was a military genius, and when other approaches failed, he accepted the use of power and the sword to fight against tyranny in the defence of religious freedom. He fought twelve battles and his four sons were killed in campaigns against Mughal oppression. He instilled a martial spirit into his followers so that they would not fear the persecutions of the Mughal Emperors. He also gave Sikhs the new greeting of 'Waheguru ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji Ki Fateh', meaning 'The Khalsa belongs to God; all victory is the victory of God'.

In 1708 Guru Gobind Singh was assassinated as he attempted to make peace with the Emperor, Bahadur Shah I. He left a great number of writings and his greatest contribution to Sikh tradition is that he instructed his disciples to consider the Guru Granth Sahib (the collection of writings from the previous Gurus), as their eternal Guru, and that this would be the source of the Gurus' teachings, which would guide all their future decisions.

