

## 2.3 Frankincense - What he came do

- Frankincense used by priests in the temple. It is a tree resin collected from one of two types of frankincense trees found in Southern Arabia and Northern Somalia.
- Jesus was the ultimate high priest, who was to make the final reconciliation between God and Humankind.
- In Old Testament times access to God was limited - only the high priest could approach God in the 'Holy of Holies' in the Temple once a year. Jesus came to change that so that we could all have access to his Father (God) at all times.
- Do we believe and trust Jesus to be our High Priest?



## 2.4 Myrrh - What it cost him

- Myrrh was used to embalm the dead. It is a bitter, aromatic, transparent gum exuded from the bark of various trees and shrubs that are native to Africa and southern Asia. Myrrh had many uses in Biblical times: as incense, (Exodus 30:23), as a perfume to freshen garments (Psalm 45:9), as a painkiller (Mark 15:23) but its main use was to embalm the dead.
- Jesus was born to die. - *'Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.'* John 19:39
- Do we believe that Jesus came to die for our sins - so that we might come into permanent relationship with God?



## 3. Questions to consider at home

- 3.1 Do you think that the Christmas presents we give tell us a great deal not only about the giver but also the receiver?
- 3.2 Why are the three Christmas presents given to Jesus so significant?
- 3.3 What is God's Christmas present to us?
- 3.4 Why did God give us this Christmas present?
- 3.5 Why did God give us this Christmas present without asking us first?

Matthew Street 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020



## The Parish of Peasedown St John

Matthew 2:1-2 & 9-12 - Christmas Presents

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

### 1. Talk Passage – Matthew 2:1-2 & 9-12

*1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."  
9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.  
10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*

### 2. Talk Notes

#### 2.1 Introduction

- Christmas is a time of giving and receiving presents - the Christmas presents we give can sometimes tell us a great deal not only about the giver but also the receiver.
- Magi (wise men) come from East (suggesting this birth has more than just a Jewish context to it) and present Jesus with three presents that perfectly summarise who he was and what he came to do:
  - i. Gold - which tells us about who Jesus is
  - ii. Frankincense - which tells us about what he came to
  - iii. Myrrh - which tells us about what it cost him
- As we approach Christmas once again how would we answer these three questions?
  - i. Who is King in our lives?
  - ii. Do we believe that Jesus is 'The Way, The Truth, The Life'?
  - iii. Do we believe that Jesus came to die for our sins - so that we might come into permanent relationship with God?

#### 2.2 Gold - Who Jesus is

- Gold has been and always will be a gift fit for a King.
- Jesus was the King of Kings yet born in the most humble of circumstances
- Do we worship him? Is Jesus King over all our life or just certain parts?





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