*We are all seekers*. There is something about the human condition that instinctively makes us want to go out and *seek* new knowledge – to seek out and learn how things work, and what things mean. We take the information we have, and form our knowledge based on the facts that we diligently seek out.

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany, the feast day which commemorates the Wise Men from the East coming to pay homage to Jesus, the new born king. And through this brief narrative in the gospel, we are introduced to three *dedicated seekers* who travel far and wide to observe for themselves what they have studied in the Jewish scriptures – that a child would be born a king, and that a star would guide them.

But, it took some *effort* on their part – their searching took a reasoned approach - it took dedicated study; it took time; and all-in-all, it took a genuine *effort* to search out the Christ child. But upon finding Him, the effort was all worthwhile as they present the new born king with the royal gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

And here is my challenge to all of you in 2018 – to follow the Magi’s lead and spend time *seeking* out Christ. To resolve to get into the habit of searching out Christ – of learning about Him and His Church. As the Wise Men are instructed by Herod – “*Go and search diligently for the child*”.

And to search diligently for the child is to ask questions – to seek out knowledge. For myself personally, it wasn’t until I began asking questions about Christ and the Church that I began to really grow in my faith and come to a re-conversion of sorts. I was at a point in my life after university where I would go to Church, but I was asking myself ‘*why?*’ I had a series of questions that confused me about our faith, such as ‘why is Jesus so important?’; ‘why do we go to church?’ ‘why do we pray to Mary and the saints?’; ‘why do we go to confession?’; and my litany of questions went on and on. And because none of this made complete sense to me at the time, it was easy to just write off Church teachings, and along with that, I realize now that I was also writing off Christ who gave us the Church as His Body on earth.

But fortunately one year I made a New Year’s Resolution to find answers to these questions. And I began to read, and to search articles on the internet, and I found the more I read, the more everything began to make sense, and the more everything began to make sense, the more I really started to fall in love with the Church, and the deeper my relationship with Christ became.

*We all need to be seekers*. Like the Wise Men, we all need to put in the time to study Christ and his Church so as to *encounter* Him in a new and powerful way. The more we learn, the more ‘light bulb’ moments or *epiphanies* we personally experience as we come to fuller understandings of our faith. We have a beautiful 2,000 years of Church tradition with many of the greatest minds in history answering all the questions we have, and giving us logical reasons for what we believe. We short change ourselves when we don’t tap into that tradition – *that well of wisdom* - to gain a fuller understanding of things divine.

And like the Wise Men, once we encounter our Lord through new knowledge – through *new epiphanies* that we experience through our *seeking*, the more we ourselves are *changed* – changed so much that we simply can’t *go back* the same way we came. Just as the Wise Men cannot go back by way of Herod after their encounter with Christ, we too will leave by another road – a road that avoids the empty and deceptive piety of Herod. But rather we return to our lives by *another road* – a road filled with the hope that only Christ can offer, and a road that is paved with new knowledge of our Lord which will only serve to deepen our faith and bolster our relationship with Christ.

And to put this New Year’s Resolution into action, you can pick up a bible, the Catechism or the many wonderful books which explain the faith – pick up a CD or two that we have available in the narthex, or go to a website such as **catholic.com –** easy to remember, just ‘catholic.com’ – which has articles and Podcasts which explain any question you could possibly have. We will also be looking to offer more opportunities in the parish for faith formation, and if we can resolve to make even just a bit of time in faith study, seeking out our Lord will be made very accessible, and will quickly lead you down a path that brings you closer to Christ, because you will be spending the time needed to get to know Him on a *deeper level*.

As the Wise Men had been instructed by Herod, I too instruct you – ‘*Go and search diligently for the child*’ - and I guarantee that when you *diligently search*, you too will go home by *another road*, a road that leads to a more informed faith, a more relevant faith, and most importantly – a faith that lays a firm foundation for a more loving and personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.