



EPIPHANY CHALK

It is an ancient tradition in many Christian churches to bless chalk at Epiphany and then use the chalk to write a prayer of blessing beside or above the front doors of homes.

The traditional prayer is 20+C+M+B+26. This marks the year (2026), the initials CMC stand for the names attributed to the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) and the Latin prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

You can bless the chalk during your main Sunday service, or perhaps a school assembly, at Epiphany. Why not invite children to assist in the blessing, using incense and holy water if that is your tradition, or writing and saying their own prayers.

Then take the chalk around the parish, perhaps with other treats (hot chocolate, epiphany cakes and biscuits). When invited any house can be blessed for the coming year by

MIA

+SCS BALTHASSAR +SCS MELCHIOR +SCS GASPAR

writing the prayer beside the front door.

Explain that the Magi were on a journey to meet Jesus Christ, and He still invites us all to make that journey. The Magi didn't travel alone, and so neither should we. The Church is here so that we can travel with others who are seeking God.

Perhaps you could leave at each home that seeks a blessing a map describing the key stops on the journey in the coming year, i.e. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day, Harvest Festival and Christmas. Perhaps you will have special services, or children's activities, arranged to mark these occasions, if so include the dates and times of each and specifically invite the recipients to come to church on these days to meet with other 'travellers'.

Image; Wikimedia Commons: TheThree Magi, 6th century mosaic, Ravenna, Italy

