

Epiphany of the Lord



This Sunday in the First Reading we will hear that Christ is the Light of all the nations. The revelation of the true nature of Christ is one for all creation without any exceptions. So what we may ask does this mean for the other great world religions like Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism? Does this mean that they are all false religions and that Christianity is the only true religion? In the first place, let us not ask which religion is the only true one, thus making all the others false. There is not really a competition. The religions are different approaches to God, and they each reveal a special aspect of who God is. For its part, Christianity

gives a very special revelation to the world. Jesus' suffering shows forth love in a way that is crystal clear, revealing what other always need to hear. In it God enters the underside of human life. He does not hesitate to suffer as we do, even to suffer at the hands of sin, disgrace and death.

Christ became a light to all nations. Not a light instead of other lights, not the light that puts out all others, but the most rare and poignant beam of all. His glow gives fibre and strength and depth to each and every other light. The teaching of the Catholic Church in the Vatican Council and more recently in the words of Pope Benedict is that we as Catholic Christians should be open to recognising all that is good and true in other faiths and working closely with others so that we may all draw ever more deeply into our experience of the living God.