

Epiphany house blessing

Traditionally, on the feast of epiphany, we are invited to bless our homes. Often, in addition to the spoken prayer, the doorway or front step is marked with chalk as follows:

20 + c + m + b + 23

The numbers stand for the year, 2023, and the letters for the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These three letters are also representative of the Latin blessing: *christus mansionem benedicat*.

As this is traced, these words are spoken:

The three wise magi: c Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star of god's son who became human 20 two thousand 23 and twenty-three years ago.

++ may christ bless our home

++ and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

You may also pray this prayer of blessing as we celebrate this feast beginning a new year of grace.

God of heaven and earth,

You revealed your only-begotten one to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who inhabit it.

Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us.

May we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate word.

Loving god, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our lord. Amen.



*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
By the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Fall River*

DECREE

In considering the pastoral care of the faithful throughout the Diocese and after a thorough study of the situation in Somerset and Swansea, and after having consulted the Pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in Somerset, who is also the Pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Somerset and who is also the Pastor of Saint Louis de France Parish in Swansea, and after having heard the advice of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River at their meeting on September 19, 2022, the Diocesan Bishop hereby decrees the following:

That Saint Thomas More Parish in Somerset be suppressed;
That Saint Patrick Parish in Somerset be suppressed;
That Saint Louis de France Parish in Swansea be suppressed;

That the new Our Lady of Peace Parish be erected with the three worship sites of Saint Thomas More Church in Somerset, Saint Patrick Church in Somerset and Saint Louis de France Church in Swansea;

That the canonical registers of Saint Thomas More Parish in Somerset, Saint Patrick Parish in Somerset and Saint Louis de France Parish in Swansea be kept at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Somerset;

That the temporal goods, property, assets and financial obligations of Saint Thomas More Parish in Somerset, Saint Patrick Parish in Somerset and Saint Louis de France Parish in Swansea belong to Our Lady of Peace Parish in Somerset;

That the pastoral and spiritual care of the people of the suppressed parishes will be provided by the Priests assigned to Our Lady of Peace Parish in Somerset.

This Decree shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on first day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

In the event that anyone with canonical standing feels injured by the provisions of this Decree, he or she may initiate a hierarchical recourse against this Decree, according to the provisions of Canon 1732-1739, within ten useful days.

Given in Fall River this Nineteenth day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Attest:

Kevin R. Kiley
Chancellor

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River