

Feast of Epiphany

January 6th 2023

Chalking the Door of the Home on Epiphany

An Epiphany tradition in parts of Europe is for people to write a special sign in chalk over their front door, as a reminder of the Magi that visited the baby Jesus. It's made using the year split in two, with the initials of the names that are sometimes given to the Magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, in the middle. So 2023 is written as: 20+C+M+B+23. The initials CMB also stand for the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: 'May Christ bless the house'. The inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless the home and be with all those who dwell in it throughout the year.

Prayer as you chalk the lintel of your front door

Gather at the front door of your home.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God of Light, bless our home. Make it a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star. We mark our door with the symbols of the Magi. 20 + C + M + B + 23. May all who enter throughout the year find love and light; for Christ has come to dwell in this home and in our hearts.

Amen.

Having marked your door you may now like to place the Magi figures at the crib while praying the following:

Loving Jesus, may we be like the Magi and always look for you in our lives. Be with us, protect us and guide us. Help us to always show your love to one another and to all in need.
Amen