

## Bishop's Message for January 2011

January 6 is the day we mark the Epiphany of our Lord. I am not aware of any special Epiphany services that will be held in the congregations of our Synod – but I may be wrong, so please correct me if I am in error. In some Christian communions Epiphany is the “big celebration day” rather than Christmas. Epiphany – the day and the season – is marked by three signal events in the life of Jesus. Each of them shines the light ever more intensely on the truths of Jesus’ sonship and messiahship. First comes the visit of the Magi, kings perhaps but certainly persons of wisdom, who seek the One born king of the Jews, illuminated and guided by the star. Second comes the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan when he rises from the water and the Voice from heaven proclaims: “My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”, while the Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove. Third comes the Transfiguration when Christ’s heavenly glory is revealed to Peter, James and John on the holy mountain. Light, light and more light - shining into our darkened world and hearts. Who is this? The world asks and asks again. And the confirmation comes just as repeatedly: This is my child, the Beloved. Listen to him. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Blessed Epiphany!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories