

Local Church Budget



“Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.” Isaiah 60:6 (NIV)

At this time of the year we focus and reflect on the birth of Jesus. Across Sydney, Nativity plays are performed and enjoyed. Why? Because it is a captivating story! The Son of God being born as a vulnerable human baby boy.

There are many important characters surrounding Jesus in the story, and the magi are some of the most interesting. While the Bible doesn't tell us how many there were, we know they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Archaeologists have discovered that these gifts were fit for a king—even a god. Ancient inscriptions indicate King Seleucius II Callinicus offered the same gifts to the god Apollo at the temple in Miletus, and Isaiah spoke about foreign kings bringing these gifts as a way of “proclaiming the praise of the Lord”.

The magi recognised Jesus as a king. They may even have had insight that He

was to die, as myrrh was traditionally used as embalming fluid. Whatever the case, it challenges us today as to how we view our King. Not just any king, but the one who was willing to die for the salvation of His people.

Our offering today benefits our local church budget for the operation of facilities and ministries in our church. What we offer to God this morning is a reflection of our heart for Him. Whatever we may give, let it remind us that our heart is the most valuable gift we can give to Jesus.

Appeal

With grateful hearts for all that Jesus has done for us, what are we bringing to offer Him today?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your greatest gift in Jesus. Amen.

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