

## The Blessing of the Chalks

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and all those who live or visit there.

It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home; our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

### **The Blessing:**

Priest: Our help is the name of the Lord:

**All: The maker of heaven and earth.**

Priest: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

**All: From this time forth for evermore.**

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write the blessing upon the door of their home may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Instructions for Blessing the Home

Take the blessed chalk, after the Mass, and write above, or at the side, of your home's front door:

**20 + C + M + B + 19**

*whilst saying:*

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and nineteen years ago.

May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. Amen.

*Then offer the following prayer:*

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

(optional extra prayers)

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord God of heaven and earth,  
you revealed your only-begotten Son  
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.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The letters C, M, B have two meanings:  
They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.  
They also abbreviate the Latin words  
*Christus mansionem benedicat*,  
"May Christ bless the house."  
The "+" signs represent the cross and 2019 is the year.