

Rejoice!
Rejoice!
Emmanuel



Our theme this week is:



Epiphany

Peace be with you
And with your spirit



We light our candle to remind us of Christ's
presence with us as we gather
+In the name of the Father ...

We three kings of
orient are
Bearing gifts we
traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and
mountain
Following yonder
star

**O star of
wonder, star of
night
Star with royal
beauty bright
Westward
leading, still
proceeding
Guide us to thy
perfect light**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men
raising
Worship Him, God most high

Myrrh is mine
Its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom
Sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone cold
tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies



Reflection

In this week's Gospel, we hear about the Epiphany. The name Epiphany **comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “appearance,” “manifestation” or “revelation.”**

It refers to the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. The holiday is also called the Feast of Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day. This marks the end of the Christmas season and twelfth night. It is when we take our decorations down.

It is also where the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' has its origins.



Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You have been with us since the dawn of time and were **revealed** to us as a baby, in **The Epiphany**. You have been the greatest gift the world has ever received.

Help me to receive you into my heart and show your love and light to others.

Amen.



Lord Jesus,
We are sorry for the times we have not recognised
you as a gift,
Lord, have mercy.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Christ Jesus,
We are sorry for the times we have not used our gifts
wisely
Christ, have mercy.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lord Jesus,
We are sorry for the times we have been ungrateful
for the gifts of others
Lord, have mercy.

LORD HAVE MERCY



Please stand while we listen to the Gospel

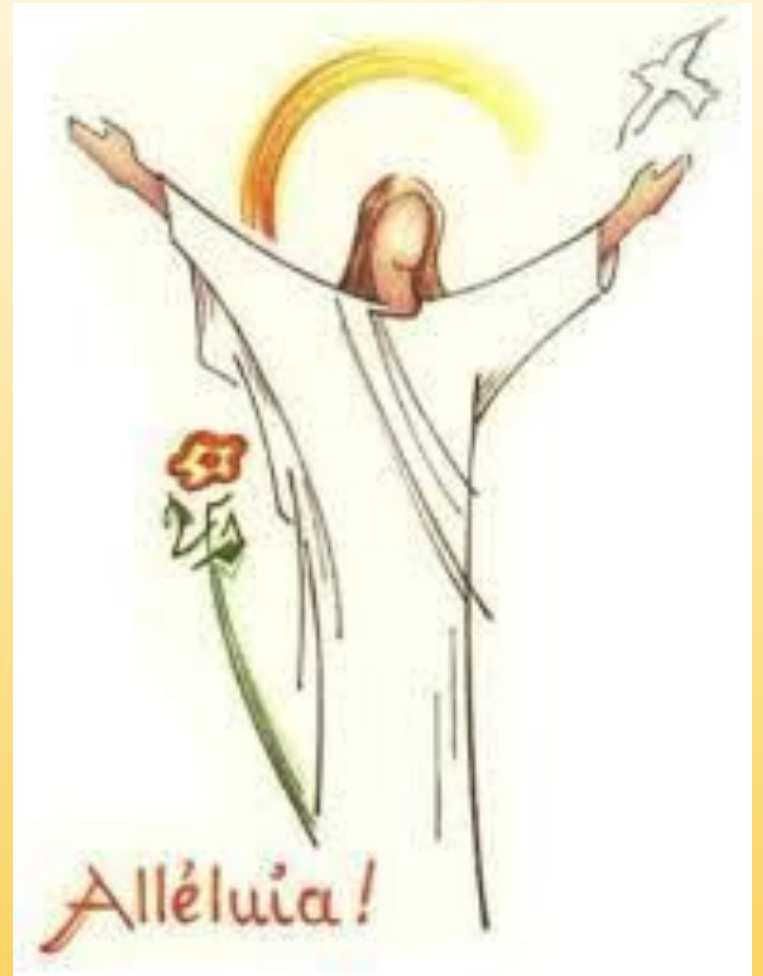
OH ALLE...ALLE



ALLE...ALLE...



LUIA



Time to reflect on God's words for us
today.









Symbolism of the Epiphany

The traditions around naming and then developing characters for the Wise Men of the gospel began in the 6th century and grew considerably in the middle ages. There is little consistency about which king is which or who brings what gifts (although Balthasar is usually associated with the myrrh).

Caspar

Caspar is sometimes identified as the King of Tarsus and is represented as an old man with white hair and beard. He wears a green cloak and crown and is the first to kneel in adoration of the Christ child. Caspar is often associated with the gift of gold (though this is sometimes Melchior).

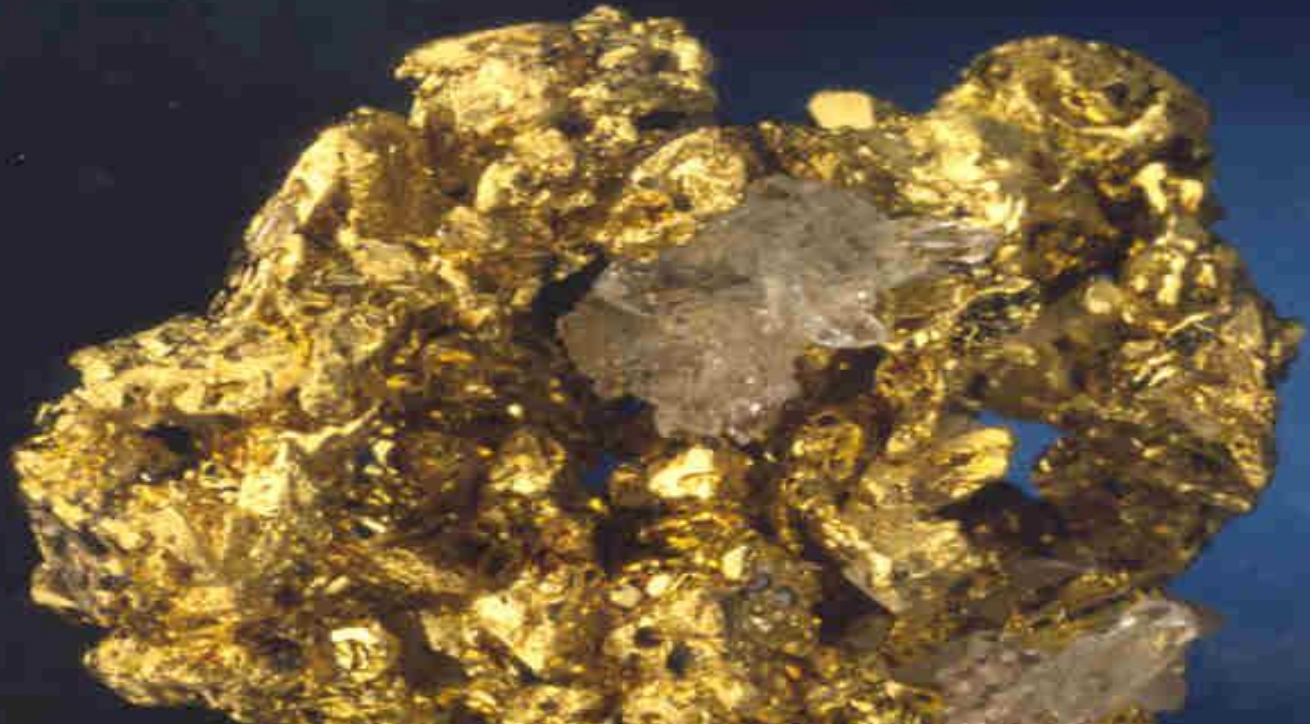
Melchior

Melchior is the middle-aged King of Arabia and brings the gift of frankincense from his homeland. He is portrayed with brown hair and beard, wearing a gold cloak

Balthasar

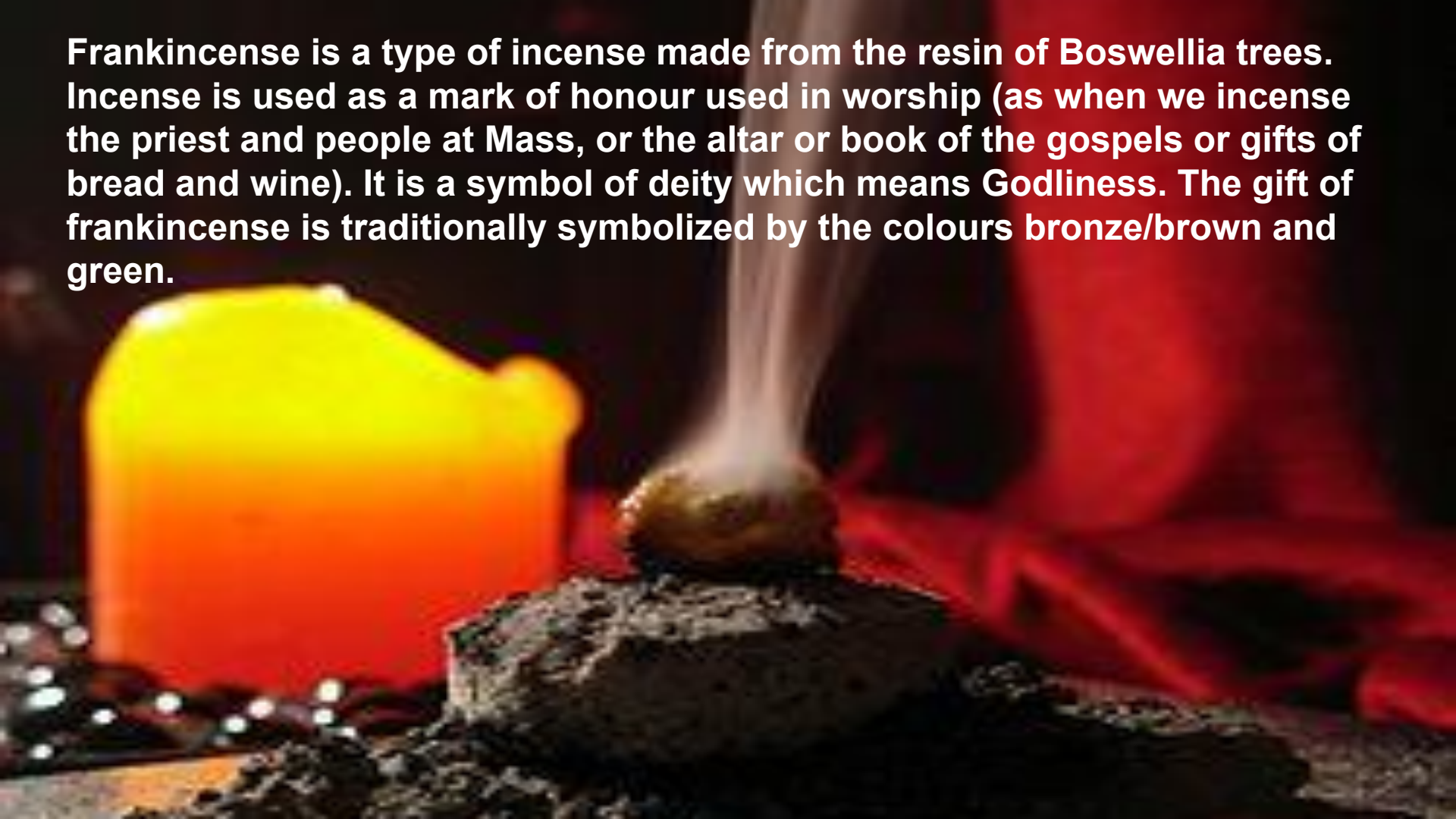
Balthasar is the young black King of Ethiopia and wears a purple/blue cloak. Balthasar is traditionally associated with the gift of myrrh.





Gold is a gift for a King and symbol of Kingship. Some legends say that Joseph used this to buy the family passage into Egypt as they were refugees.

Frankincense is a type of incense made from the resin of Boswellia trees. Incense is used as a mark of honour used in worship (as when we incense the priest and people at Mass, or the altar or book of the gospels or gifts of bread and wine). It is a symbol of deity which means Godliness. The gift of frankincense is traditionally symbolized by the colours bronze/brown and green.





Myrrh is a type of incense made from the gum of the Commiphora tree. The essence can be extracted as a liquid as was used to dress wounds, and anoint the dead. The Christian tradition links the birth of Christ with his death (he is born for the salvation of the world which is achieved in the sacrifice of his death) and so the myrrh has come to symbolize death and the oil that was brought by the three Marys on Easter morning to anoint his body. Myrrh is a symbol both of healing (or salvation) and of death. The gift of myrrh is traditionally symbolized by the colours purple and blue.



Sacrifice



King



God



Bidding Prayers

Today, we pray for our school community as we join back together after our Christmas celebrations. May you help keep us safe and walk with us as we journey in our learning in this new year..

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

This week the church, celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, may we be reminded of the journey that the three kings made to visit the baby Jesus. May we be given the strength to continue our own faith journeys.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

As we reflect on the message from the Gospel, let us also remember our former Pope Benedict. We pray that his soul is now at rest with you O Lord.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In the quiet of our hearts let's say our own prayer to God. We ask you Mother Mary to pray with us as we say:



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with thee,
blessed art thou among women and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for
us sinners now and at the hour of
our death. Amen

Closing Prayer

God of love, teach us to see the gifts in our lives. You are generous and are there to guide us through good times and bad. Walk with us as we embark on a new year. Be our guide, King, God, sacrifice and friend in all that we do. Bless this year for our school family. Be with us in all our celebrations and challenges. We love and thank you Lord.

Amen.

Our faith in action



This week let us show the Gospel Value of **courage** and the Virtue of **hope**.

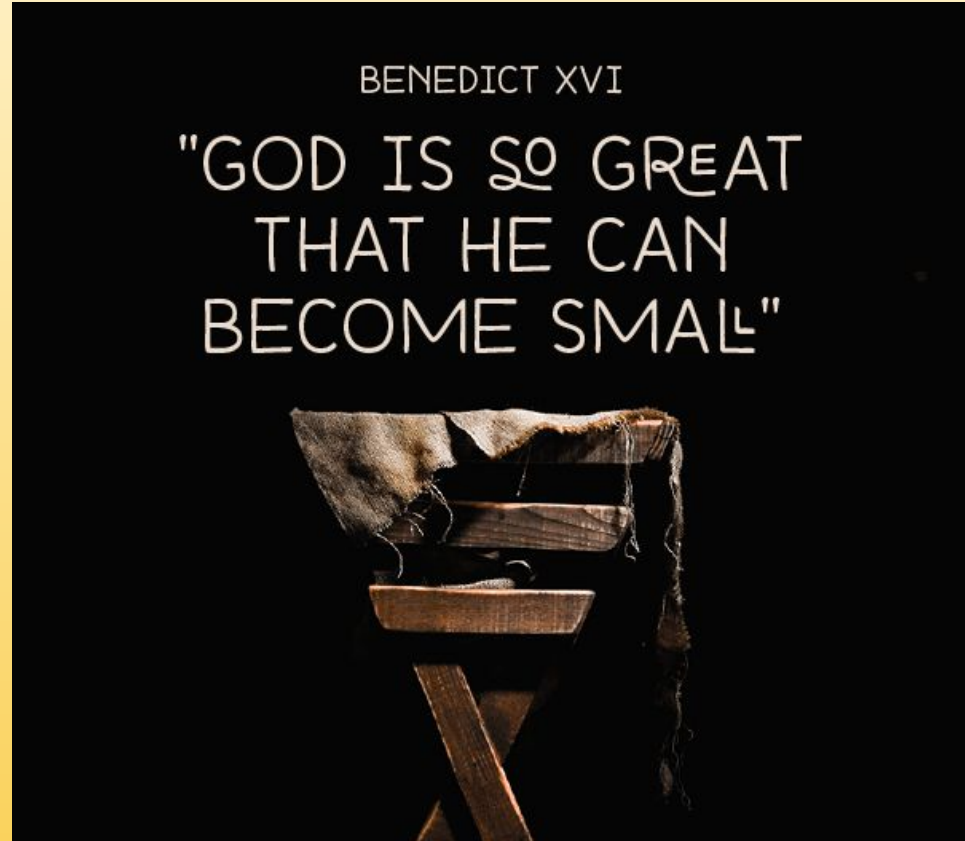
We can show **courage** by:

- Not being afraid to try new things and embracing challenge.
- Giving our all to our learning and not fearing failure. It is in failure that we grow the most.

We can show **hope** by:

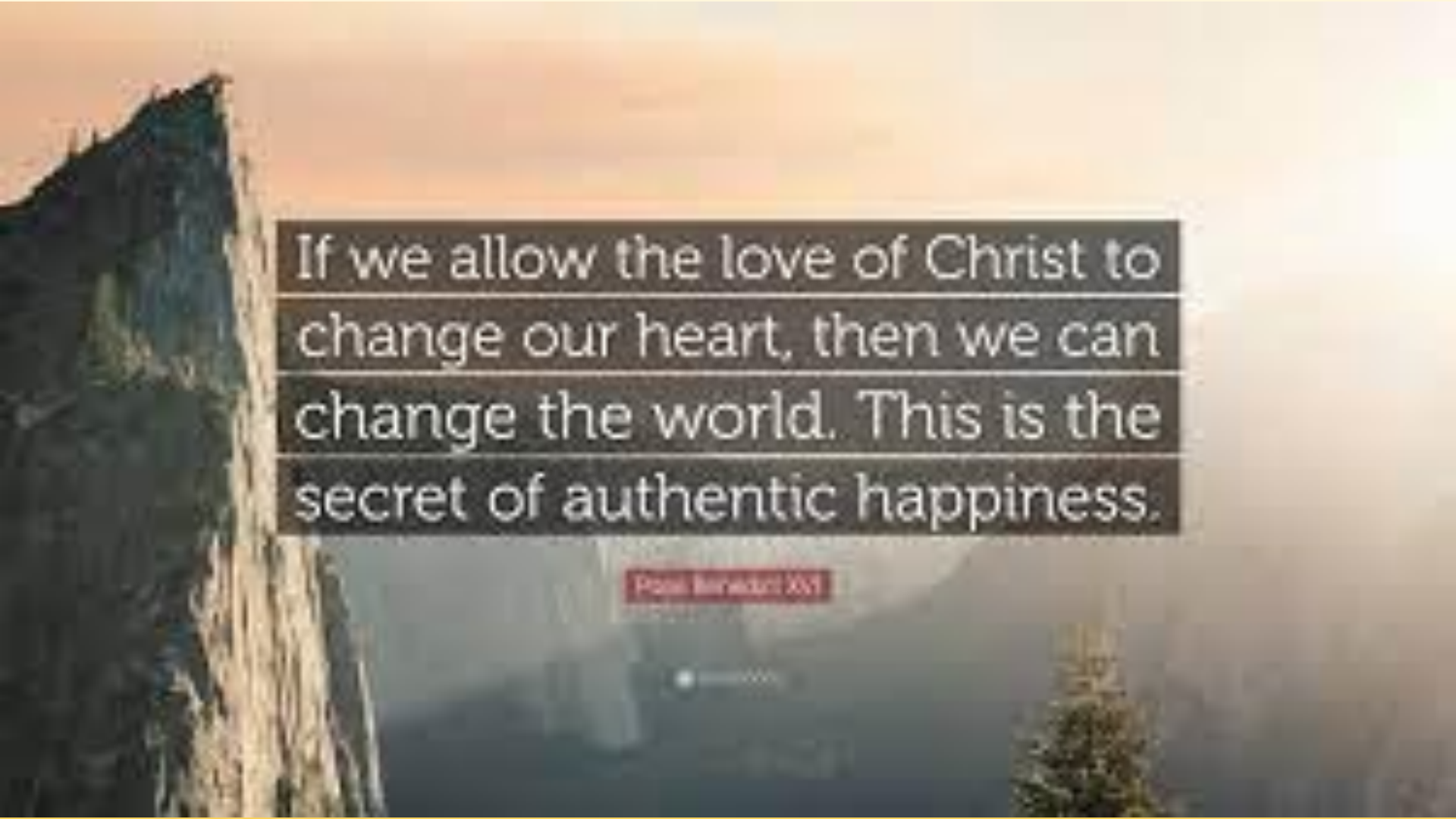
- Believing in ourselves and our ability to be brilliant
- Knowing that we have a positive and exciting year ahead of us.

Rest in Peace former Pope Benedict



BENEDICT XVI

"GOD IS SO GREAT
THAT HE CAN
BECOME SMALL"



If we allow the love of Christ to
change our heart, then we can
change the world. This is the
secret of authentic happiness.

Pope Benedict XVI

May God bless us with his mercy,
strengthen us with his love, and
enable us to walk with courage,
hope and faith in ourselves and
you.

THANKS BE TO GOD



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