

# Monday After Epiphany

**Gospel text (Mt 4,12-17.23-25):** When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to settle down in Capernaum, a town by the lake of Galilee, at the border of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the word of the prophet Isaiah was fulfilled: «Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali crossed by the Road of the Sea, and you who live by the Jordan, Galilee, land of pagans, listen: The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in the land of the shadow of death, a light has shone» (...).

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## *The "light" of Bethlehem*

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

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Today, between the Lord's Epiphany (= manifestation) and his Baptism (a second "epiphany"), we contemplate the theme of "light", something that impregnates the whole Christmas Cycle. The idea —taken from Isaiah— that from "upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone", was already present in the liturgy of the Holy Night.

"Light" means above all knowledge, truth, contrasting with the darkness of falsehood and ignorance. And thus light teaches us how to live, it shows us the way. Furthermore light, while giving warmth, also means love. Where there is love, a light appears in the world; where there is hate, the world remains in the darkness. In the crib of Bethlehem the great light that the world is expecting undoubtedly rises.

—The light of Bethlehem never went out. Wherever faith in that Child is born, charity also flourished. A trail of light, love and truth coming from Bethlehem permeates the centuries.