May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

Recently I’ve watched “Gone Baby gone” movie. It is a story how 4 years old girl Amanda disappears from her home. Girl’s mother is drug addict and lives one of the toughest neighbourhoods of Boston where no place for the weak and innocent. Little Amanda lives in very bad conditions. So family hires two private detectives who later will figure out that their own family member falsely kidnapped little Amanda in order to take the money and save little Amanda from her mother’s careless parenting and to give her to police captain to raise her up in good family. Detectives find little Amanda at Police Captain home and now they at moral dilemma: to leave girl in good hands and to have fullness of life and future or to bring her to drug-addict mother. Someone is looking for the child who has been born king of the Jews.

Last week I’ve got a call from one lady who told me about someone who is in critical medical condition. She said: “I keep praying and hoping.” Someone else is looking for the child who has been born king of the Jews.

There are a thousand other stories just like theirs. They are your stories and my stories. They are stories of struggle and despair, stories of courage and perseverance, stories of loss and grief, stories of joy and celebration, stories of longing and desire. They are the stories of our lives. Every one of those stories is an echo of today’s gospel. Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘*Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews*?’ (Mt 2:2).”

That question is at the center of the wise men’s journey. It has been with them for a long time. It caused them to pack up and leave home. It kept them searching and watching. It gave meaning and purpose to their lives. It offered direction and led them to the child. It’s a question that is still asked today.

We may not use their exact words but at some point, in one form or another, we’ve all asked that question. Sometimes we speak it with calm assurance. Other times it’s a distress cry. Sometimes it’s the prayer with which we fall asleep. Other times it’s the prayer on our lips when we awake. It’s always with us. It’s the question that drives our lives even when we don’t know it.

“*Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews*?” That question is our guiding star. It illuminates the night skies of our lives. It pushes back the darkness and points the way. The question creates space for God’s self-revelation. It isn’t so much a question to be answered as it is a question to be followed. That doesn’t mean there is no destination. There absolutely is. It is the child. The star stopped over the house where the child was. The wise men entered and saw the child with Mary his mother.

To follow the question rather than to seek a final answer means that there is no end to the ways in which God reveals and makes himself known in our lives. It means there is a star guiding, leading, and drawing us to the child in every circumstance or situation we face. God is continually going before us preparing houses of his presence for us to enter. In these houses God makes himself known and available to us.

There is only one God but there are many houses in which God makes himself present. They are houses of mercy and forgiveness, houses of second chances, houses of healing and wholeness, houses of beauty and generosity, houses of wisdom and guidance, houses of love and compassion, houses of peace and consolation, houses of strength and courage, houses of life and hope. There are as many houses of God’s presence as there are stars in the sky. There is a house for each situation and circumstance of our life. In every one of those houses the child and Mary his mother await us.

I don’t know what houses God has prepared for you but I know this. The next house to which God’s star is leading you sits at the intersection of God’s self-revelation and the question, “*Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?*” That is the Epiphany promise made not just to some but to all; to you, to me, to the wise men, and, yes, even to Herod. The star is there for all to see.

Don’t settle for what the wise men saw. Go look for yourself. “*Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?”* Ask the question. Follow the star. Open your life. Give God the opportunity to say, “Look! Right here, right here in the middle of your life, here is the child who has been born king of the Jews.” Amen.