

Chalking the Door

Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.”

The formula for the ritual is simple: take chalk and write the following above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 23

Christus Mansionem Benedicat

The “**20**” at the beginning and the “**23**” at the end mark the current year.

The four crosses separating the numbers and letters represent Jesus being at the centre of everything we do this year.

The letters **C M B** have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althazar — who came to visit Jesus in Bethlehem.

They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus **m**ansionem **b**enedicat*: “May Christ bless this house.”

Taken together, this is a request for Christ to bless our home and all those who visit throughout the entire year