



come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

mtate@bigpond.com

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# The Living Word

The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2024

## First Reading Is 60:1-6

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11**

*(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)

- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

## Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mt 2:1-12

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

191 Cox's Road, North Ryde NSW 2113

Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel  
(Michaelite Fathers)



Tel: 9888 2569 Fax: 9888 5076 E-mail: [parish@holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](mailto:parish@holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)  
7 January 2024 Web: [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)

Michaelite Community: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.  
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm;  
Filipino Mass monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASS: During January - Mondays - Church open for private prayer  
Tuesday - Saturday 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 3:00pm

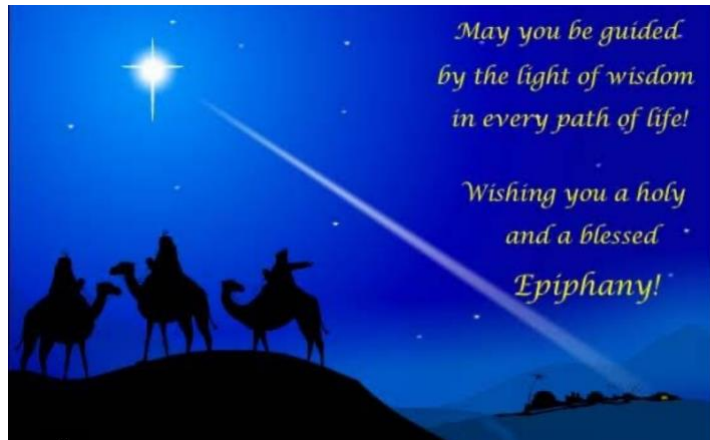
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Next week 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42.

## Fr Stan writes ...

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be - our Saviour. Let us pray today that we will acknowledge Jesus as Saviour in all that we do and say.

Once again, I thank everyone who helped in decorating our church for our Christmas celebrations. I thank in advance those who will be taking down the decorations after this weekend. A big thank you to our Liturgy Team, readers, acolytes, altar servers and the Music Ministry. Thank you also for the lovely Christmas presents and Christmas Offerings. Greatly appreciated!



Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.



Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Mass at 8:30am.

Almighty, eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan, you revealed him as your own beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and Spirit, faithful to our calling. Amen!

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Throughout January 2024

Monday: Church will be open for private prayer - (Mass on feast days)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Mass 8:30am

Tuesday to Saturday Mass 8:30am.

The usual schedule with devotions will resume in February 2024



Thank you so much

The Second Collection of Christmas Day amounted to \$4,141.60.

As advised, your donation will be divided equally between Caritas Australia for relief in Gaza, and the missions in PNG. THANK YOU!

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING:** Andrew Chan, Dean Davids, Joseph Papandrea, Vic & Avonia Moran, Joan Johnston, Michael Maglunog, Baby Addison Jean Oldman, Greg Forrester, Vianney Brown.

**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:** Maria Arena, Giuseppe Petrolo recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Angelo & Carmela & Angelo Scicluna, Albert Khoshaba, George Maiolo, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale & Teresa Papandrea, Tony Bietola, Giovanni & Santina Bietola, John & Robyne Bietola, Sam Tedesco, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Gianni Gualdi, Antonino, Tindara & Vincenzo Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Fr Kevin O'Grady, Stefano Zappia, Giovanni Caruso, Joseph Lim, Rose Wang, Joseph Lim, Maria Lim and the deceased members of the Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland families.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office 9390 5810/ [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police