

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

## SUNDAY – JANUARY 7th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - B

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Michael Huska, Gary Hall, Richard Stevens, Frank O'Brien, Mary Kirkpatrick, Pat Young, Alice Hucker, Sandy Troup, Alan Thompson

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, Wilma Tiley, and Jim Mahony and all those in need of prayer.

### **ROSTER:**

#### ***Introduction & Reading***

Today: Angela Gerrard  
Jan 14th: Clarrie Johnston

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Charlie Franc  
Jan 14th: Genevieve Johnston

#### ***Assembly Leaders***

Today: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston  
Jan 21st: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

#### ***Special Minister***

Today: Gail Hall  
Jan 21st: Therese Jess

#### ***Music***

Sue Mahony

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers***

Jan 14th: Colleen Briody  
Jan 21st & 28th: Bernadette Franc & Therese Jess

#### ***Church Grounds:***

Jan 14th: Gerard Briody  
Jan 21st & 28th: Bill Franc & John Jess

#### ***Newsletter:***

January: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

### **MASS TIMES**

Jan 14th **MASS 8.30 am.** The Epiphany of the Lord

### **UPCOMING DATES for 2024:**

#### **Saturday, February 17th**

Rite of Election 2024  
12.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with lunch

#### **Monday March 25th**

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat  
11.30 am at St Patrick's Cathedral with lunch,  
and displays

#### **January 28th**

Reconciliation preparation commences

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Wishing 2024 is good to you all and wishing you blessings for a happy, healthy and safe year in 2024

### **DIOCESE NEWSLETTER**

Diocesan e-News - see the below link

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

### **150 YEARS OF DIOCESE OF BALLARAT**

This year the Diocese of Ballarat will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Diocese.

The celebrations will begin with the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25th, 11.30am, St Patrick's Cathedral with lunch and displays.

We will endeavour to have members of our community be part of this important celebration.

Further details to follow.

*This date will come around quickly. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this special event, please let a member of parish Council know.*

### **AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE** by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.

Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find Your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

O sacred and adorable Trinity, bless the whole Catholic Church, during the coming year.

Convert unbelievers, soften the hearts of sinners so they may return to Thy friendship. Give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world.

Pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies. Assist the poor and the sick, have pity on the souls whom last year were taken from us, and be merciful to those who during the coming year will be summoned before Thy judgment.

May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations, and have Thy assistance, so that our prayers and works, beginning in Thee, may be ended through Thee. Amen.

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 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.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / B

7 JANUARY 2024

## "YOUR LIGHT HAS COME"

Wait! Don't pack up your Christmas tree and crib just yet! Today's feast is the celebration of the coming of the magi with their gifts. They come, as we hear in our Gospel today, because they "observed his star at its rising" (Matt 2:2). Their seeking of the child who has been born the king of the Jews takes us as hearers on the journey to see the revelation, the epiphany, of Jesus as the Messiah.

Following the star, the magi will be brought to a house where, on entering, "they saw the child with Mary his mother" (v.11). Coming from the East they are Gentiles who recognise who Jesus is and fall to their knees and pay him homage.

From the outset of Matthew's Gospel in the unfolding of the genealogy it is clear that "Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (1:1) is enfolded in the covenant of God with Abraham where God makes him the ancestor of a multitude of nations (Gen 17:4-6). This Gospel will conclude with the sending out of the eleven disciples to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). The first worshippers of the Lord bring out their gifts of treasure. Through this child the treasures of the kingdom of heaven will be revealed. What can it mean to us to realise "your light has come" and to recognise and worship our Lord among us? How do we encounter the treasure of the kingdom of heaven in our lives today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Isa 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2, 7-13. R. v. 11

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.



4. 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*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.

■ The word of the Lord.

## 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*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