

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

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Web: <http://cg.org/au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Pat Anderson

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 10am—3pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

Tuross Mass: Sun. 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am. Fifth Sunday of the month 3 pm .

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary after mass. First Friday Adoration & Benediction. 9.45—10.45 am



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

YEAR B

January 2 & 3 2021

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

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.

The Greek word Epiphany which means appearance or manifestation, is applied to Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi. "Epiphany" refers to God's Self-revelation as well as to the revelation of Jesus as His Son. The feast was initially based on, and viewed as, a fulfilment of the Jewish Feast of Lights. Epiphany is an older celebration than the feast of Christmas; it originated in the East in the late second century. The feast commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the Western Church. In the Eastern Church, it is also the commemoration of the baptism of Christ where the Father and the Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. The



The Magi offered the child Jesus gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds, while the star revealed Him to the Magi, who had already received hints of Him from Jewish scriptures. Later, God the Father revealed Jesus' identity at His baptism by John the Baptizer in the Jordan. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Messiah. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany. Today's gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring Him their hearts to visit the Christ child, God allowed them to see wondrous things. It also reminds us that if God has Magi—foreigners and pagans—come as the first to recognise and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus.

Fr George Azhakath.

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Prayer for Australia: Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13,

(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

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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

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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week.....

1. **Let us make sure that we join the Magi:** **a)** By worshipping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration. Let us offer him our very selves, promising God that we will use His blessings by doing good for our brothers and sisters. **b)** By choosing a better path for our lives. Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their home, let us choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits, addictions and selfish behavior and actively doing acts of charity. **c)** By becoming the Star, leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Him. We can help to remove the darkness of evil around us by being like burning candles, radiating Jesus' love in selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate care.

2. **Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany:** First, let us offer him our gifts of friendship with God and our friendship with others. Next let us offer to Jesus the gift of reconciliation with God and others by working to repair damaged relationships with God and in and outside our families.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSE BOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support to those who are in near lock down at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Gail Fenton, John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Catherine Hulse, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Carmel Trenholme, Dale Moore, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Jean Marrion, Monique Driver, Ester and Peter Morgan, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Pete Podgorczyk, Pauline & Peter Morgan, Trish Tarlington and Ron Parnell. Love and prayers to all of them for a speedy recovery.

Please advise the Office if you would like to be added to or taken off the list for prayers.

PARISH SECRETARY POSITION: People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya. This is a part-time permanent position 12 hours per week, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am—3pm. **ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Experience with Microsoft suite & database packages; strong communication and liaison skills; strong organizational skills; ability to work in a team environment and show personal initiative; Desire to share in the mission of Christ in the Catholic tradition. **SALARY** will be subject to Clerk Award Level 4 rates. Please email your application (including resume) to George.azhakath@cg.org.au Applications addressed to Fr George Azhakath, must be received by Friday 22nd January, 2021. Copy of duties available on request. The position to commence 3rd March, 2021.



Three Ways to Make the new Year Meaningful

A) Something to dream, b) Something **to do**, and c) someone **to love**. “I have a dream” said Martin Luther King. We should all have a noble plan of action (Dream a noble dream) for every day in the New Year. We need to remember the proverb “**Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows, but live your today**”. It has been truly said that an idle mind is the devil’s workshop. We must not be barren fig trees in God’s vineyard. We must be always engaged, doing good to others and loving our fellow men and women, who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. This becomes easy when we make God the center of our life and realise His presence in all the people around us. Let us light a candle instead of blaming the darkness around us. Just as the moon borrows the sun’s light to illuminate the earth, we must radiate the light of God shining within us.

THANK YOU TO THE PARISH.

Dear Fr. George and the wonderful parishioners of the Sacred Heart Moruya, We wish you a happy, holy, and safe Christmas and a better 2021. You are all in our prayers. Thank you for welcoming us in 2020 and making us feel that we are part of your congregation! God bless you all!
Frank Testa KMG (Ob) Order of Malta

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Han De Grave on your
80th Birthday.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS.

1st Prize: Food Hamper. Lucy English.

2nd Prize: \$50.00 Food Voucher. Maria Kacarovski.

3rd Prize: Pampering Gifts. Lutz & Inge Baseler.

**Thank you to all who donated towards
the Parish Christmas Raffle,
in goods and service.**

Congratulations to the prize winners.

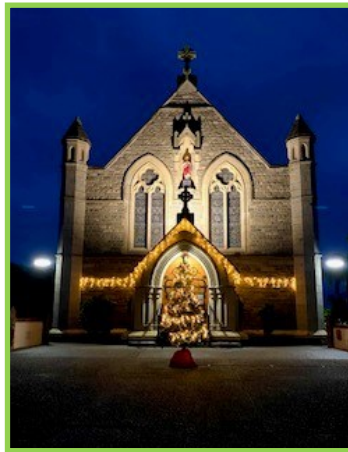
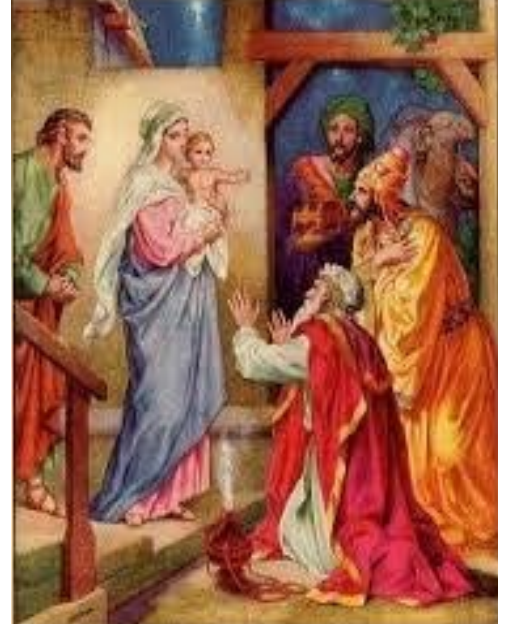
A total of \$745.00 was raised.

CELEBRATING THE EPIPHANY

In the early Church, four different ‘manifestations’ of the Lord were celebrated as one feast on January 6: His Birth, his recognition by the Magi, his Baptism by John in the Jordan, and his Miracle at Cana. The feast was called “Epiphany” (a Greek word meaning ‘manifestation’) Epiphany became, along with Easter, a traditional date for baptisms. Just as the baptisms at Easter were prepared for by a time of fasting and penance (Lent), so the baptisms at Epiphany were prepared for by a time of fasting and penance called “Advent”. Gradually Christ’s birth was given its own feast day on December 25, and the season of Advent shifted to a time of preparation for that feast. With this shift in focus, Advent became less and less a carbon copy of Lent (fasting and penance), and more a time of prayer and reflection.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Mathew 2:10-11.

Invisible God, who has become manifest in Jesus, our friend and brother, Open our eyes and ears to the sound of your voice. May we respond with deep joy and every Epiphany.



*Sincere thanks to all those who helped prepare the Christmas Vigil Liturgy.
Special thank to the children who attended and helped to make this celebration
of Christ’s Birth such a happy and memorable one.*



**We wish you all a Happy,
Peaceful & Prosperous New Year 2021**