

Artaban, the fourth Magi: In 1895 Henry van Dyke wrote the “Story of the Other Wise Man”, a fourth wise man called Artaban. Our hero is not mentioned in the Gospel because he missed the caravan. He got to Bethlehem too late to see the baby Jesus. But Artaban did make it in time to save one of the Holy Innocents by bribing a soldier. For 33 years Artaban searched for Jesus. He did not find him. But all the while the Fourth wise man fed the hungry, helped the poor. Then one day in Jerusalem Artaban saw the “King of the Jews” being crucified. He started to offer a pearl as ransom. But then he saw a girl being sold into slavery to pay family debts. Artaban gave his pearl to buy freedom for the girl. Suddenly the earth quaked as Jesus died on the cross and a stone struck Artaban. Dying, he heard a voice saying: “When you helped the least of my children, you helped me. Meet me in heaven!” Artaban, the fourth Magi, had been making God present in the community for years by helping others. God asks each of us on the feast of the Epiphany to be a fourth Magi by becoming God’s epiphanies, making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S SPECIAL MASS PHOTOS: Thanks to Marg Croese for organising the children and thank you to all the children who participated so beautifully.



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: Moruya@cg.org.au
Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 9am—2pm
Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00am
Tue: 5.30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15am
Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30am

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

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 before/after Mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays: 9.45—10.45am



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- YEAR C -

January 1 & 2 2022

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 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 also celebrates the Baptism of Christ, at which the Father and the Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus’ identity as Son of God. The 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 Baptist 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** reminds us that if God has Magi – foreigners and pagans – come as the first Gentiles to recognise and give Jesus proper respect as the King of the Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. The gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring Him their hearts. Since the Magi came with joy in their hearts to visit the Christ Child, God allowed them to see wondrous things.

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 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.**

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.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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

vealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past genera-
tions; it means that pagans now share the same in-
heritance, 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

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

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

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 in-
fant 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 Bethle-
hem. ‘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 lis-
tened 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

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

**1) Let us worship Jesus at Mass, every day if we can, with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our hu-
mility and the frankincense of our adoration.** Let us offer God our very selves, promising Him that
we will use His blessings to do good for our fellow people. Let us plot a better path for our lives. Just as
the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, let us choose a better way of life, abstaining from
proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behaviour. Let us become the Star, leading others to Je-
sus, as the star led the Magi to Him. We can remove or lessen the darkness of the evil around us by being,
if not like stars, at least candles, radiating Jesus’ love by selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and
compassionate care.

2) Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany. The first gift might be friend-
ship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God’s Son became one of us, to redeem us
and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion. A second
gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnera-
bility and openness to others. However, the good news is, that in offering friendship to others, we will re-
ceive back many blessings. A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This is the gift of repairing
damaged relationships. It requires honesty, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience. The fourth
gift of this season is the gift of peace: seeking God’s peace in our lives through prayer, the sacramental life
and daily meditation on the Word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give Him from the heart,
our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions and time. As we give our insignificant little gifts to God,
the good news is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and
myrrh, we offer what we have, from the heart, in response to what that Child has given to us – himself. Let
us conclude with a 19th century English carol, Christina Rosetti’s A Christmas Carol, which begins “In the
bleak midwinter”. The carol sums up, in its last stanza, the nature of giving to the Christ-child. “What can
I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I could give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I could do my
part. What I can I give Him? Give Him my heart!”

Epiphany in Australia: This is Epiphany in Australia. Many newcomers have followed their star
and built a multi-cultural society. We will offer our gifts of a living faith. We are not very skilled at show-
ing Christ our world. The Magi changed from superstitious astrologers and became believers in the Christ
who was to be their saviour. We cannot keep our faith hidden. We need to show Christ to our country.
We have so much to show. Australians need to see what we have to offer. There are many empty hearts
and suffering lives that need to hear the Gospel message: “Arise, shine out ...” Let the Gospel truths shine
for all to see. The Gospel offers a new way of living and repeats the age-old challenge to love God and thy
neighbour. Let that challenge shine forth for all to see! There will always be the challenge to “be Epipha-
ny” to others by reflecting God’s glory in our lives. We will make our journey to the Christ-child, not brin-
ing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but our gifts of faith to a waiting world.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at
Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Sylvia Heffernan, John Gerber, Ben Pollock,
Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Clare
Broekhuijse, Trish Tarlinton, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Paul Rummery Jnr, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk
Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Kaye Shephard and Phil Jasprizza.

PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE LIST

NEW ROSTERS FOR READERS AND MINISTERS: New Rosters have been finalised and emailed.
You will find a copy in the foyer for your reference. Thank you to Colleen Palise for co-ordinating.

WALKING GROUP: Every Wednesday at 9am, starting on Wednesday, 5 January—26 January at Riverside Park
(at the “Moruya What’s On” sign). Join in a morning walk along the river with Revival. No matter if it is to get ac-
tive, lose those Covid curves, or get out of the house to reconnect and socialise within nature! Remember to be
Covid safe, so please bring your water bottle, hat, sunscreen and a coffee mug, as there will be a cuppa and chat af-
terwards. Call Louse to register on 0439 790 124. A flyer is in the Church foyer with more information.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS: Congratulations to Eugene Zammit who won 1st Prize: Southlands Butchery
\$150 voucher; Michael Hulse won 2nd Prize: Cameron’s Hardware \$100 voucher; and John Munce won 3rd Prize,
the assorted wines. Thank you to all who purchased tickets in our Parish fundraiser.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! To all our Parishioners and visitors. May 2022 be a year of pros-
perity, much joy, good health, happiness, loads of cheer and many of God’s blessings.**