

**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.



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 one of us on the Feast of the Epiphany to be a fourth Magi by becoming God’s epiphanies, and by making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and Brian Fee.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to George Smyth who will be Baptised this Sunday. Welcome to the Smyth family and please pray for George as he begins his faith journey.

**CONDOLENCES:** We pray for the repose of the soul of Steve Heffernan who sadly passed away this week. Please keep the Heffernan family in your prayers.

**MASS TIME CHANGE:** Please note there will be no 5:30pm Mass on Tuesday, 9 January.



commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated in the Catholic Church this year on 8 January.

**The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or Theophany, is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana. Over time, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be**

# 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

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

**Mass Times:**

**Moruya:** Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

**Tuross:** Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

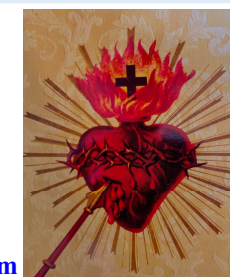
**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass

1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am

**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass

**Schools:** St Mary’s Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

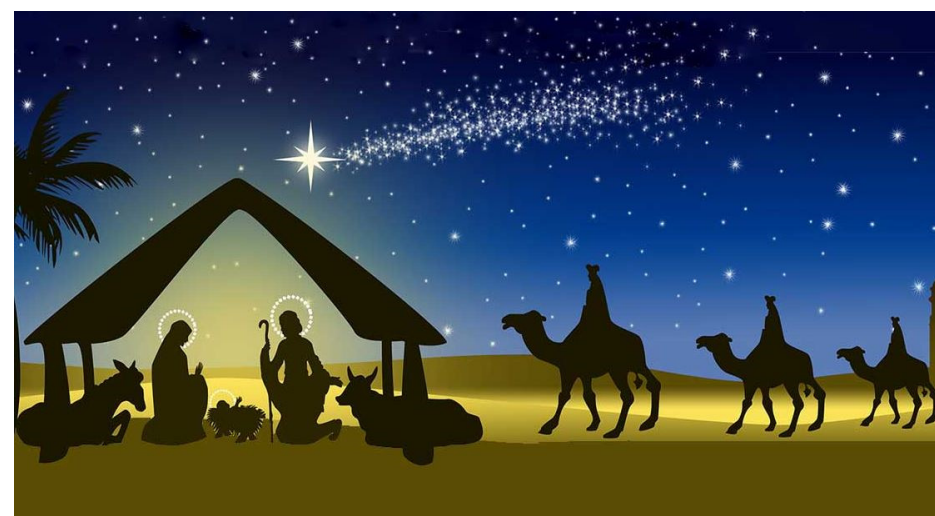


The Epiphany of the Lord

- YEAR B -

6 & 7 January 2024

## 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 River 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.

**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 Isaiah 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 Ephesians 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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Matthew 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 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

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**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.

## 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 humility 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 Jesus, 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 friendship 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 vulnerability and openness to others. However, the good news is, that in offering friendship to others, we will receive 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 19<sup>th</sup> century English carol, Christina Rossetti'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 showing 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 Epiphany" to others by reflecting God's glory in our lives. We will make our journey to the Christ-child, not bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but our gifts of faith to a waiting world.

**Parish Safeguarding Commitment:** Sacred Heart Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

**Communicating Concerns:** Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have by emailing Fr George Azhakath or the Parish Office. Alternatively, please phone the Parish Office to arrange a time to talk with Fr George. Specific safeguarding issues can also be emailed to the **Parish Safeguarding Officers: Pauline Parnell** ronandpauline@yahoo.com; **Louise Strahlendorf** loumm214@gmail.com; or **Peter Hoban** peter.hoban@peters.com.au. Parishioners are also welcome to contact Maria Hicks, Manager for the Archdiocese's Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) ipss@cg.org.au/6239 9806.