



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8 January 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



OPENING PRAYER

Father,

you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star.

Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: 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.



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 by Greg Sunter

Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for Christian communities of every kind, that they will be beacons of hope, healing and joy for those around them. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the churches of both East and West, that they will bear united witness to the glorious mystery of salvation. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the tyrants of the world, that they will be converted from their brutal ambitions and become agents of peace and justice for their people. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are setting out on new paths in life this year, that the choices they make will bear fruit both for themselves and for others. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who feel overwhelmed by economic or emotional hardship at this time, that they will find their way to the help they need. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our families, friends and fellow parishioners, that we will sustain each other with the gift of true companionship throughout this year. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Bob Fletcher, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Petti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers, the residents of the Aged Care Unit and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the recently deceased, Wynne Jones . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will live in the light of Christ for ever. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father, guide us with your light.

Help us to recognise Christ in all we meet and show them your love.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Weekday Mass: in recess until further notice

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 1 February 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Call to Connect Women's Prayer Group in recess

Epiphany – Vigil 7 January at 6pm

Krawarree January Mass cancelled

Dear Parishioners,

This year we collected \$333.75 for the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal.

Readings for Mass: 1st: Isaiah 60:1-6. 2nd: Eph. 3:2-3,5-6.. Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.

Readings for next week: 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year A:

1st: Isaiah 49:3,5-6.. 2nd: 1 Cor. 1:1-3. John 1:29-34..

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
7 Jan		Cathy F	Wendy H/Germaine
14 Jan	Felix	Helen P	Wendy M-B/Ann
21 Jan		Geraldine	Michael/Wendy H
28 Jan	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy

Ministries of service:	<u>6 Jan</u>	<u>13 Jan</u>	<u>20 Jan</u>	<u>27 Jan</u>
Altar Decorating:	Cathy F	Helen P	Joy	Margaret
Cleaning:	Sarah & Helen P		Bunny & Ella	

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Happy New Year
Helen Hart