

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 / C

5 JANUARY 2025

## FOLLOWING THE STAR

In the ancient world, stars were seen as living creatures. They had their own energy and life cycle, offered navigational movement and were gazed upon and studied for life's direction. Our story today is taken up with star gazers seeking the one to whom one particular star ("his star") refers. For the Israelites, God controlled astral energy and movement. These easterners, perhaps Zoroastrian Persian astrologers, called "Magi", follow "his star" which directs them to the newborn Jesus. He is the focus of their search. Consultation with the Jewish scriptures through Herod's appointees confirms the direction of their astral search—to Bethlehem.

While Matthew notes Herod's jealousy towards any other claimant to royalty, a fact which the first-century Jewish writer, Josephus, also affirms, our attention, like that of the Magi, is on the star. It halts over a house where the birth of the child has taken place. Jesus, like all Jewish babies, is born in a house, albeit the stable of a house, an important reminder at Christmas time when St Francis' crib scenes are displayed in our churches.

The Magi offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbols of Jesus' nature: his royalty (gold), divinity (frankincense) and mortality (myrrh). The three gifts later gave rise to the thought of three Magi, who eventually become named (Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar) with one (Caspar) being dark skinned. This later development affirms the attraction of all people to Jesus, including non-Jewish and those of oriental backgrounds. Like the Magi, we, too, are attracted to stars. We are all on the search to follow that star that leads us to Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor

## 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.** 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

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 Mass: 9.30am Bombala &  
 10.30am Delegate 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed

Parish Secretary:  
 Mrs Sharon Nesbitt 02 8331 7608  
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 Mon, Wed & Thu: open  
 9am-1pm 2pm to 4.30pm  
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[www.cg.org.au/bombala](http://www.cg.org.au/bombala)

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH FAMILY THREE PARISHES TOGETHER



*Baptism Request forms can be located on Parish website/at Parish Office, Fr Mark will be available to celebrate during mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

[CatholicMarriagePrep.com](http://CatholicMarriagePrep.com)  
[<hello@catholicmarriageprep.com>](mailto:hello@catholicmarriageprep.com)

St Patrick's Cooma Mass  
 Mass Sunday's at 10am  
 Cooma Reconciliation available as  
 requested following Mass  
 Adoration - Fridays 5.30-6.30pm

St Patrick's Weekday  
 Mass: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am  
 Except Third Friday of Month for  
 Nursing Home Masses 18<sup>th</sup> Oct  
 9.30am Yallabee Lodge  
 11am Sir William Hudson

Adaminaby - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday month  
 Next date = TBA

Nimmitabel  
 Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 \*5pm Sat Vigil Mass  
 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun- LITURGY Sat 5pm

Numeralla  
 Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5.00pm  
 LITURGY 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 5.00pm

Berridale  
 Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month  
 Vigil Mass Saturday's at 3.30pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy  
 of the Word 10am Sunday

Jindabyne  
 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> = Vigil Mass 5pm Sat  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy 5pm Sat



The Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord commemorates when Jesus Christ was revealed as the Messiah. The Gospel of Matthew recounts that three wise men from the East visited our saviour after his birth and

acknowledged him with gifts representing kingship, priesthood, and death. The Feast of the Epiphany highlights key themes in the story of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. These themes help us understand the importance of Jesus' birth and His mission for all people.

*Please Pray for our Recently Deceased,*

*"We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death":*

Shirley Blyton, Funeral St Patrick's Cooma 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 at 11am

*Anniversaries & Special Intentions: "In loving memory of" our departed family and friends.* Maurice Fletcher

*Prayers for our Sick: "We pray for the sick: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort and hope in His constant presence"* Colin McMillan, Joel Stone, Walter Neumeyer in Germany

A very big *thank you* to all involved in the Christmas celebrations and everyone involved in preparing the Christmas Mass.



### Next weekend Readings

The Baptism of the Lord / C	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Isa 40: 1-5, 9/11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Titus 2: 11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22



*We have a Device for TAP n Go available in Church entrance for your cashless*

*donations* (Archdiocese split 70/30: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> JUST TAP! The **New Smart Device** at door has

the option to Choose donation \$ amount

### 11 January 2025 | Marriage Preparation Courses

Upcoming Marriage Preparation courses for engaged couples: Evenings for the Engaged – 11 & 18 January; Engaged Encounter - 22/23 January; *FOCCUS* - Tues 11<sup>th</sup> February 5-9pm plus a private follow up session at Marymead CatholicCare. *SmartLoving* – online, 9 lessons, learn at your own pace when suits you. For more information or to register go to [www.marriagefamily.org.au](http://www.marriagefamily.org.au) Enquiries: Text Helena Zobec on 0405 440 463



**Baptism:** We welcome Margot Felicity Delchau into our Parish Family, as Margot receives the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Columbkille's Parish Church, Congratulations to Margot and her parents Nicholas and Alicia, May God's grace guide you, protect you, and shower you with endless blessings.

### Jokes:

#### Shall We Gather at the River

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down. The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: "Shall We Gather at the River."