

# St Peter's Catholic Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021 – The EPIPHANY of the LORD

*Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter's Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that other may experience the love of Christ.*

We sincerely acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Yuin people.

## 'GROW AS A DISCIPLE'

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love." For most of the world, today's feast of Epiphany is the most important day of the Christmas season. It's the day when many people exchange gifts and imitate the wise men who gave gifts to Jesus. Today the Lord is calling us to give Jesus the present of ourselves, to prostrate ourselves before Him and do Him homage.

Like the wise men, we should express our giving of everything to Jesus by giving Him something – a gift that would represent our all. Some of us should give Jesus gold. We should give money to God's work to the degree that our lifestyle is significantly affected. Others should give frankincense. In the Bible, our prayer is represented by incense. We should commit ourselves to a time of prayer and fasting that will in effect be giving our lives to the Lord.

Finally, we should give the Lord myrrh. Myrrh is associated with death since it is a perfume used to prepare a dead body for burial. We should give a gift that would force us to die to ourselves. On this great feast of Epiphany, let's be wise enough to give Jesus our all.

*Balthasar (Paletasala,) Caspar, and Melchior, your minds were prepared to receive a greater truth. Let us see in you an example of holy curiosity, of pilgrimage by light to light. When you discovered your treasure, you laid your gifts in homage. May our search also find. May our pilgrimage also end in truth followed by love.*

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

## Churches, Mass Celebrations and Prayer ....

### Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden  
St Joseph's, Merimbula  
St Peter's. Pambula  
St Joseph's, Wyndham

### Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 9:30am-10am, Merimbula  
Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden

### Adoration

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 8:30am, Merimbula  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 3pm, Eden

### Weddings

By appointment only – at least 6 months notice in advance.

### Mass Times

Saturday, 6pm, Eden  
Sunday, 8am, Merimbula  
Sunday, 10am, Merimbula  
Tuesday 5pm, Merimbula  
Wednesday, 9:30am, Merimbula  
Thursday, 9:30am Eden  
Friday, 9:30am Merimbula

### Sacrament of Baptism

Welcoming Mass – 4<sup>th</sup> Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism. During Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday/Sunday of the month. Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries

### Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

Tuesdays at 4:30pm, St Joseph's Merimbula

## Contact Details

### Parish Priest

Fr Paletasala (Pale) Leota

### Parish Secretary

Mrs Patricia Field

### Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

### Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

### Finance Chair

Mr Neil Ffrench

### Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles (02)64958888

### Parish Office

Hours - 10am to 1pm  
Wednesday to Thursday,  
Phone – 0435 036 236  
Email - pambula@cg.org.au  
Web -  
www.cg.org.au/pambula  
Address - 79 Main Street, PO  
BOX 249, Merimbula, NSW,  
2548



*" 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."*

*"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"*

The homily has special importance due to its Eucharistic context: it surpasses all forms of catechesis as the supreme moment in the dialogue between God and his people which leads up to sacramental communion

*Evangelii Gaudium (2013) 137*

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.  
- Pope Francis



## Parish News and Events ... Please ring 0435036236 for any parish enquiries

**NEW PARISH PHONE NUMBER** The parish office is back online both with the internet and the phone. We do however have a new phone number 0435 036 236 the old number is no longer connected. To all of our parishioners who have been trying to contact the office via the old landline we apologize and thank you for your patience.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS TIMES. SOLEMN FEAST OF MARY, the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

8:30am	Our Lady Star of the Sea	Eden
10am	St Joseph's	Merimbula

**Adoration:** Exposition and Adoration on Sunday at 3pm Eden. All welcome

We warmly welcome Fr Christian Obiekwe from St Patrick's, Albury. He will be in residence from 5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 visiting and we wish him a wonderful time here in our parish.

### **Book-in for Mass**

Please remember that as per restrictions we are still expected **to book and check in for mass**, maintain a spacial-distance of 2 square metres, receive Holy Communion in the hand only, refrain from physical contact when offering the Sign of Peace, and to sanitise when entering and exiting the premises. Please email or ring the parish office between 10am - 1pm Wed - Fri. Ph: 0435036236 -

[https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/201008\\_UpdatedArchProtocols\\_PercyA.pdf](https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/201008_UpdatedArchProtocols_PercyA.pdf)

**REMINDER:** The maximum number of people at a religious service (*not including weddings and funerals*) must not exceed 300 (120) people in or outside (30) subject to the 2 square meter rule.

**PLEASE KEEP FOLLOWING ALL OF THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE CHURCH**

When you are checking in for mass, it would be appreciated if you use the **Try Booking links** on the parish website.

<http://cg.org.au/pambula/Home.aspx> Scroll down to upcoming events and click on the relevant mass registration link. This system is being regularly monitored and is much easier than using the email or voice message at the parish office. Please pass this to your friends and family also. Thank you.

**Columban Calendars 2021** are now available in the Parish Office at \$10 each.

The **Catholic Daily Voice** is available for you to subscribe to and receive via email by clicking on the attached link: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/> and follow instructions online to subscribe.

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

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal: \$893

**Planned Giving Collections;** First: \$527.50; Second: Envelopes \$305.50, Loose \$474.50

Thank you for your generosity and God bless you all

*"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"*

## Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick

Mary O'Donnell, Judy O'Donnell, John Reynolds, Bill Petrie, Ysmael Valencia, Danielle Sou, Max Andrew, David Went, Ros Beveridge, Roy Bugden, Eric Mangion, Maureen Partridge, Marie Hart, Anselmo Guiffre, Beata Denkiewicz, Peter Hamer.

## For the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including,

Catherine Randazzo, Robert Gianfrotta, Jeanette Robert, Louis Pintin, Joy Bugden, Olga Novinc, Kieth Balantyne, Kim Geraghty, Dawn Lucas, James Barry, Greg Morrison, Claire Thomas, Glyneth Middlemiss, Brian Middlemiss, Errol Cole, Mary D'Arcy.

*May the Souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



We must always bear in mind that the Eucharist is not something we do. It is not our own commemoration of what Jesus said and did. No. It is precisely an act of Christ! It is Christ who acts there, who is on the altar. It is a gift of Christ, who makes himself present and gathers us around him, to nourish us with his Word and with his life.

*General Audience Pope Francis 12 Feb, 2014*

## The Divine Mercy of Jesus - 3 O'clock Prayer "The Hour of Great Mercy"

*Jesus said: Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion. This is the prayer; "O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you."*

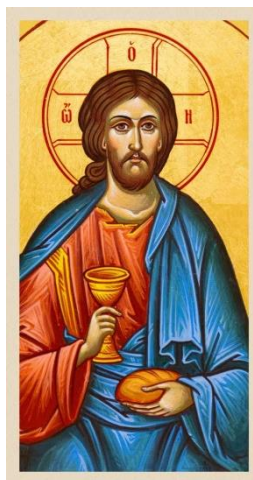
*The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed before Mass on Sunday and Adoration and Benediction on every First Friday at 8.30am Merimbula Church.*

## Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## 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.



**Thank You**

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

**Happy New Year!!!!**

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. The events of 2020 including a pandemic, joblessness, and political battles created an unprecedented time of unrest and anxiety. While some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead, others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing. Praying at the start of the New Year doesn't always bring immediate change at the stroke of midnight, but it begins the opening of our hearts to God's Words of hope and peace.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever. Scripture is filled with prayers of men and women who reached out to God for a fresh start. Praying is the main source of connection to the one who created you and the one who wants you to experience blessings and promises in the future.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes. May these New Year prayers fill your heart and mind with powerful proclamations as you step into 2021. Happy New Year!!!

**Pope Francis has announced the 'Year of St. Joseph.'**

The Holy Father's decision marked the second surprise to faithful on this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, following first his 7am visit to central Rome's Spanish Steps to entrust the city and world to the Blessed Virgin.

Within a few hours, the Holy See Press Office would publish the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde – With the heart of a Father," which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal Church.

For the occasion, a special "Year of St. Joseph" will be held from today through Dec. 8, 2021. See attached for the full Vatican-provided English text.

**The prayer to St. Joseph that Francis has said for more than 40 years**

By Kathleen N. Hatrup

"It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," the Holy Father reflects. In a footnote in his new apostolic letter on St. Joseph, Pope Francis notes that for more than 40 years, he has said a special prayer to St. Joseph after morning prayer. He explains that it is taken from a 19th-century French prayer book of the **promise of your Son. As light from this candle, may the blessings of Christ come upon us brightening our way and guiding us by His truth. May Christ our Saviour bring light into the darkness of our world and to us as we await for His coming.**

Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. "It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," the Holy Father reflects. Here is the prayer, as he shares it in the letter:

*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.*

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**SUNDAY READINGS**

**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.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13,**  
**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord**

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.

**Gospel Acclamation: Mt 2:2****Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**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.