

Sunday 03 Jan 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord
First Reading Is 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 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
R. 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.
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.

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.

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.

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.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

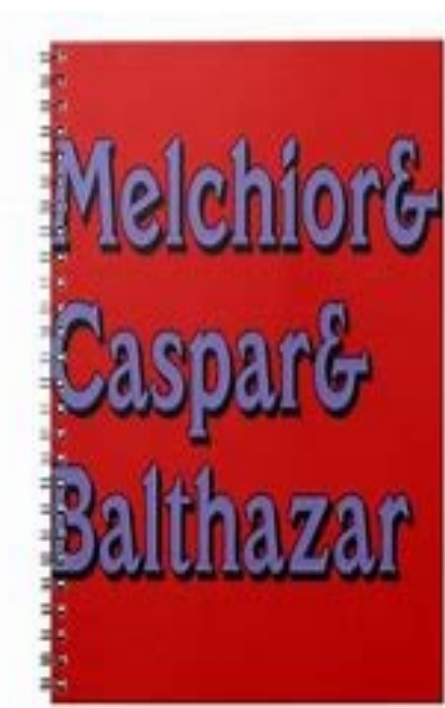
Second Reading Eph 3:2-3. 5-6
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.
You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation 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
R. 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
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 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
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Stars and Seekers after Truth
Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem. They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child. Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth. As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth. We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.
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ST BERNARD'S PARISH BATEMANS BAY

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Principal: Mrs. Jo Wain
St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven
R.E.C: Sharon Beashel
Principal: Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan
Carroll College, Broulee
R.E.C: Erica Drewson

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B

The Second Sunday after Christmas each year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Epiphany: "the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world... In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations..." (CCC 528) As Pope John-Paul II said, "In the designs of Providence there are no mere coincidences."

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*), which means *appearance* or *manifestation* or showing forth, is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles. Originally, the word Epiphany referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. In the context of Christianity, "Epiphany" refers to God's Self-revelation as well as to the revelation of Jesus as His Son.

The Feast of the Epiphany, having originated in the East in the late second century, is an older celebration than the feast of Christmas. In Italy and Spain, the gifts traditionally associated with the Christmas season are exchanged today, on the feast of the Epiphany. Among Italians, it is believed that the gifts are brought by the old woman, *Befana* (from Epiphany), whereas Spanish custom attributes the gifts to the *Kings* or *Magi*.

The feast commemorates the coming of the Magi as the occasion for the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the Western Church. In the Eastern Church, the feast also commemorates the baptism of Christ. The angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds, and the star revealed him to the Magi, who had already received hints of Him from Jewish Scriptures. Some thirty years later, God the Father revealed Jesus' identity to Israel at his baptism in the Jordan. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah. Finally, Jesus revealed himself as a miracle worker at the wedding of Cana, revealing his Divinity. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany celebrated this weekend.

The triple reactions: The Epiphany can be looked on as a symbol for our pilgrimage through life to Christ. The feast invites us to see ourselves in the Magi – a people on a journey to Christ. Today's Gospel also tells us the story of the encounter of the Magi with the evil King Herod. This encounter demonstrates three reactions to Jesus' birth, a) Hatred: a group of people headed by Herod planned to destroy Jesus; b) Indifference: another group, composed of priests and scribes, ignored Jesus; c) Adoration: the members of a third group -- shepherds and the magi -- adored Jesus and offered themselves to Him.

The gifts: Gold, frankincense and myrrh may be thought of as prophesying Jesus' future. Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex. 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. These gifts were not only expensive but portable. As we celebrate, let us join the Magi in bringing our best to Christ this year and always.

Fr. Martins

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions January 2021

Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 05: 5.30 Mass
Wed 06: 9am Mass
Thurs 07: 9am Mass
Fri 08: 9.15am Mass
Sat 09: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 10: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

2nd/3rd January 2021

Church Cleaning
D & L May (4-8 Jan)
Welcomers
6pm K Conway
9am C Schor
5pm Volunteer
Commentator
6pm A Jackson
9am N Beatty
5pm K O'Sullivan
Readers:
6pm J Mackay
9am A Brown
5pm M Devine
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm P Billington
9am C Connell C Schor
5pm D Gorzalka.
Computer Screen
6pm T Jackson
9am .D May
5pm ..M O'Neill.
REGISTRARS
6pm G & M Weatherall
9am G Norris
5pm J McCarthy

9/10 January 2021

Church Cleaning
M deSmet/J Maher (11-15)
Welcomers
6pm B Wilson
9am J McClelland
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm M Bridges
9am A Brown
5pm M O'Neill
Readers:
6pm P O'Kelly
9am N Beatty
5pm K O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm A Rogers
9am L Stevens
5pm Y Oeder.
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am .T Priest
5pm ..J O'Sullivan.
REGISTRARS
6pm P Billington
9am G Norris
5pm .D & N Gorzalka

A New Beginning

Every end offers us opportunity to begin again. This happens through the year with each passing day and events. However, with the start of a new year, we begin all over again; while thanking God for extending our lives to another year, we make plans with prospects.

To achieve our plans, we make resolutions. Meanwhile, there was a fellow who had made his annual resolutions: *to be a good Christian, to be honest in his business, not to be upset at little things, to avoid swearing except to impress people and to call his aged parents who lived in the country more regularly.* Filled with excitement for a resolution job well-done, he picked the phone and called his parents to wish them a happy new year. Dad picked; *Dad*, he said, *happy new year. Guess what? I have resolved to call you and mom more often this year as my part of my new year's resolutions. Good to hear that, son.* Dad responded, and the he went on to ask: *Dad, what is your new year resolution? To make your mother as happy as I can all year*, he answered proudly. Then mom got on, and he said to her, *what is your resolution, mom? To see that, your Dad keeps his new year's resolutions'.*

It is one thing to make resolutions and another to keep them. Someone once said... "I made six resolutions last year and kept them all year long: they are in an envelope on top of the file cabinet". It is easy to resolve, but sometimes difficult to uphold; perhaps this new year we could make a difference by a change of direction and attitude while committing our resolutions to prayer. Let us begin again by lighting the candle rather than blaming the darkness around us. We can do so by resolving to offer the following gifts:

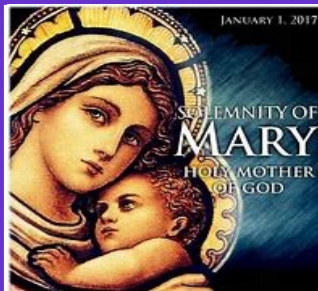
*To your friend-loyalty;
To your enemy-forgiveness;
To your boss-service;
To a child-a good example;
To your parents-gratitude;
To your mate-love and faithfulness;
To all women and men-love
To God-your life*

Wishing you all a year filled with blessings of love, joy, peace, fulfilment and fruitfulness as we celebrate Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the world and may we remain inspired as we begin again.

Happy New Year



Cenacle Prayer: Tues at 4.45pm in Church
Bible Study/Faith Formation: Resumes Jan 27th
Craft Group—Resumes 2021
Men Alive— Resumes 2021
Reconciliation—Saturday 9.30am
Wrap With Love-Feb. 9th, March 9th



January 1st every year, we celebrate Mary Mother of God. This is one of the earliest titles given to the Blessed Virgin: *Theotokos*—"God-bearer." *The Church Fathers unanimously affirmed in the Council of Ephesus in AD 431 that Mary was truly the Mother of God (Theotokos), and in AD 451, the Council of Chalcedon affirmed the Divine Motherhood of Mary as a dogma, an official doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church.*

This teaching about the person and place of Mary in the context of the church and her mission remains very significant. She is the first among the saints, conceived without sin (*Immaculate Conception*); honoured with a Divine Visit (*the Annunciation*), celebrated as the Virgin Mother of God, (*Theotokos*) and revered with the reality of her assumption. Mary is most celebrated, adorned with many titled and litanies. She has attracted many devotions as a result of her faith and Fiat with the conviction that she is well positioned to intercede for sinners being full of grace.

The teachings of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council re-echoed this as the Council Fathers re-affirmed the role of the "Divine Motherhood of Mary and what she is to the Church as a Mother who intercedes for her children perpetually".

As we begin the new year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers for us, that we like her may bear Christ to the world.

O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!



Archbishop's Christmas Appeal
The Parish raised the sum of **\$2385.50** in support of the **2020 Archbishop's Christmas appeal.** May God reward your generosity abundantly

THANK YOU

St. Vincent de Paul Bateman's Bay Conference would like to thank St. Bernard's Parishioners who donated \$1970-90 for the Christmas Appeal. This allowed us, with other donations, to provide Christmas food vouchers for 56 families & 35 individuals and gift vouchers for 120 children. Many blessings for your generosity and kindness.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

From 1st October 2020 there will only be one collection which will be deposited in the Parish Operating Account this will include existing Credit Card transactions, Direct Debits, collection box and Tap machine. The collection will then be apportioned with a percentage forwarded to the Archdiocese for the Central Presbytery Fund each month.

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, the details are as follows:

Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating Account BSB: 062-786
Bank Acc:000012939 Ref: Family Name

Please note: For banking at any bank but not the Commonwealth Bank

If you currently have a direct debit to the Central Presbytery Fund a suggestion is that it be cancelled and combined into the St Bernard's Operating Account in order to facilitate the continuity of funds. Please contact Anne Jackson in the Parish Office on a Friday from 10am-2pm if you need any further information.

Remembering the Sick:

Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, Trish Hamilton, Daniel Coffey, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, James Lee, Mary Henderson, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

Death Anniversaries: Dorothy O'Hara, Sylvia Penberthy, Robert Burtenshaw, Brian Fitzroy, Irene Post, Patricia McLennan

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish

Community: Maurice Sullivan, Susan McNamara, Dario Panes Elizabeth Gallagher, Kenneth Torkington, Shirley Keir, Ken Bow, Steven Thomas, Maureen Kinross, , Ian McAdam, Jan Schor, Pio Liberale, Glenda Gallagher, Ivy Rootsey, Evert Ordelman Ana-corita Villanueva Senci,



**COFFEE CLUB WILL
RESUME IN FEBRUARY
2021**

MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY GATHERING

Thank you all for responding in numbers to the Memorial gathering on the anniversary of the Black Summer Fires. It was a great opportunity to of connecting with each other as we reflect on our experience on the shared journey of healing and recovery. Having come through a black summer we wish everyone a safe and peaceful summer holidays.

<p>Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma</p> <p>District Funerals</p> <p>Mark Hewson JP Funeral Director Phone 02 4472 8886</p> <p>Moruya 02 4474 3555 Narooma 02 4476 3888</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS</p> <p>1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay</p> <p>Buy fuel any time</p> <p>EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
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<p>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY</p> <p>Fish & Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches & Coffee</p> <p>100% BEEF BURGER</p> <p>248 Beach Road Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p>02 4472 1802</p>	<p>ST BERNARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p>ENROLLING NOW</p> <p>Ph 4472 4446</p> <p>Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>
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<p>CARROLL COLLEGE</p> <p>ENROLLING NOW</p> <p>Ph 4471 5600</p> <p>Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>	<p>excell <i>ideaspeople</i> PRINTING GROUP — with a passion for print</p> <p>P 4472 1599 E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au</p> <p>Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
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<p>Ray and Anne Brown</p> <p>COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY</p> <p>02 4474 0320</p>	<p>Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach</p> <p>EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre 4471 3400</p>
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