

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.
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
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
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
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.) 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.
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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses,

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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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PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

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



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



P .O. Box 3220, Batehaven, 2536.
Tel: 4472 4153
E: batemansbay@cg.org.au
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Tuesday-Friday

Priest: Rev. Loi Viovicente
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PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

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 Drewsen



For the celebration of the Word and the Eucharist

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice
Monday @ 1pm
Resumes 2023

Cenacle
Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass, and 1st Saturday of the month @ 9.30am

Craft Group
Thursdays 10am
Resumes 2023

Adoration
Tuesday @ 8am

COFFEE CLUB
Resumes
Thursday 2nd February

The EPIPHANY of the LORD—YEAR A

MASSES THIS WEEK
Monday 9th—Sunday 15th January

Monday 9th: NO MASS
Tuesday 10th: Mass 9am
Wednesday 11th: Mass 9am
Thursday 12th: Mass 9am
11.00am Funeral Liturgy for Barbara Mills
Friday 13th: Mass 9am
Saturday 14th: Reconciliation 9.30am
Vigil 6pm
Sunday 15th: Mass 9am



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING



The Year of Walking Together

The Risen Lord walked together with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, drawing them from anxiety to hope, from confusion to joy.

Jesus, centre of our common Emmaus walk, with You alone to guide us, make Your home in our hearts; as we pour "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk 2:22)

Like Mary, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may we give birth to a renewed faith and united pastoral action in this Arch-diocese in the years ahead.

St Mary of the Cross, our Great Australian Intercessor, pray for us.

Mary,
Mother of the Church, pray for us.
All Saints of God,
who name and sanctify
our parishes, pray for
us. *Amen*

Welcome TO OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST, FATHER LOI

We warmly welcome our new parish Priest, Fr Loi as he begins his ministry here with us at St Bernard's this week.

Thank you for coming to minister to our community and we hope you will be very happy here.



NAME TAGS As we welcome Fr Loi to our Parish please wear nametags which are next to the Piety Stall in the foyer. If your name is not there could you please write it on the sheet which will be on the bench below. Please return them to the rack at the conclusion of Mass.

ROSTERS

7/8 JANUARY

Cleaning

9-13 D & L May

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer B Oerder
Commentator
D Robinson
Reader J Quigley
Eucharistic
Ministers
M Bridges Y Oerder
Computer Screen
J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer
J McClelland
Commentator .
B Basevi
Reader: M Lowe.
Eucharistic
Ministers
V & C Burns
Computer Screen
D May.

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty

14/15 JANUARY

Cleaning

16-20 M DeSmet
J Maher

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer: P Jobes
Commentator:
P O'Kelly
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic
Ministers
K Lovering
L Rodwell
Computer Screen
K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L Foran
Commentator
A Brown
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic
Ministers
C Schor A Scicluna
Computer Screen
T Priest....

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty

THANK YOU St. Bernard's St. Vincent De Paul Conference

would like to thank the following for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal: Parishioners gifted us with \$2,215 and KMart Gift cards for presents; St. Bernard's School and Mini Vinnie's: \$830, Carroll College: \$795-54, Soldiers Club: \$2000 & Ray White toys which were distributed to families and Pivot Point Uniting Care families. This allowed us to support 60 families and 120 gifts for children. A tremendous effort by all.

Let us pray for Pope Emeritus Benedict,
who united himself with the Lord's Passion and Cross,
that through death he may come to share in the glory of the
Lord's Resurrection.

PIETY SHOP

Columbian Calendars, Children's books are now available
from the Piety Shop
We also have 2023 Daily Mass Books for sale

Join the Pastoral Care Team going to the residents at the Glen.

We have 7 Catholic Residents at the Glen and 4 at The Manor who look forward to a visit and HC.

We need one person to join our team and to go once a month to the Glen And The Manor Orientation to the Glen and The Manor 1:1 training provided and all resources.

Phone Carolyn 0400 021 119 or Marie W 0405 028 057

The Day The Magi Arrived

In today's Gospel, Matthew 2: 1-12, the writer gives the only account of the pilgrimage of a group of Magi from beyond the border of the Roman Empire, where the sun rises, to Jerusalem, the centre of Judaism.



For me the simplest explanation of who the Magi are is to dispose of the titles "wise men" (too wide), "astrologers" (too restrictive) and "Kings" (simply wrong. If anything they were advisers to kings). The Magi were a high ranking priestly caste of politico-religious advisers who served the rulers of Media (later Persia). As a group with different areas of expertise and discernment they were trusted to be able to read "the signs of the times". Be they cloud formations, the shape of galaxies, or the behaviour of birds or other creatures.

Matthew was writing primarily for Christian converts from Judaism. His infancy narrative for that reason differs markedly from that of Luke. Joseph, not Mary, is the central figure. The five incidents recorded by Matthew are punctuated by a quotation from the Hebrew Scriptures. In today's excerpt he quotes Micah 5:1. "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"

Jesus is being viewed against his Hebrew background. Joseph, his legally recognised father, makes him a descendent of King David. "A king like a bright star will arise in that nation, Like a comet he will come from Israel." Numbers 24: 17.

So when the Magi noticed a new star moving across the heavens from East to West on a regular basis they deduced (How I cannot say) that it pointed to the birth of new ruler. So they set of armed with birthday presents from their country to Judea, about two months travelling by camel.

When they do arrive in Jerusalem, they go to King Herod's palace and ask the fateful questions: "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" Herod, we know, is a puppet of the Roman Empire. He is paranoid and insecure. But he is not alone. The chief priests and the scribes and indeed the whole people were perturbed. They had for the most part made comfortable lives for themselves under Roman rule. So when Herod asked where this infant king might be born, they quoted Micah 5:1. We know the rest only too well.

Up to now the keynotes to the birth of Jesus have been Peace and Joy and the worship of the humble shepherds. But here Matthew reminds his Christian Jewish converts how entrenched was the animosity of the Jewish religious leaders against Jesus. How it was Gentiles who were chosen by God to be the first people to pay homage to the new born king.

Surely this would bring the Chosen People to their senses? Thirty years later they called for his crucifixion.

Joe Quigley

Remembering the Sick:

Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Barry O'Neill, Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Mara Pranjic, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Pope Benedict XVI, Michael Thornton, Barbara Mills, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Flavia Clyburn, Nita Gorzalka, Michael Dove, Wayne Sing, Linda Russell, Ruby Swinton, Anna Backo, Lois White

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

January

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

<p>BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS</p> <p>Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years</p> <p>Batemans Bay 44728886</p> <p>Moruya 4474 3555</p> <p>Narooma 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>MAYDAY</p> <p>Plumbing And Gas</p> <p>Fully licensed Plumber and Gas Fitter</p> <p>Gutter Cleaning General Maintenance</p> <p>RHYS MAY</p> <p>0427 373 826</p>
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