



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 by Fr Michael Tate

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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# The Living Word

The Epiphany of the Lord

2 January 2022

## First Reading Is 60:1-6

*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.

## 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. (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

*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.

## 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

*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



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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**Michaelite Community:** Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

**SUNDAY MASS:** Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.

Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday Communion Service 8:30am

Tuesday - Saturday 8:30am

**Public Holidays 8:30am**

**Reconciliation:** Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon - Fri

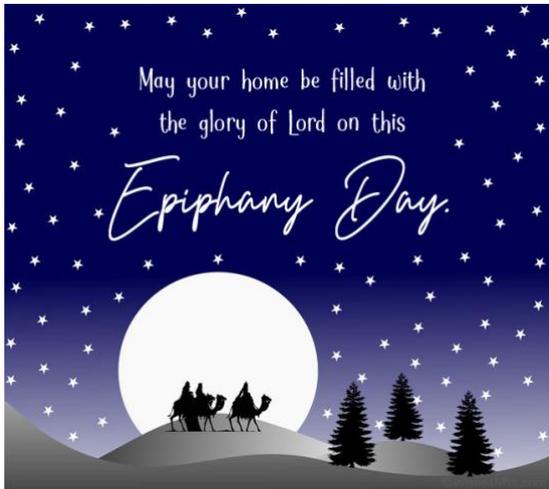
**ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE:** 9809 2757

**Next Week: Baptism of the Lord:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 15-16, 21-22.

## Fr Stan writes ...

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Jesus's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. In Matthew's Gospel that we hear today, the Magi pay homage to the infant Jesus and in doing so, represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Saviour. As we begin 2022, let us pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Saviour in all that we do and say.

Father God, the star that let the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.



## SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Throughout January 2022.

**Monday 8:30am (Communion Service)**

**Tuesday - Saturday Mass 8:30am.**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays and First Friday Devotions and Mass will resume in February.**

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING:** Silvana Zennaro, Anne Anderson, Adelaide Aridah, Mark Edwards

**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:** Socorro Akol Angeles recently deceased.

Also, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Denis Wonderley, Marie & Jim Hyde, Guy Tesoriero, Alessandro Morandini, Elvira Zamboni, Kenneth Mark Zanetic, Peter Harmata, Paul Blayney, Joan & Bill Cusack, Joan Ball and the deceased members of the Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland, Blayney, Bennett families.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Second Collection amounted to \$4,789.70

Thank you for your outstanding generosity, especially as Mass attendance was down due to COVID. As stated, it is a tradition in our parish that this collection goes entirely to the poor. It will be divided equally between the St



Vincent de Paul Society, North Ryde Conference, and the St Michael Missions in Papua New Guinea.

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

