

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / B

THE SAVING WORD

7 JANUARY 2024

"YOUR LIGHT HAS COME"

Wait! Don't pack up your Christmas tree and crib just yet! Today's feast is the celebration of the coming of the magi with their gifts. They come, as we hear in our Gospel today, because they "observed his star at its rising" (Matt 2:2). Their seeking of the child who has been born the king of the Jews takes us as hearers on the journey to see the revelation, the epiphany, of Jesus as the Messiah.

Following the star, the magi will be brought to a house where, on entering, "they saw the child with Mary his mother" (v.11). Coming from the East they are Gentiles who recognise who Jesus is and fall to their knees and pay him homage.

From the outset of Matthew's Gospel in the unfolding of the genealogy it is clear that "Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (1:1) is enfolded in the covenant of God with Abraham where God makes him the ancestor of a multitude of nations (Gen 17:4-6). This Gospel will conclude with the sending out of the eleven disciples to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). The first worshippers of the Lord bring out their gifts of treasure. Through this child the treasures of the kingdom of heaven will be revealed. What can it mean to us to realise "your light has come" and to recognise and worship our Lord among us? How do we encounter the treasure of the kingdom of heaven in our lives today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

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. 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. **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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www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

Weekday Mass: Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

CCC Mass: Sunday at 12noon (English/Cantonese)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 4pm-5pm

First Friday Devotion: Monthly at 4pm

First Saturday Mass and Devotion: Monthly at 9am

Exposition and Benediction: First weekend of the month at all Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7th Jan 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: James Prendergast, Cecilia Quizon

Death Anniversary: Eric Michael, Leonardo Barbagallo

Deceased: William & Kathleen Harris; Alan, Molly & Peter McNamara; Bill, Eileen & John Taylor; Selwyn Jackson; Peter Leung; John & Bonnie Bowdern, Jonathon Ellsmore and all late members of Ellsmore family, Stanley McCarthy; Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron and Jan Brayen.

Sick: Gerard Landon, Ling Sin Fong, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS, SOLEMNITIES AND MEMORIALS:

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 8 Jan, St Hilary 13 Jan

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year:

20 C + M + B 24

Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. Amen

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

Let us pray,

God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ, that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome.

May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect your blessed chalk from the front of the altar to take home!



PARISH NEWS:

- **Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will be held on Monday 8 Jan 7:30am.**
- **NO FOSK morning tea on Sun 7th Jan.** Next FOSK morning tea will be on Sun 4th Feb 2024.
- **Fit & Well Exercise Class for Parishioners** will resume on Tues 23rd Jan 2024. Any queries, contact Michael Wilkinson 0412 383 364. Classes are held weekly at 4:15pm in the hall.
- **The parish office will be on reduced hours during the Christmas and New Year period.** Please contact the parish office at 9874 2533 before coming in.
- **St Patrick's Church Hill needs your help in providing breakfast for the homeless.** To donate, please leave non-perishable food items in the church foyer. Thank you.
- **Next Men's Prayer Breakfast for 2024 will be on Sat, February 3rd at 7am** in the Parish Hall, followed by Mass and devotion in the Church at 9am.
- Next **Baptism Info Evening** will be on Wed 7th Feb 2024 at 8pm in the parish office meeting room. To register, please contact the parish office.
- The next **Didasko Adult Faith Formation** course will be held Mon Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm in the Haseler Centre. **Cost: Free!** Register through the parish office.

UNDERSTANDING OUR PARISH COLLECTIONS:

Your generosity in supporting the parish is gratefully acknowledged!

First Collection – supports the needs of the Parish Priest and includes monthly salary, upkeep of the presbytery (food, utilities, cleaner), and a small percentage to care for elderly priests. Income from Easter and Christmas offerings, weddings & baptisms are also added to the first collection. Any surplus goes into a central fund to ensure that all priests in the Archdiocese receive sufficient funds to cover their living expenses.

Second Collection – combines income from planned giving envelopes & cash on plates as well as our monthly credit card contributors and card tap devices. Supports the maintenance of parish buildings, pastoral programs, parish running costs (administration, insurance, utilities, general maintenance & upkeep of the Church, presbytery & parish property), staff salaries & superannuation, priest car expenses & Charitable Works Fund (CWF) shortfall. CWF is a centralised fund supporting the charitable & pastoral activities of the Archdiocese.

Planned Giving Program– Each person's capacity to give is different and you are not expected to give anything more than is reasonable. Currently, 30% of our Planned Giving Donations are eligible for Tax Deductibility. If you would like to assist the Parish financially via envelopes or monthly credit card deductions, contact the parish office (02) 9874 2533.

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or E: safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may speak to your Parish Priest who'll be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.

