

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEALESVILLE, INCORPORATING HEALESVILLE (ST BRIGID'S),
YARRA GLEN (ST ALOYSIUS) & MARYSVILLE (OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)



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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(YEAR B) 3RD JANUARY 2021



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 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 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

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

O God, give your judgment to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgment. **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: Ephesians 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 the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 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.

FROM FR FRANCIS

While the hustle and bustle of Christmas ends for many people on 26th December, throughout Christian history, the Christmas season lasts for twelve days – all the way until 6th January culminating in the feast of the “Epiphany.” The name ‘Epiphany’ comes from the Greek, meaning “revelation from above”. The Epiphany celebrates the revelation of the Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah to the Gentile world as represented by the Three wise men from the East. While the feast focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men, it also incorporates two other moments of Christ’s self-revelation: his baptism in the Jordan and the first of his signs, the wedding at Cana, since in each of these events Jesus manifests his Divinity.

While the traditional date for the feast is 6th January, in Australia (as in many Western nations) the celebration of Epiphany is moved to the nearest Sunday. The Feast of Epiphany, (or in the Oriental Churches, also called the Feast of Theophany), is a very ancient feast, one that even predates the celebration of Christmas on the 25th December. In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the advent of Christ on 6th January by commemorating the Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast of the Epiphany. By the fourth century, both Christmas and Epiphany had been set as separate feasts in some dioceses. At the Council of Tours in 567, the Church set both Christmas day and Epiphany as feast days on the Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, respectively, and named the twelve days between the feasts as the Christmas season.

Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ on Jan. 6. Meanwhile, the Eastern Churches' celebration of Theophany celebrates Christ’s baptism and is one of the holiest feast days of the liturgical calendar.

The celebration of the visitation of the Magi – whom the Bible describes as learned wise men from the East – has developed its own distinct traditions throughout the Roman Church. As part of the liturgy of the Epiphany, it is traditional to proclaim the date of Easter and other moveable feast days to the faithful – showing the link between Christ incarnation and his death on the cross for our redemption. Indeed, the gifts the wise men brought – gold, frankincense and myrrh – point not only to Christ’s divinity and his revelation to the Magi as the King of Kings, but also to his crucifixion. In giving myrrh, herbs traditionally used for burial, this gift anticipates the death of Christ and the empty tomb of the resurrection.

Traditionally houses were blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany, with a particular custom of inscribing the blessing with blessed chalk. Back at home, families will write on top of the entrance to the house the inscription “C+M+B+” bookended between the date of the new year. So this year the inscription will look like this:

20 + C + M + B + 21

The letters stand for the names traditionally given to the wise men – Casper, Melchior and Balthazar – as well as for the Latin phrase “*Christus mansionem benedicat*,” meaning, “may Christ, bless this house.” Chalk will be blessed at this weekend’s Masses for distribution, should you wish to mark your homes.

Wishing you all a happy and safe new year!



[MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK](#)

Thursday 7th Jan Mass at 9.15 am
Sunday 10th Jan at 8.30 am

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNWCG>

[MASSES IN JANUARY](#)

- There will be no Mass on Thursday 14th Jan while Fr Francis takes a short, well-earned break
- Fr John will be saying Mass for us on Sunday 17th January at 8.30 am
- A prayer service will be held at Our Lady of the Snows in Marysville on Thursday 21st Jan at 10.30 am
- Mass will be celebrated at St Aloysius in Yarra Glen on Sunday 24th Jan at 5 pm.

[SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE](#)

The visitation of the Wise Men to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bearing gifts that foreshadow Jesus’ kingship, priesthood and death, opens 2021 with yet another challenge for us. This weekend, the statues of the 3 Kings are placed into the manger scene, completing the Christmas story as we remember it each year in plaster, or wool, or paper. Considering the statues of the Kings and their boxes of gold, I ask myself what gift I might bring to Jesus, if I were visiting him as he lay in the manger? A quick trip to the after-Christmas sales could provide something to make life easier for Mary and Joseph, nothing electrical of course, but baby Jesus’ own needs were, in fact, very simple: food, warmth and love, the same basic needs we all experience as we journey through life. Perhaps a really soft, warm blanket would be top of my list if I were to give him something to unwrap. But, Jesus would grow, and leave home, and my temporary gift would become a memory, as things of this world do. What gift could I ever buy that could have remained useful to Jesus, my God, truly human, yet truly divine, who died naked and alone on a cross?

We are all called to give to our God in each moment of our lives. Our quest to find a gift is real, not just an academic exercise. It is an obligation placed upon us through our very nature as God’s created loved ones, for we are called to return love for love. The love of God is lavished upon us in each breath we take, and it is our responsibility to make use of each second we are granted to love God in return. How can we possibly fulfil such a calling? A challenge indeed.

Like the little drummer boy from the carol, we have literally nothing of value to give to Jesus, other than who we are and the talents we have been given by God through our creation. Called to return love for love, the debt is way on our side, yet he understands our struggle to meet such a debt. Jesus, truly God and truly man, the tiny baby born naked as we are born naked, has shown us that our love is what he needs in his human poverty, for nothing else lasts. God needs nothing, he is perfect. We can add nothing to his greatness. Yet Jesus in the stable is simplicity and need personified, and he invites us to give from deep within our very selves. It is enough to make your head spin! The most appropriate gift we can give is who we are, but to give all we are is a pretty risky offer. In giving all to God, we hand over control to him. In giving him our very lives, our family, our friends, our will, our desires, our successes and our failures, we open ourselves to the possibility that he might just take what we offer. Can we really trust God enough to offer everything? This is no slouch gift!!

We invite God to accept our lives as a gift in a way that only someone we really trust can be so invited. Truly opening ourselves to him means sharing our every thought and feeling, the very secrets of our hearts, no barriers, no locked spaces, no protected wounds. I can only share my innermost fears, anxieties, joys and highs with someone who knows and understands me, who knows my weaknesses, frustrations, anger, and my own individual sense of justice. Is this such a strange gift for baby Jesus this Christmas? Our invitation to God to accept all we are, as little as it may be in the big scheme of things, is our gift delivered to the very heart of the manger scene. In offering him this, the greatest gift we have to give, knowing that he will accept what we offer with due respect and care, we bring God directly to the heart of our pain, our frustration, everything that worries us, or thrills us, or makes us excited. The Holy Family takes our burdens, and shares them, making them lighter for us to carry. Not such a strange gift at all.

WE THANK ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH IN 2020
AND WISH EVERYONE A BLESSED
NEW YEAR, FILLED WITH PEACE,
JOY AND HOPE



PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Babies Emmett, Noah Glen Christie, Tedi and Santi; Roman, Blake Smith, Trish Leahy, John Snell, Abby Sharp, Peter Munro, Megan, Bernie Jansen, Andrew Sharp, John, Glenn, Lyn Francis, Dorothy Barber, Fiona, Annie Preuss, Michelle Ryan, Damian, John, Alison, Heather, Julie Bates, Garry Dettman, Bradley Jordan, Jeanette Henkel, Richard Galbraith, Debbie Huby, Geoff Lucas, Sandra Donkin, Dorothy Fraser, Glen, Fred Bullas, Fred Coullas, Evie Gleeson, Indy Dawes, Rade Krstic, Megan Williams, Michael Wood, Bill Howie, Jennie, Michael, Margo & Stephen Youngberry, Marie Hammond, John Mulholland, Rhiannon Days, Val Savitt, Ron Garland, Jaz Nueber, James Cooney, Robert, Mary & Gerard Bariola, Tilly Van der Zee, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson, Carina Warton, Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Michelle, Judy.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN JANUARY

Henny Puschmann (08.01.07), John Gentle (14.01.84), Giuseppe Panozzo (14.01.83), Maria Jansen (14.01.08), Stephen Sotko Snr (20.01.09), Kathy Heath (21.01.07), Stephen Sotko Jnr (28.01.06), Garry Sweeney (21.01.17), Ethel Lalor, Philip Plant, Bern Porter, Judy Robertson.