

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.**

**Communion Antiphon (Vigil):** The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

**Communion Antiphon (Mass during the day):** We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

**The Epiphany Blessing**

*Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year*

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk will be blessed at Mass this weekend, then parishioners are welcome to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

**20 C + M + B 25**

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names of the Three Wise Men who came seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode).

**Words to be said at home:**

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

**Read aloud Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11**

The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: *Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising and have come to pay Him homage.* When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they knelt down and paid Him homage.

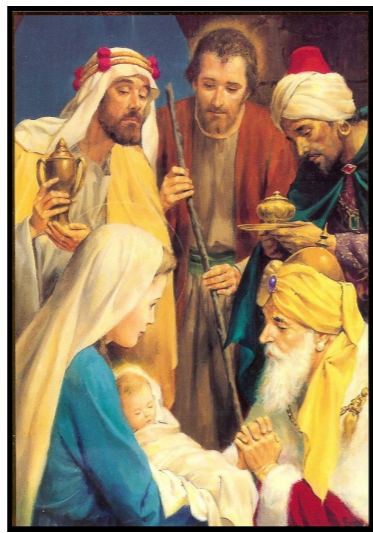
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Then continue with these words, whilst making the chalk marks at the names of the wise men and the year:**

The Three Wise Men, Caspar (C) Melchior (M) Balthasar (B) followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Son of God, Who came to live among us Two Thousand (20) and Twenty-five (25) years ago. (+) May Christ bless our home today and (+) remain with us throughout the year.

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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



**A reflection by Bishop Robert Barron**

The unforgettable story of the journey of the Magi, as recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, is an artful summary of the principal dynamics of the spiritual life. Watching the night sky with scrupulous attention for signs of God’s purpose, the Magi evoke the importance of alertness in the spiritual order. We must keep our eyes open to see what God is up to. For far too many people, the spiritual life never gets underway, precisely because they don’t pay attention.

Once they saw the star, they moved, despite the length of the journey and the dangers of the road. Sometimes people know what God wants them to do, but they don’t act, either out of fear or laziness or the influence of bad habits. In their confident journeying forth, the Magi teach us not to miss the propitious moment. They teach us to move.

When they entered into Herod’s territory, the Magi caught the attention of the king. And when they spoke to him of the birth of a new King of the Jews, Herod became frantic and tried to use them in order to destroy the baby. A third lesson: when you walk the path that God has laid out for you, expect opposition. We live in a sinful, fallen world, and there will always be forces at cross purposes to God.

Refusing to cooperate with Herod’s game, the wise men came to Bethlehem, found the child, and gave him their precious gifts. When you come to Christ, don’t give him your second best; break open the very best of yourself and make it a gift for him. Finally, they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and so ‘they returned to their home country by another route.’

As Fulton Sheen commented so magnificently: ‘Of course they did; for no one comes to Christ and goes back the same way he came!’

The journey of these wise men is a metaphor for the spiritual journeys that all of us must make. Like the magi, we must be attentive; we must be willing to act; we must expect opposition; we must give our best to Christ, and finally, we must be willing to change, ‘to go back by a different route.’

(Five Lessons of the Magi, Bishop Robert Barron, 6 January 2002)

**Prayer in Honour of the Holy Name of Jesus**

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most mysterious and ineffable Name of Jesus be always praised, blessed, loved, and glorified, in heaven, on earth and under the earth, by all creatures visible and invisible, now and for all eternity. Amen



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**5 JANUARY 2025**

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - “PILGRIMS OF HOPE”**



“The shepherds were Israelites, the Magi were Gentiles. The former were nigh to Him, the latter far from Him. Both hastened to Him together as to the cornerstone.”

- St Augustine of Hippo

**Entrance Antiphon (Vigil):** Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

**Entrance Antiphon (Mass during the day):** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

**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 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.**

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

**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.**

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** 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 that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

**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



# Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

## The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025

81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360

(P. O. Box 107)

Phone 67221103

Email: [inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au) or

[frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au)

Website: [www.sacredheartinverell.org.au](http://www.sacredheartinverell.org.au)

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell

Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 6 Jan & Friday 10 Jan - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 7 Jan - 8am to 12pm

Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler

PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

**the Recently Deceased:**

Jim Hanlon, Shirley Thom, Danny Dickins, John Pianko, Rita Slattery.

**the sick:**

Tony King, Maureen Rolfe, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

**Planned Giving Program:** If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

### JANUARY - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

#### MONDAY 6th

Weekday of Christmas Time

**No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm**

#### TUESDAY 7th

Feast Day of St Raymond of Penyafort, priest

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

#### WEDNESDAY 8th

Weekday of Christmas Time

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha**

#### THURSDAY 9th

Weekday of Christmas Time

**Rosary 8.30am**

**Funeral Mass for John Pianko 9:30**

#### FRIDAY 10th

Weekday of Christmas Time

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**No Holy Hour**

#### SATURDAY 11th

Weekday of Christmas Time

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Bundarra**

**Rosary - 5.30pm**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm**

#### SUNDAY 12th

**Solemnity of The Baptism of the Lord**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Sacrament of Confession**

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm

(and at any time upon request)

#### OTHER MASSES:

*McLean Village* Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

### ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR JANUARY

Ann Tubb & Rhonda McGregor

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 12 Jan 2025, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 18 Jan 2025, 8.30am

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 12 Feb 2024, 5.00pm

**Parish Choir Practice:** After the 9am Mass this Sunday, the singers of the parish will meet to learn a new congregational setting of the Ordinary of the Mass. It is called "The Mass of Love." Everyone is welcome to join in.

**Morning Tea** will be held after the 9am Mass next Sunday. Please bring a plate of delicacies to share.

**Poor Boxes:** Don't forget you can help our local St Vincent de Paul ministry by making a donation to the Poor Boxes in the Church. All donations will be used to assist the poor in our community.

**Divine Mercy 2025 Calendars:** A generous parishioner has donated several of these calendars to the parish. These are available for free at the side entrance table near the priest sacristy.

**Sick Visit / Last Rites:** A reminder that if you have a Catholic relative in hospital or aged care who is in need of a priest, please inform the parish office or Fr Paul so he may visit them.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal:** The Inverell St Vincent de Paul Society extends their heartfelt thanks to the Sacred Heart Parish community for their very generous donations given at the 2024 Christmas Appeal. The total amount raised was \$3,600.00.

**Fr John McHugh** will be visiting the Parish and providing Masses on the **11th and 12th of January**, as well as on the **18th and 19th of January**.

### Prayer for the Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.

### From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

§528 - The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (Magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. 212

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 in order 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. 213 Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. 214

The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* 215 (that is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

NOTES: 212 Mt 2:1; cf. LH, Epiphany, Evening Prayer II, Antiphon at the Canticle of Mary.

213 Cf Mt 2:2; Num 24:17-19; Rev 22:16.

214 Cf Jn 4:22; Mt 2:4-6.

215 St. Leo the Great, *Sermo 3 in epiphania Domini* 1-3, 5: PL 54, 242; LH, Epiphany, OR; Roman Missal, Easter Vigil 26, Prayer after the third reading

### If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- \* Proper of Mass is on Page 175 for Vigil Mass; Page 177 for Mass During the Day
- \* Preface of the Epiphany Page 30
- \* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1 Page 61

MASS ROSTER	04Jan-Sat 6.00pm	05Jan-Sun 9am	11Jan-Sat 6pm	12Jan-Sun 9am
Projector	Volunteer	H Rossel	S Szumowski	P Girle
Reader 1 (1st R. & Ps) Reader 2 (2nd R.)	S O'Brien J Harris	G Johnson M Robinson	M Gaukroger J Monie	G Taveira MJ Guest
Reader 3 (Intercessory Prayers)	N McCosker	J Monie	J Harris	M Robinson
Offertory	-	S Kenny & volunteer	-	Guest Family
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Michael	S Hollis	J Monie	MJ Guest
Counters		R & G Johnson		L MacDonald & P Girle