

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / C

5 JANUARY 2025

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

FOLLOWING THE STAR

In the ancient world, stars were seen as living creatures. They had their own energy and life cycle, offered navigational movement and were gazed upon and studied for life's direction. Our story today is taken up with star gazers seeking the one to whom one particular star ("his star") refers. For the Israelites, God controlled astral energy and movement. These easterners, perhaps Zoroastrian Persian astrologers, called "Magi", follow "his star" which directs them to the newborn Jesus. He is the focus of their search. Consultation with the Jewish scriptures through Herod's appointees confirms the direction of their astral search—to Bethlehem.

While Matthew notes Herod's jealousy towards any other claimant to royalty, a fact which the first-century Jewish writer, Josephus, also affirms, our attention, like that of the Magi, is on the star. It halts over a house where the birth of the child has taken place. Jesus, like all Jewish babies, is born in a house, albeit the stable of a house, an important reminder at Christmas time when St Francis' crib scenes are displayed in our churches.

The Magi offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbols of Jesus' nature: his royalty (gold), divinity (frankincense) and mortality (myrrh). The three gifts later gave rise to the thought of three Magi, who eventually become named (Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar) with one (Caspar) being dark skinned. This later development affirms the attraction of all people to Jesus, including non-Jewish and those of oriental backgrounds. Like the Magi, we, too, are attracted to stars. We are all on the search to follow that star that leads us to Jesus.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 696. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and

received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS. For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chron 19:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.



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

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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:

Holy Name Catholic Parish DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY
 35 Billyard Avenue Wahroonga 2076
 Web | www.holynamewahroonga.com.au
 Tel | 02 9489 3221 Email | holynome@bbcatholic.org.au



Parish Masses This Week

Monday	6 January	No Mass		Weekday of Christmas Time
Tuesday	7 January	Mass	9.15am	Weekday of Christmas Time
Wednesday	8 January	Mass	9.15am	Weekday of Christmas Time
Thursday	9 January	Mass	9:15am	Weekday of Christmas Time
Friday	10 January	Mass	9:15am	Weekday of Christmas Time
Saturday	11 January	Mass	5:00pm	Weekday of Christmas Time
Sunday	12 January	Mass	8.00am 9.30am 5:30pm	The BAPTISM of the LORD

Please Remember in your Prayers

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ina Evans (died 24 December—longtime parishioner of Holy Name), William (Bill) Hayward (died 10 December aged 73, father of Sarah, Tom, Lucy, Emily, Claire and Mollie), Gloria Candotti (Mother, mother-in-law and grandmother to Dan, Sandi, Mattia and Luca, died 7 December).

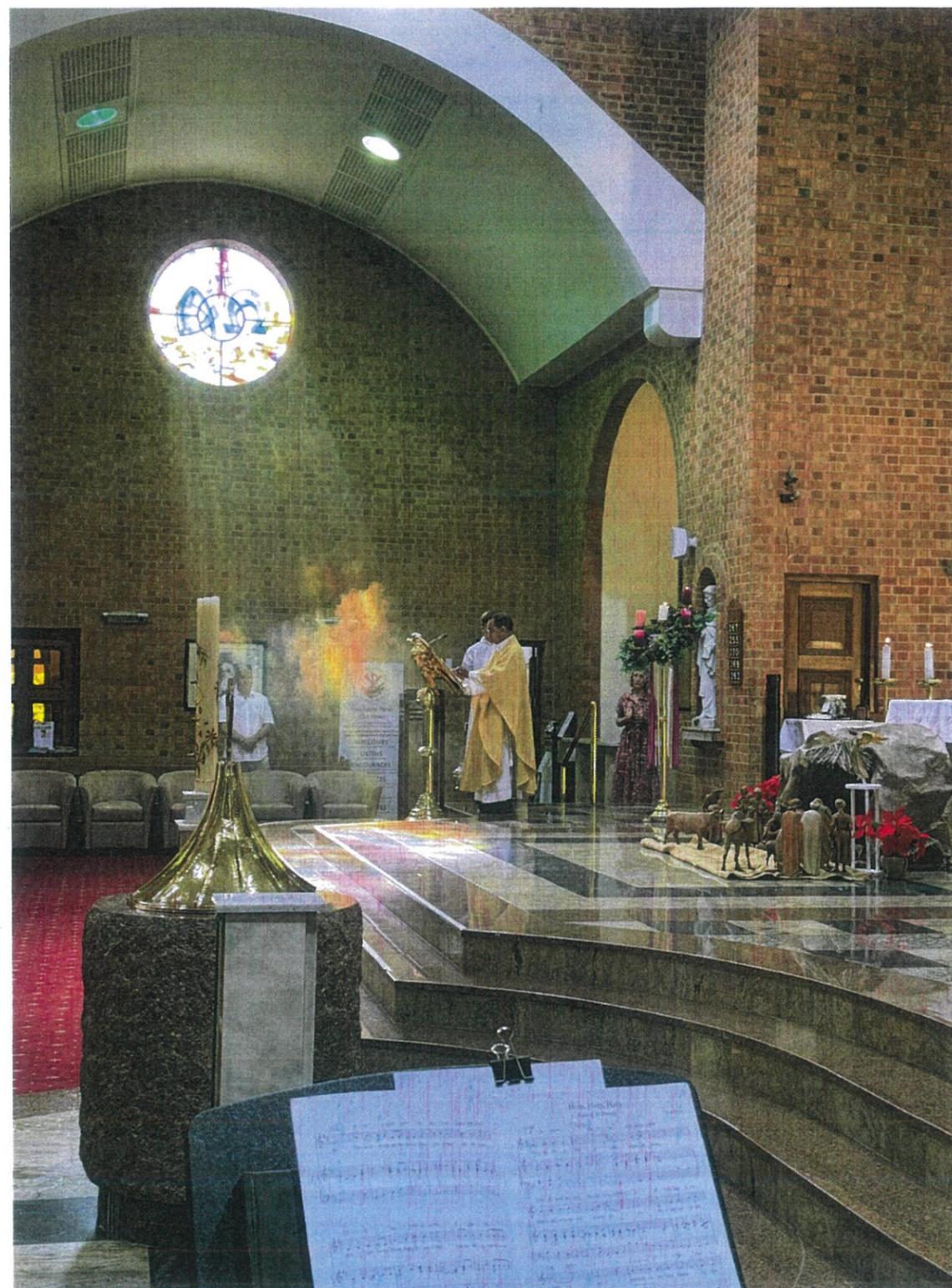
ANNIVERSARIES: Aaron Iori (12th anniversary 1st January), Joseph Sydney McElhenny (6th anniversary 3 January), Elisha Foti - 12th anniversary on 4 January), Michael Phoebus (3rd anniversary, 6 January) Tim O'Brien (son of Paul and Jenny, 9th anniversary on 8 January), Carl Shannon (31st anniversary 8 January), Patricia McGrath (2nd anniversary, 17 January), wife of John, mother to Catherine, Julie, Lynette, Anthony, Sean and David), Muriel Molnar (9th anniversary, 21 January), Helene Babski (aunt of Monica Caly, 2nd anniversary 21 January), Joan Clarke (7th anniversary, 22 January), Patricia (Pat) Lynch, 8th anniversary, 23 January), Toufic Kassis (brother of John, 5th anniversary 20 January), Joseph El-Daher (Denise Kassis' brother, 64th anniversary on 21 January, Cheble El-Daher (father of Denise Kassis - 38th anniversary on 23 January), Sylvester 'Ves' McGrath (3rd anniversary 26 January, father of Dominic, Damien and Justin), Eileen Goldstein (mother of Pam Gallagher, anniversary on 29 January), Damion (Sri Wijetunga's brother, 55th anniversary, 31st January).

December: Hilda May Cutler (Grandmother of Jennifer Gregory, 55th anniversary on 24 December), Paul Hunter (father of Julie Levins, 4th anniversary on 24 December), Margaret Couch (Paul's Mum—7th anniversary, 25 December), Mario Severino (19th anniversary on 26 December), Tony Planas (husband of Rose, 24th anniversary on 28 December), Caterina Randazzo (Bishop Anthony's mother, 4th anniversary 29 December), Ingrid Tighe (39th anniversary on 29 December), Phyllis Wijundsera, (Charles mother, 4th anniversary 31 December), Marcelli and Agnes Pochyly (relatives of Cecylia Ramsden)

FOR THE SICK: Neville Bower (friend of Megan Khannah), Megan Khannah, Bernard Tighe (brother of Mike Tighe), Rose Planas, Yvonne Malouf (mother of Joanne Klostermann), Gabrielle Flood (Gemma Couch's Mum), Philip Clump, Sienna McGrath (Dominic McGrath's niece and Reg Gibbons great-niece), Noeline Mannix, Gemma McDermott, Tina Northcott, Mike Tighe, Mark Vinson Vallarta, Margaret Du Moulin (Edwina Potiris' mum, friend of Dominic McGrath), Conor and Leila McCreton, Margaret MacMillan, Jonathan Tighe (nephew of Caroline Montouro), Will Green (aged 11yrs, friend of the Madden family), baby Joseph Akkary (great great nephew of Denise Kassis), Henry Alan Field (4yrs—grandchild of dear friend of Cecilia Kean), Judy Ford (sister in law of Irene King), Pam Gallagher, Geoff Deacon (brother-in-law of Irene King), Greg McNally, John Clark, Emma Vassallo (Granddaughter of Will Hayward), Alyssa Kent, Ted Hook (Antonina's husband), Joe Pulis, Margaret Anderson (sister-in-law of Frank and Jo Waldron), Norma Higgins, Davin and Sharon Ho, Leanne (Sharon's sister).

What a magical photo!

Roger Brinkman took this photo on Christmas morning.



Christmas Offerings: Envelopes are available in the Church and are for the support of our Clergy. Thank you for your appreciation of and generosity to our Priests.

Holy Hour will resume on 7 February 2025.

Parish Office Hours into January: The office is closed until Wednesday 15 January. The answering machine will be checked regularly so please feel free to leave a message on 9489 3221 or email Holynome@bbcatholic.org.au. During this time, Masses will be celebrated regularly, Sacraments available and a Priest on duty.