

A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish -

Sacred Heart Church and Maria Regina Church



Thoughts of Blessed Francis Jordan
May he preserve in you purity of heart! Become temples
of the Holy Spirit!



An Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
may Your light shine
our way,
as once it guided the steps
of the Magi;
that we too may be led
into Your presence
and worship You,
the Child of Mary,
the Word of the Father,
the King of nations,
the Saviour of Mankind;
to whom be Glory for ever.
Amen.

SAFEGUARDING

We, the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church

1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 9.30 am
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament,
Adoration, Reconciliation
and Benediction from
8.30 am followed by Mass

Wednesday 9.30 am

Thursday 7 pm
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament,
Adoration, Reconciliation
and Benediction from
7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Friday 9:30 am
First Friday of the month,
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament,
Adoration, Reconciliation
and Benediction
from 9:30 am,
followed by Healing Mass/
Anointing of the Sick
at 10.30 am

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm (SOUL)

RECONCILIATION Saturday Vigil 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm

BAPTISM 4th Sunday of the Month 11.30 am

Maria Regina Church

7 Central Road, Avalon

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 8.00 am

Wednesday 8.00 am

Thursday 10 am 9.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Benediction at 9.45 am

Friday 8.00 am
First Friday of the month,
Healing Mass/
Anointing of the Sick
at 8.00 am

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm Sunday 9.00 am

RECONCILIATION Before Vigil Mass on Saturday

BAPTISM 3rd Sunday of the Month 11.00 am

We Pray

Recently Deceased
Tuna Szuman

Deceased Anniversary
Tom Kasch
Helen Seve
Nita Seve

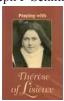
Prayer for the Sick

Anna Śmigowska **James** Bruce Farr Cindy Kalalo Maureen Larios Denise Wagner Anna Maria **Elaine Boyes** Pauline Chipman Anna Svetlana Leonor Sofia Anna Kantonec Mother Pauline Angela Miller Philip Khalifeh Joseph Khalifeh Robert McCauley

BOOK REVIEW

Praying with Therese of Lisieux

by: Joseph F Schmidt, FSC



Therese was a Carmelite nun who entered the convent at 15 years of age and died nine years later, yet in that short period she managed to inspire untold numbers with her profoundly simple spirituality and her understanding that God loves us regardless.

THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

TO ACT JUSTLY TO LOVE MERCY TO WALK HUMBLY

WITH YOUR GOD.

MICAH 6:8

Liturgy for the Week

06/01 Monday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6; Mt 4:12-17,

07/01 Tuesday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

08/01 Wednesday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

09/01 Thursday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 jn 4:19 - 5:4; Lk 4:14-22

10/01 Friday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

11/01 Saturday, Weekday of Christmas Time 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30

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Use this App to support our Clergy through the first collection and our Parish through the second collection. Donations can be made weekly, fortnightly,monthly or one-off.

Thank you for your continued contributions and support. Your financial contributions and your generous donations throughout the year are greatly appreciated.





ENROL NOW FOR 2025



Maria Regina Avalon Catholic Primary School

42 Central Road, Avalon 2107



LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

UPDATE FROM THE SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

MARIA REGINA CHURCH, AVALON - Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 5.00 pm SACRED HEART CHURCH, MONA VALE - Wednesday, 9 April 2025 at 5.00 pm Children in Year 4 and above are eligible to receive this Sacrament if they have been Confirmed.

For further information about the First Reconciliation programme and to enrol your child, you <u>MUST</u> attend <u>ONE</u> of the following <u>Parent Information & Commitment Sessions:</u>

Thursday, 6 February 2025 - Maria Regina Church at 7 pm OR Tuesday, 11 February 2025 - Sacred Heart Church at 7 pm

New Year Wishes & Message

Our Parish is very active & vibrant & we appreciate & recognise the impact our parishioners & our dedicated parish team make through volunteering & getting involved in different activities by serving others.

Our volunteers are an essential part of the fabric of our faith community & hope that we continue to inspire & nurture each other as together we grow in our faith & trust in God.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Sacraments 2024

In Baptism we were claimed for Christ, we received a vocation from God, a unique calling to undertake in life & a special mission to proclaim the Gospel to the next generation.

The Catholic Parish of Pittwater celebrated
160 Baptisms
131 Confirmations
144 First Reconciliations & First Eucharists

As God continues to gather his children, we pray that he will comfort them, safeguard them & dwell with them always.

Jubilee Year

Next year 2025 we celebrate the jubilee Year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope"

We pray that the year will usher in new beginnings in our lives, may all closed doors be opened to us & new opportunities be discovered and may the guiding light of God lead us to happiness & peace.

For Richard Sadowski. SDS

Parish Directory

Pittwater Parish

1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale NSW 2103 Tel 9157 0999

Parish Priest Fr Richard Sadowski SDS

Tel 9157 0999 ext 10 pp@pittwaterparish.org

Assistant Priest Fr Zygmunt Smigowski SDS

Tel 9157 0999 ext 12 ap@pittwaterparish.org

Parish Secretary Belinda Cimino

Tel 9157 0999 ext 30 office@pittwaterparish.org

Administrative Assistant Shereae Knight

Tel 9157 0999 ext 30 office@pittwaterparish.org

Director of Music Simon Morris

Tel 9157 0999 ext 17 music@pittwaterparish.org

Media & Communications Coordinator Conille Felias

Tel 9157 0999 ext 31 media@pittwaterparish.org

Sacramental Coordinator Sonia Samartin

Tel 9157 0999 ext 13 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

CCD Catechist Coordinators Maureen Wooldridge Mobile 0421 907 469 Veronica Thomas Mobile 0417 061 534

Sacred Heart Church

1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale

Maria Regina Church 7 Central Road, Avalon

SCHOOLS

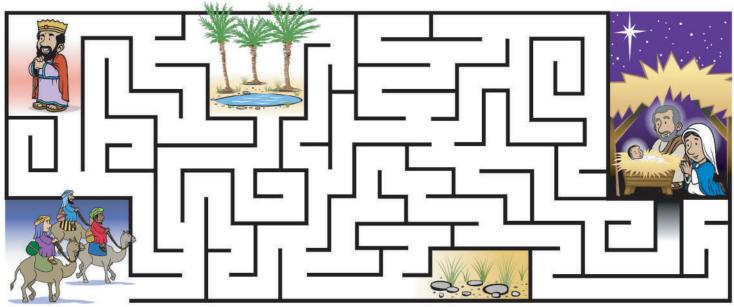
Sacred Heart School Mona vale Tel 8197 6900 Principal: Mr Jamie Wahab

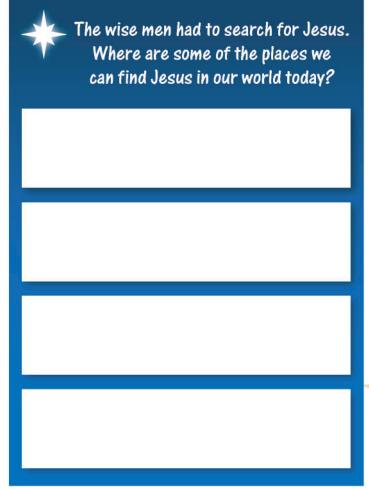
Maria Regina School Avalon Tel 7256 2138

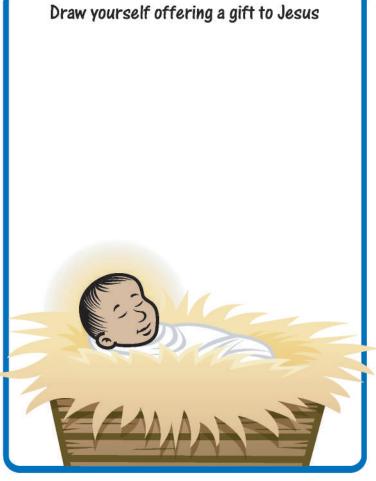
Principal: Ms Kirsty Thorpe

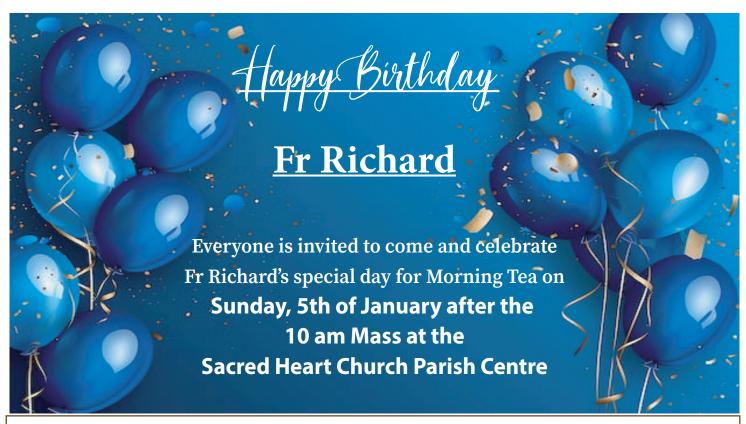
Mater Maria Catholic College Warriewood Tel 7256 2100 Principal: Mr Marc Reicher

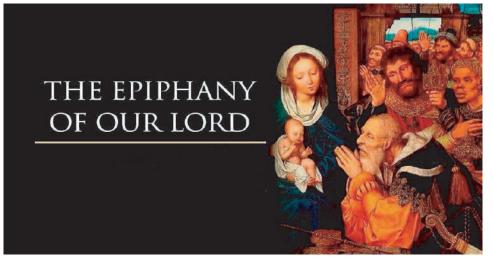












and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created..." Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today's solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory. At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi.

All of God's creation gives Him glory

The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation." Therefore, as we honor this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world. we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded. First of all, the Magi were determined. When they saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice and follow His manifestation with the same haste The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honored and glorified through His creation by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and

dignity. It was a gift that symbolized kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own gift of symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission.

Made from the sap of trees found in India, northeastern Africa, and the Arabian peninsula, frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God's creation. Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature, since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honors the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Most glorious Christ Child, the Father in Heaven honored Your birth by placing a star over the place where you lay. Through that new star, Your divine presence was made manifest to the world in the Magi who responded with faith and worship. Please manifest Yourself to me within my own soul where You wish to be born, and give me the love and zeal I need to follow the example of the Magi, offering You my own gifts in adoration and trust. Jesus, I trust in You.

from My Catholic Life!

The Living Word

Entrance Antiphon Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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** *The glory of the Lord shines upon you.parents.*

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

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.)

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 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

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

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: 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

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 2:2

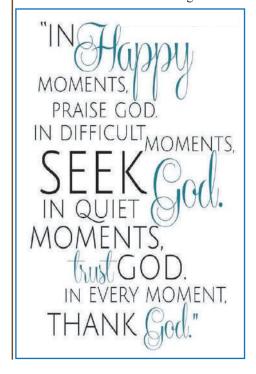
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

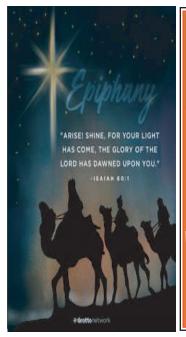
REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world. There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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We would like to express our gratitude for all your generous Christmas presents and cards.

We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

We hope you all had a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with love, hope, joy and peace.

Fr Richard and Fr Zygmunt









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Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known, And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love." -1CORINTHIANS 13:13 Womans Day

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