

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish



PARISH CHURCHES

Church of the Sacred Heart

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

River Street, South Murwillumbah

St. Brigid's Church

Broadway, Burringbar

St. Columba's Church

Convent Lane, Uki

PARISH STAFF

Administrator

Fr. Peter Wood

Parish Manager

Mary-Ann Thackray

Parish Secretary

Beth Gorton

Pastoral Associate

Barbara Grant

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm

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Murwillumbah NSW 2484

PARISH SCHOOLS

Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

mshpmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Paul Reidy

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

murp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -

YEAR A

8 January 2023

The prince and the pauper

Most of us have no doubt sung more than once this popular Christmas carol, "We Three Kings"; and all our churches were probably adorned by "cribs" boasting statues of three exotic looking men dressed in royal finery, wearing crowns and riding on bejewelled camels. Their names — Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.



Based upon Matthew's claim that they came from the east (Mt 2:1) and saw the star rise in the east (Mt 2.2), it has often been assumed in Christian tradition that these men came from Persia to find the Christ. Other interpreters have thought that the wise men might have come from Arabia — hence the popular presentation of the "kings" as exotic worthies with princely accoutrements and camel transport. Such imagery and information, however, derive more from the popular imagination than it does from Matthew's Gospel.

Called by Matthew "Magi" (Mt 2:1), these colourful characters are not presented as kings, but rather as astrologers or wise men. They are not named; and there are no camels in sight. The text says nothing about there being three of them. The tradition that there were but three wise men arose from the fact that there were three gifts (Mt 2:11).

The term Magi reflects the Greek *magos*, which refers to a magician, sorcerer, or one wise in interpreting the stars and dreams. In ancient Media and Persia these Magi were associated with the priestly caste. Matthew presents these men as scholars who are "wise" not only in dream interpretation and stargazing, but in Jewish traditions as well.

Matthew indicates that these wise men had studied the Hebrew Scriptures, where they found and correctly interpreted the messianic prophecies that told that "there shall come a star out of Jacob" (Nm 24:17; cf. Mt 2:2). Similarly, the chief priests whom Herod consults at the behest of the Magi find in Micah (5:2), a more specific reference to the Messiah's birth at Bethlehem (Mt 2:4-6).

This story draws on and reminds us of another "foreign" seer in the Old Testament, Balaam, who foresaw the future triumph of Israel over its enemies (Nm 24:17). Even Herod was Idumean and the representative of a foreign power; a king whose heritage and authority had the whiff of illegitimacy.

So, in Matthew's story, prophets, priests, and foreigners bring their collective wisdom to bear on the Scriptures to confirm the legitimacy of Jesus' later claim to messianic status. There is an obvious irony here, if not also a bit of folk wisdom. One should not judge by appearances; nor should one underestimate God.

The true prince appears in the world as a pauper, while the present king quakes in fear in his princely palace. God assumes human being not amidst the elites of society, but amidst the poor. Jesus' regnal status is recognised, not by his future subjects, but by those on the margins and those "on the nose", foreign astrologers and Idumean pretenders to the throne.

Ian J Elmer @ Majellan Media 2022

This week in the Parish

Saturday 7	5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 8	The EPIPHANY of the LORD - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass (No 8am or 10 am Mass today)
Monday 9	The BAPTISM of the LORD - Year A 9:00 am - Parish Office re-opens
<i>Please note: there are no weekday Masses during January</i>	
Thursday 12	12 noon - Legion of Mary - Parish Meeting Centre
Saturday 14	9:00 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 15	2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass (No 8am or 10 am Mass today)

ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed half an hour before each weekend Mass. Please join us in front of the tabernacle to pray for our parish and prepare for Mass.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday : 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am

ROSARY STATUE

Resumes
15 January



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Peter McLaughlin, David Coley, Ken Doyle

ANNIVERSARIES: Janet Weaver, Michael Burke

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Rina Anderson, Mary Stewart, Julie Dawson, Maureen McCabe, Mark Hanna, Deb Craig, Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace



We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord."
Matthew 2:2

ROSTERS | READINGS

14/15 Jan | 2nd Sunday in Ord Time | Yr A

6pm - Barbara Grant

9am - Jan Bruce

READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY:

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Year A

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Epiphany

'The word "epiphany" means manifestation of God. When we meet God in the Eucharist, we should not go back to doing, feeling, thinking and living as we did before the Mass. We should leave by another route in small ways. Why? God wants us to be the Epiphany of the Lord everywhere we go and to everyone we meet.'

- From the Catholic Enquiry Centre

JANUARY MASS TIME CHANGES

Please Note:

- ◆ While Fr Peter is on holidays in January our weekend Mass times are Saturday Vigil 6pm and one Sunday Mass at 9 am.
- ◆ During January there are no weekday Masses until Wednesday 1 February.

Parish Office reopens 9am Monday 9 January

DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us.

We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you.

To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone: (02) 6621 9444

or email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Bundjalung people who are the Traditional Owners of this land on which we gather and pray today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and emerging.

ENTRANCE HYMN | Christopher Willcock

LET ALL THE PEOPLES

Ant: Let all the peoples praise you, O Lord,
Let all the peoples praise you;
Let all the peoples praise you, O Lord,
Let all the peoples praise you;

Nations shall fear the name of the Lord,
and all the rulers of earth your glory,
when the Lord shall build Sion again,
coming in glory. Alleluia!

Let this be written for ages to come:
peoples unborn may praise the Lord.
He has come down from his sanctuary on high
to set the prisoners free. Alleluia!

Sion shall hear the name of the Lord,
and God's praise in the heart of the city.
people and nations shall gather to praise;
we shall worship him. Alleluia!

COMMUNION HYMN | John Foley

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.

REFLECTION HYMN | J&G Borders/L Alexander

ONE KING

Kings of earth on a course unknown
bearing gifts from afar
hoping, praying
following yonder star.
Silhouette of a caravan
painted against the sky
wise men searching
for the holy child.

Refrain: One king held the frankincense
One king held the myrrh
One king held the purest gold
One king held the hope of the world.

A star hangs over Bethlehem
a journey ends in the night
three kings, trembling
behold the glorious sight.
Heaven's treasure Emmanuel
drawing men to bow down
tiny baby born to wear a crown.

RECESSIONAL HYMN | Michael Cockett

ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH

Refrain: All the nations of the earth,
praise the Lord who brings to birth
the greatest star, the smallest flower.
Alleluia!

Let the heavens praise the Lord, Alleluia.
Moon and stars, praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Snow-capped mountains, praise the Lord. Alleluia.
Rolling hills, praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Deep sea water, praise the Lord. Alleluia.
Gentle rain, praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Roaring lion, praise the Lord. Alleluia.
Singing birds, praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Kings and princes, praise the Lord. Alleluia.
Young and old, praise the Lord. Alleluia.

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REFLECTION...

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

- Fr Michael Tate



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YR A RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS 71)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

'The manifestation of the Lord'

'Through the Incarnation, the generosity and mercy of God have finally appeared among us - in the life of one who is the very expression of the Father's greatness. And so, from earliest times the Church's Christmas celebration has made reference the Epiphany, or "Manifestation" of the Lord - symbolised in the story of today's gospel.

'The story is filled with symbolic meaning. The Magi represent the nations of the earth finding the Saviour of the world - in contrast to the scribes of Israel, familiar with the scriptures but not recognising their fulfilment; the gifts of the Magi are symbolic of the world's confession of faith in Christ - gold for royalty, frankincense for priesthood, myrrh for the one who is to die; notoriously ruthless Herod reminds us of earthly powers that obstruct the designs of God. We should note, especially, the significance of the words, "going in they saw the child with his mother, Mary".

'While Luke's narrative of Christ's conception and birth has Mary as its central figure, Matthew's account of the virgin birth is centred on Joseph. The words we have quoted, however, reflect the importance already given to Mary in the community that gave us Matthew's gospel.'

- Excerpt from a commentary by Fr John Thornhill SM

VIEW MASS AT HOME -

There are several options to tune into Mass at home when you can't join us:

- *Bishop Greg continues to online-stream Sunday Mass on the [Diocesan YouTube](#) channel - 9:00 am.*
- *Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am*

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 Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

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(Office re-opens Tuesday 10 Jan 2023)

