

THE SAVING WORD

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / C

5 JANUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2, 7-13

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

1. 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.**

2. 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

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.

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

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

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: B Leong, M Beaumont & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 12 Jan: The Baptism of the Lord

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will re-open on Thursday 9 January. For urgent matters, please leave a voice message or send us an email. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



Our Perpetual Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Mal 3:1; Chr 19:12)

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Mt 2:2)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Fr Varghese Kattikattu

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Carmelina Scandurra, Tom Sheehy

Thank You

We thank Fr Malcolm Crawford for celebrating Mass with us at St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South for the 4-5 January and 11-12 January weekends while Fr Pat Jackson is on holiday.

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes are invited to attend the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's Church on Saturday, 18 January. This will be followed by fellowship at St Joseph's Presbytery.

Please encourage the young adults of all our parishes to participate in this initiative. It is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise among their peers in the safe space of our parish.

For more information, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

Children's Liturgy

During 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's, children are invited to Children's Liturgy, where the Gospel of the day is read and explained at a level that the children can understand.

Please feel free to accompany your child/ren to the session. If you would like to assist in the programme, kindly contact the Parish Office.

Feast of St Vincent Pallotti

A common celebration for the Pallottines, the Associates in Melbourne and for all of us is being organised on Wednesday 22 January 2025 at Holy Cross Church with 11:30am Mass followed by lunch at the Parish Hall.



During the program an update on the happenings at the Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, will be shared. This will also be an opportunity for us to donate to this project.

For catering purposes, it would be helpful if you could RSVP by 19 January either by email to the parish office or inform Fr Leenus.

Any assistance with planning or helping on the day would be greatly appreciated. All welcome!



Jubilee Year Pilgrimages 2025

Holy Doors and Pilgrimages

For those wanting the experience of walking through the Holy Doors, the Archdiocese is offering two pilgrimages to Rome this year:

The First Pilgrimage

This will coincide with the Jubilee of Families, Grandparents & Elderly in May, with registrations closing on 7 February. Fr Andrew McCarter will accompany the pilgrims as their chaplain.

The Second Pilgrimage

This will coincide with the Jubilee of Youth in August, with registrations closing on 11 April. This pilgrimage is open to Catholics aged between 18 and 30 years. Fr Jude Johnson will accompany the pilgrims as their chaplain.

For more information regarding the above Pilgrimages, including how to register, contact Harvest Journeys at info@harvestjourneys.com or call 1800 819 156. See also posters on the notice boards.

These graced and hope-filled journeys will take us to the towns and cities of Italy, the homes of great saints like St Francis and St Clare, and soon-to-be canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, before culminating in a visit to the Eternal City of Rome, where we will walk through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica and participate in the Jubilee celebrations.

Local Pilgrim Places

For locals wanting to participate in this year's Jubilee and unable to travel to Rome, we have good news.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has revealed the 13 churches and shrines within the Archdiocese that will be designated Pilgrim Places for the purposes of the 2025 Jubilee, with the majestic St Patrick's Cathedral as the principal Pilgrim Place.

The designated pilgrim places are:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
- St Mary Star of the Sea (Archdiocese Shrine of the Holy Family), West Melbourne
- St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs
- St Luke's, Lalor
- St Mary Magdalene's, Trentham
- Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie/Essendon
- St Dominic's, Camberwell East
- St Francis Xavier, Mansfield
- Sacred Heart, Croydon
- Divine Mercy Shrine, Keysborough
- Our Lady of Lavang, Keysborough
- St Patrick's, Mentone
- St Macartan's, Mornington



Details of opening times and offerings at each Pilgrim Place will be announced soon.

Please scan the QR code for more information about the 2025 Jubilee.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

Epiphany of the Lord, Year C

Feast of the Three Kings

Today we remember the day when Baby Jesus was visited by the three Kings with gifts, guided by a star. But the focus point of today's celebration is neither the kings nor their



gifts nor the star, rather the fact that, that day Baby Jesus revealed the truth of himself for the whole world to know. Therefore this feast has the name "Epiphany". Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "to make known" or "to reveal."

This indicates that Jesus came for all people, all nations, all cultures and all races. It indicates that God's work of salvation is not limited to the Jews or to a few. We are all included in God's salvific plan.

Unless it was revealed to them, the kings would not have known the truths about the baby, lying in the manger, for, the baby did not look like a king, or like a God or like a Saviour. Even as they were choosing the gifts the hand of God was at work with them to choose the right gifts. On their way, the hand of God was in the form of a star guiding them.

The visit of the wise men and the visit of the shepherds were followed by millions, who have known the truth that is found in Jesus alone. Rejoice that we are counted among them.

It's good to remember that the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas did not start with Santa Claus. It started with the three kings. It is good to give gifts to each other; it is even better to give gifts to Jesus. If the kings offered Jesus gifts fit for Him, we too should do the same.

Let us give him gift of ourselves; that is, to live lives pleasing to Him throughout this New Year as He reveals Himself in our daily life's situations.

Fr Leenus.

My new year's resolution for 2024 was to stand up to my boss; which I did.

My new year's resolution for 2025 is to look for a job.

St Anthony's Christmas Day Dinner 2024



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Christmas Day Dinner such a success. Over 450 meals were served to our guests and about 50 served to our very tired volunteers at the end of the day.

Many guests asked us to pass on their thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to make their day so enjoyable. When all the bills are paid and the paperwork is complete we will publish a report.

Thank you for all your wonderful work and fantastic effort. You are all such a great example of how, when God's people work together, marvellous things can be achieved. Thanks to every one of you. May God bless all of you for what you have done.

Love, Gwen and the Team.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions held at St Joseph's Presbytery will resume on 9 January 2025 at 6:30pm. Please share with anyone interested in becoming a Catholic.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Going On Mission Again...

Hi! It's Joshua. It's really good to be back home! As you may know, I have spent the last 12 months serving in Sydney with 'Youth Mission Team Australia' bringing the Gospel to high school students across.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported me with prayers and donations!

With your help, my team and I were able to minister to over 7,700 students from all over New South Wales! According to their feedback, 82% of students indicated that they were impacted in the way they saw God and were encouraged to be more open to His friendship. That's over 6,300 young Australians more open to a relationship with Jesus!

We could not have had this impact if it weren't for your encouragement!

I have decided to continue to serve with YMT in 2025 as a volunteer. My hope is to serve in Melbourne so I can visit my home parish here more often!

Doing a second year means I am once again asking for your generous support. Like before, I need 10 donors who are willing to contribute \$10 per week (\$10 x 52 = \$520 total per donor).

As YMT is a non-profit organisation, we need your assistance in funding my year in mission so that we are able to have the same impact on many more young Australians who don't know God yet!

You can donate using the following links:

Donor - <https://form.jotform.com/233336688896072>

Contribution - <https://www.ymt.com.au/investinhope>

Please contact 0493 256 620 if you have any questions or if you would like to donate another way, e.g. cash or direct debit.

If you are unable to contribute the full \$10 per week you can give a smaller amount or you can offer prayers for the team and all the students we will encounter.

Thank you so much for all your support!

God bless,

Joshua La Bonne

The Jubilee Prayer



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen