

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord - Year B

Sunday 3 January 2021



Readings for this week:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for next Sunday:
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 55:1-11
Act 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11



Liturgical Jottings

Movable Feasts

Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas was celebrated on 6th January. In most western countries it is moved to the nearest Sunday. Hence it becomes another movable feast with Easter and another ten feasts in our liturgical Calendar. This feast may occur as early as 2nd January (2022) and as late as the 8th (2017, 2023). While the feast is not published in the Tables of Movable Feasts in missals and lectionaries we do find it listed in the table in the Australian and New Zealand Ordo. Ironically on this day the Epiphany Proclamation is sung or said announcing most of the movable feasts for the year.

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Looking at the Readings

The Mystery of the Epiphany of the Lord has many layers of meaning for us. An obvious mystery is the identity of the wise men. Who are they? From where do they come? To where do they go? How many are there? What are their nationalities and their names? What do the gifts mean? What star did they follow? Various traditions have supplied some theories concerning kingship, number, names and meaning of the gifts. Old Testament prophecies supply insights. Isaiah and the Responsorial Psalm speak of Kings from the East on camels bearing gifts of gold and frankincense.

Epiphany also reveals the insights into the mystery of the coming of Christ. He brings light to the peoples everywhere: to come and see God's action and presence in their lives. Also celebrating the Epiphany gives us hope and assurance to be sharers in the promises of Christ Jesus (Second Reading).

Quote for the Day

What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this child be truly God? Do you become foolish, O Wise Men? Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise. *St Bernard of Clairvaux*

Pope Francis on the Epiphany

In the Gospel (Mt 2:1-12), we heard the Magi begin by stating the reason why they have come: "We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him" Worship is the end and goal of their journey. Let us ask ourselves this question: Do we find time for worship in our daily schedules and do we make room for worship in our communities? It is up to us, as a Church, to put into practice the words we prayed in today's Psalm: "All the peoples on earth will worship you, O Lord". In worshipping, we too will discover, like the Magi, the meaning of our journey. And like the Magi, we too will experience "a great joy". *Pope Francis Homily 6 January 2020*

Prayer for the Day

God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son, we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and great of every land that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be brought into captivity. Amen. *Opening Prayer from the Church in Jerusalem Liturgy*

On the Lighter Side

"People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas."



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Joe Vraca
	Our sick and their carers	Sue MacDonald

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM Fr John Paul

This time last year when we were bringing in 2020, none of us imagined what 2020 would bring. Did you ever believe that all the churches would be closed in Australia and all the other places of worship? I did not think that I would be celebrating Mass for a large part of the year via YouTube and that on a Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we would only see 5, then 10, then 20 people at Mass services in our beautiful Sacred Heart Church in Tatura.

2020 has been a challenging year for many people in our Parish, in Victoria, in Australia and around the world, and 2021 will continue to challenge many of us. What we must do is look forward to 2021 with hope and love, and know that no matter what happens in 2021, it is in accordance with God's will. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us "for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

It is always a blessing to see the light of a New Year and this year more so than ever we have every reason to be thankful for God's countless blessings during 2020, and be hopeful for His ever-abiding presence with us in 2021.

I would like to wish all our Parishioners and the Tatura Community a very happy, healthy and safe 2021. Let's end this year with a thankful heart and start the new year with peace and faith.

Dear Lord,
Thank you for helping us to make it through 2020.
Thank you that you have been there for us through all the uncertainty that 2020 has presented. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.
As we prepare for 2021 we look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give us the courage to carry out Your will. Show us how to walk in Your grace and embrace Your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Mass Timetable Week commencing 4th January

Weekday Mass

Monday 4 th January	No Mass
Tuesday 5 th January	No Mass
Wednesday 6 th January	9:15 Liturgy
Thursday 7 th January	No Mass
Friday 8 th January	9:15 Liturgy

Weekend Mass

Saturday 9 th January	5:30 pm
Sunday 10 th January	9:30 am

At this stage Reconciliation is by appointment only, please call Mary on 0484 332 397 to book.



The Epiphany of Our Lord

This weekend we celebrate we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the most important celebrations of the Liturgical Year. This Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of the Messiah or the Saviour of the world to all the nations and the peoples of the world. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known."

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and next Sunday we celebrate Christ's baptism.

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