



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



Readings for
next Sunday Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Liturgical Jottings

The Star

In Christmas pageants, an eagerly sought role is the one who is to be the star or the carrier of the star on a staff. It is the star that guides the Wise Men from the East to the house in Bethlehem. It is marvellous that children enjoy guiding people to the infant Christ. The Bethlehem Star often tops Christmas trees in civic, church and home settings.

The Star is mentioned eight times in the liturgy, five during the feast of the Epiphany and twice during Easter. But only twice it is called the Guiding Star (Collects of Epiphany Day and the Friday after). Other occurrences the star is that which gives light and justice. What predominates the prayers on the Epiphany is Christ the light, the light of the nations, the light that dispels darkness. These themes are more noticeably found in the Epiphany blessing. (see opposite)

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Focus on the Readings

We have heard the expression: "Pursue your dreams." Or "Follow your stars" There are many songs titled "Follow your Dreams". Today we celebrate the day when three Easterners followed a mysterious star. It became their quest and yearning to discover something, someone beyond their present understanding and experiences. Such a quest was prophesied by Isaiah in the first reading: nations are invited to come to the light, a new dawn, God glory has appeared!

St Paul writes of a mystery that has now been revealed to his own generations and for all generations and peoples that God has delivered his promises in Christ Jesus. We are all participants in this mystery.

The Feast of the Epiphany centres on the visit of the wise men from the East to the infant King as recorded by Matthew. Yet the feast reveals more: With Christmas we celebrate the coming of the saviour, the gift to all nations. It is a time for gift giving, for baptisms, blessing of homes. We also recognise in the feast the presence of sadness or doom symbolised by the gift of myrrh (funerary spice) and of malefaction. Therefore the wise men decided to go home a different way to avoid the treachery of Herod. It is a time to look forward, to lift our eyes and look around to see God's dream for us.

Epiphany Blessing

May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,

pour out in kindness his blessing upon you and make your hearts firm in faith, hope and charity. Amen.

And since in all confidence you follow Christ, who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness, may God make you, too, a light for your brothers and sisters. Amen.

And so when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

Quotable Quote

"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain, now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question."

St Peter Chrysologus (c 400-450)

On the Lighter Side

There's nothing better when something comes and hits you and you think "YES!" J. K. Rowling



 Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	

NEXT TWO WEEK'S ROSTERS

Sunday 12th January

Commentator: Debbie Worm
 Reader: Ross Kelly
 Gospel Procession: Mary Gale
 Gifts: Steve & Simone De Lai
 Special Minister: Evert Worm
 Screen Operator: Lou Worm
 Music Operator: Trish Warnett
 Money Counters: C Coulston & L Worm

Saturday 18th January 6:00pm

Commentator: Carol Coulston
 Reader: Denice Bourke
 Gospel Procession: Deb Turvey
 Gifts: J Caiafa & D Hamilton
 Screen Operator: Anne Hutchison
 Music Operator: Trish Warnett

Sunday 19th January 10:30am

Commentator: Mary Gale
 Reader: Debbie Worm
 Gospel Procession: Connie Serra
 Gifts: A Basile & L Mercuri
 Special Minister: Ross Kelly
 Screen Operator: Steve De Lai
 Music Operator: Trish Warnett
 Money Counters: S De Lai & M Gale

Thanks to all of our volunteers, we appreciate the support you give to your parish.

Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of parish.

May God bless you always.

Last week: \$490.00



Three Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 8th January

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 8th January 9:15am
 Friday 10th January 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sunday 12th January 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 15th January 9:15am
 Friday 17th January 9:15am

Weekend Masses

Sat 18th January 6:00pm
 Sun 19th January 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 22nd January 9:15am
 Friday 24th January 9:15am

Weekend Mass

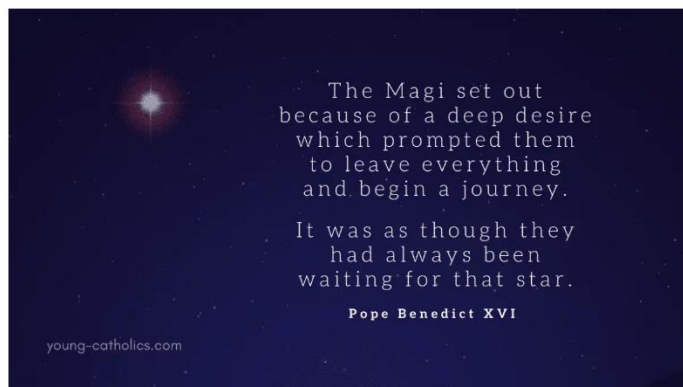
Sunday 26th January 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am
Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church
Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30pm
Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month
 at 2pm in St Mary's Hall.
 All welcome.



The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. – Pope Benedict XVI

Updated rosters are available in the Narthex and on the website.

Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage. *Matthew 2:2*

ST SEBASTIAN'S MERRIGUM

It is with sadness that we announce the decision has been made and confirmed with the Bishops guidance, that St Sebastian's church Merrigum will be closed. The Bishop will be decommissioning the church on Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 12 noon.

Please save the date and please share with past parishioners.



VANUATU EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties. Hundreds of people are injured or trapped under rubble. At least 14 people have died with the death toll expected to rise. People remain fearful of further disaster, as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis. This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are with emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts.

Donate via QR Code or at <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>

Discover how Raphael & Leonardo depicted the Eucharist



Visit Stanza della Segnatura in the Vatican & the refectory of the Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, and all without the need of a passport.

A ZOOM event Wednesday
15 Jan, 2025, 7.30-9.30pm.

Book before 9am Tues 14 Jan at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CXUWY>

A Catholic School of Evangelisation free event.
Donations are gratefully received.

Feast of the Presentation Mass (formerly Alf Seiter (RIP) Grotto Mass at Wunghu) . The Macgill family invite you to our home to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation, prayers for our priests, seminarians and vocations, there will also be Blessing of the candles.

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

Venue: 70 Tank Corner East Road , Lemnos
Date: Tuesday 4th of February
Time: 7.00 pm Rosary 7.30 pm Mass
Bring your candles for "Blessing of the candles". Please bring a plate to share, and a chair, tea and coffee provided. All Welcome

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord
shines upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

young-catholics.com

The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord commemorates when Jesus Christ was revealed as the Messiah.

The Gospel of Matthew recounts that three wise men from the East visited our savior after his birth and acknowledged him with gifts representing kingship, priesthood, and death.

The Feast of the Epiphany highlights key themes in the story of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. These themes help us understand the importance of Jesus' birth and His mission for all people.

The Epiphany is not just about an event long ago. It reminds us that Jesus' mission is for everyone. He came for all nations and all people. The light of Jesus shines on us today, guiding us and showing us the way. This light invites us to follow Jesus and to share His light with others.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, light of the world, guide us to You. Help us to see Your light in our lives. May we follow Your example of humility and love. Teach us to share Your light with others, showing them the way to Your truth and grace. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

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