

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Year B

3rd January, 2021

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 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

(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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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
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

REFLECTION See Page 4



ST PATRICK'S PARISH

142 Princes Hwy, Pakenham

Parish Office: 5941 7315, Parish Website: www.stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Email: parishoffice@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Parish Team

Fr. Janeesh Jose (Parish Priest)

Mary Craven (Parish Secretary)

parishoffice@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Katrina Venn (Pastoral Worker)

katrina@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Siji Dominic (Pastoral Worker)

siji@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Herbie O'Flynn (Safeguarding Officer)

safetyofficer@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Jane Parsons (Pastoral Associate)

Shannagolden 5945 3800

Marg'Driscoll, (Director)

St Clare's Early Learning Centre, 5940 6799

Helen Staindl, (Principal)

St Clare's Primary School, 5940 6777

Simon Dell'Oro, (Principal)

St Patrick's Primary School, 59439000

Vincent J.Feeney,(Principal)

St Francis Xavier College, 9707 3111

MASS BOOKINGS:

You don't need to book online for **weekday** Masses.

Register your Name at the door

You need to book for Weekend Masses through our parish website.

The Year of St Joseph

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis released his Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"). Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Read more: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

Weekday Mass Times

05/01	Tuesday	NO MASS
06/01	Wednesday	NO MASS
07/01	Thursday	NO MASS
08/01	Friday	NO MASS
09/01	Saturday	6.00 pm
10/01	Sunday	9.00 am 10.30 am

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 9.30 am

Exposition and Rosary: Saturday at 9.30 am

Parish Office Working Hours

As Covid-19 Restrictions ease we are returning to the office Mary is there each morning 8am-11.30 am (approx.) but Please email your enquires to the parish email or leave a message on the phone, and we shall get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you!

BOOKINGS FOR BAPTISMS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN AS THE RESTRICTIONS EASE.

If you would like to discuss your child's Baptism please call Mary at the parish office 59417315 Next Baptism Prep is January 13th by Zoom link. Please call office to register your interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of this land, who have walked upon and cared for it for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Safeguarding

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people and adults at risk.

Parish Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: John and Joshua

Anniversaries: Thelma Fennell, Clare Vandenberg

Recently Deceased: Ethel Luker Fr Joselito V Chavez
Marcos Agulto

Welcome Fr Paul Zaher as our assistant priest:

Bishop Greg has appointed newly ordained Fr Paul Zaher, to be assistant to Fr Janeesh, commencing his duties on January 20th, 2021 We look forward to wel-

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings January 3rd

Our Paddy's Kitchen team will be holding a Sausage Sizzle outside Bunnings between 9-4pm on January 3rd. Please come along —enjoy a sausage and support Paddy's Kitchen as they resume serving meals on the first and third Sundays of

A VERY BIG THANK YOU:

Thank you to all who have helped make our return to a Covid Normal Christmas so special
To our choir,
Special ministers,

Decorators, florists, cleaners, ushers,
Sacristans, Altar servers, cake cutters,
And all our volunteers

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy & Safe NEW YEAR

SHANAGOLDEN ROSARY GROUP:

Email jane.parsons@vmch.com.au for prayer requests.

ST. PATRICK'S GIFT SHOP: Open before and after all weekend masses or by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

CATHOLIC CARE: Counselling services 1800522076
Or visit 1 Rogers Street, Pakenham.

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Meets in the Parish library on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1.30 pm
Help Line is 1300305330.

PADDY'S KITCHEN: 1ST AND 3RD Sundays of each month
Contact Sue 0409202903 stpatrickspaddys@gmail.com

Parish Roster

TIME	READERS	SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
6.00 pm	Volunteer	Volunteer
9.00 am	Volunteer	Volunteer
10.30 am	Volunteer	Volunteer
Next Week	READERS	SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
6.00 pm	Volunteer	Volunteer
9.00 am	Volunteer	Volunteer
10.30 am	Volunteer	Volunteer

OUR OFFERINGS TO OUR PARISH

Stewardship envelope: \$867

Stewardship cash \$540.00

Presbytery \$369.91

(2nd collection)

Thank you for your contributions, they are greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your Contribution to the parish.

If you would like to donate online:

St Patrick's Parish Pakenham – Donations

Bank: National Australia Bank

BSB: 083-879

Account Number: 75 577 0740

Parish Events



Bishop Greg's Christmas Message is available at the following link [https:// www.cdsale.org.au/news/ bishop-greg-bennet -s-christmas-message-2020](https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/bishop-greg-bennet-s-christmas-message-2020) and also via our Diocesan YouTube account by searching "Catholic Diocese of Sale" on YouTube. A printed version is also available



Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

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; mtate@bigpond.com