

'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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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

8 JANUARY 2023

QUEST FOR TRUTH

Truth, like greatness, can come to us in a variety of ways. Some search for it and others have it thrust upon them. What brought the wise men from afar on such a journey of great adventure, risk and discovery? They were indeed people seeking the truth, and even more importantly, they were open to the new and unexpected ways in which that truth came to them. As they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the vision of that great prophet Isaiah is fulfilled. He knew that the call that Israel had received was one destined to be shared by all humanity, united in its worship of the living God. As a reward for their tireless quest for the truth, the wise men receive the gift of knowledge and understanding. It is not so with Herod. The truth is most unwelcome and is thrust upon him. The message of the astrologers from the East is decidedly unsettling for Herod: if this child is the newborn king of the Jews what will be Herod's status in the future?

Paul too has travelled, searched and wrestled with the truth that God wishes to be proclaimed to the world. It is a message that has the power to both liberate and discomfort. Gentiles who accept Jesus now share the same promises and inheritance as the people of Israel. They are part of the same body. Jewish Christians had to deal with the fact that what had been their exclusive privilege was now extended to the Gentiles and that this too was part of God's plan to be graciously accepted.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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.v.11

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 wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.

8 Jan 23
Wk 2 Yr A
'Epiphany'

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Administration Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden, Wendy Emery
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon

Thurs: 9 am

Fri: 9 am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said:

ANTIPHON: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Des Saunders, Val McInnes (Riordan), Margaret Greentree, Lyn Moore, Andrew Brennan, Beryl Wright.

ANNIVERSARIES: Richard Bowler (1/12), John Paul Vella (2/12), Perce McInnes (2/12) Gloria Lillicrap (20/12), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Davy (nee Barry) (6/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Taylor (20/1).

DECEASED: Relatives and friends of Kathie O'Brien, Pamela Davy, Rod Kelly, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth, Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Terry Dean, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, William Bonner, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Peter Richards, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

VEENA'S VERSIONS:

A man once asked a wise man.

'What is the secret to eternal happiness?' the man asked.

The wise man replied 'To not argue with fools.'

The man said 'I disagree.' ... To which the wise man replied

'Yes, you are right.'

COMING EVENTS:

13 - 22 Jan. Tamworth Country Music Festival

9 Jan 23 The Baptism of the Lord

4 Mar 23 Save the Date Special Event TBA



'God is good.' (1872)

COVID GUIDE: * **FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**
* **ANTISEPTIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.**



PASSING OF POPE BENEDICT XVI: Head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013. Benedict's election as pope occurred in the 2005 papal conclave that followed the death of Pope John Paul II. With immense sorrow but also with tender confidence in the everlasting love and mercy of the Almighty, His Holiness has come home to the Father's House, having peacefully passed away at 9:34am on Saturday, the 31st of December in the Year of our Lord 2022 at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery at Vatican City. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Catholic Weekly—This weeks edition includes a special 4-page wrap devoted to Pope Emeritus Benedict. Next week edition will also include a special commemorative magazine. Cost \$2 limited numbers available

2023 SAVE THE DATES: Following the success of the Evangelise 2022 Diocesan hubs Bishop Kennedy invites interested parishioners to attend a series of follow-up zoom hubs and face to face gatherings to be held across the diocese on the following Fridays 24th February, 26th May, 25th August, 17th November. Participants will be provided with input from speakers regarding Evangelisation along with food, sharing of ideas and discussion. Further information regarding venue of hubs, timings etc will be provided closer to the date

Saturday 4 March 2023: *Sr Kathryn has also asked that we all save this date. Something special is coming ... watch this space for details.

NEW YEAR ROSTERS: As we begin 2023 we would love to see more volunteers assist with what can be done during Masses, particularly readers, cleaners after Mass and counters.

*If you can assist please call or email the office or let Father know. Thank you.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082105 West Tamworth Catholic Ch. (St Pats) Acc 001041198
West Tamworth Presbytery (Dioc) Acc 001023642

POPE FRANCIS ON THE EPIPHANY:

"It means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us, as an ever-present cranny in the wall that beckons us to look into the distance,

WEEK 5 ROSTER: 8/1/23

Vigil: R P Bamford, D Gowing
9am Sun: R J Ryan, G Clout
5.30pm Sun: R Volunteer, J Murray,
Sat Cleaning 14/1 S Brown, V Griffiths
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 15/1/23

Vigil: R D Gowing, P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R D Bearman/**Vol.** M Murray
Sat Cleaning 21/1 K O'Brien, J Cunningham
Altar Linen: J Hutt

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land 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.

