

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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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / B

7 JANUARY 2024

"YOUR LIGHT HAS COME"

Wait! Don't pack up your Christmas tree and crib just yet! Today's feast is the celebration of the coming of the magi with their gifts. They come, as we hear in our Gospel today, because they "observed his star at its rising" (Matt 2:2). Their seeking of the child who has been born the king of the Jews takes us as hearers on the journey to see the revelation, the epiphany, of Jesus as the Messiah.

Following the star, the magi will be brought to a house where, on entering, "they saw the child with Mary his mother" (v.11). Coming from the East they are Gentiles who recognise who Jesus is and fall to their knees and pay him homage.

From the outset of Matthew's Gospel in the unfolding of the genealogy it is clear that "Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (1:1) is enfolded in the covenant of God with Abraham where God makes him the ancestor of a multitude of nations (Gen 17:4-6). This Gospel will conclude with the sending out of the eleven disciples to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). The first worshippers of the Lord bring out their gifts of treasure. Through this child the treasures of the kingdom of heaven will be revealed. What can it mean to us to realise "your light has come" and to recognise and worship our Lord among us? How do we encounter the treasure of the kingdom of heaven in our lives today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

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

7 Jan 2024
Epiphany Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



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

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Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am Sun: 5 pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon
Thur: 9 am Mass Fri: 12 noon Mass

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The brightness of God illuminated the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Mooney, Grzegorz (Greg) Jurek, Cathie Mencke.

ANNIVERSARIES: John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Mary Davy (nee Barry (6/1), Mary Sampson(18/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Taylor (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

DECEASED: Sr Iris Fittler rsj, Jacqueline Galvin, Father Morrie Clarke, Jack Sampson, Hugh and Dalis O'Brien, John O'Brien, Raphael, Evita and Philomena Smith, Peter Nally, Fr John Carey, Sandra Sheedy, Frank Koppman (Fr Anthony's Dad) Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Elaine Murray, Pauline Miller, Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Shane Davidson, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Norma O'Brien, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Fr Bernie Flood, Pauline Wiley.

VEENA'S THREE WISE DOGS: Three Wise Dogs (including Veena) have let it slip that there is an event occurring this week which Veena will celebrate with another very wise man. This wise man's wisdom has developed by growing '*in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man*'(Luke 2:52). Who could this wise man be?

Veena has told us to keep it a secret that her wise master, Fr Anthony, will celebrate his 60th birthday this Monday 8 January. We are so blessed to have Fr Anthony as our pastor, spiritual leader and padre with his wisdom, his compassion, his humor and his strength. Please be sure to wish Fr Anthony many happy returns when you see him this weekend. You might even join with the choir to sing happy birthday.

COMING EVENTS:

19th-28th Jan Tamworth Country Music Festival
14 Feb Ash Wednesday

26 Jan Australia Day



"My one constant prayer for those that I love is that God in his love may grant them a happy death." (1868)



IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2024: STARTS TODAY: FISHERS OF MEN:

Daily Mass, Adoration and the Rosary, praise and worship, fellowship and more! There are two different programs, -Youth & adults (14 years & up): 1-6 Jan. 2024 Married couples & families (specifically designed for married couples. Includes children's and teens program): 7-10 Jan 2024. Special guest speakers: Dan & Stephanie Burke from the USA (co-founders of the Avila Institute, presenters on EWTN. Dan is an author of over 15 books on Catholic spirituality), plus Fr Francesco Gavazzi (from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal). Held: NEGS (New England Girls' School), Armidale NSW. For costs, additional information and to register visit:

<http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims>

2024 ROSTERS: Should anyone be interested in reading, counting, cleaning or other parish volunteer duties in 2024 please call or email the office and supply your contact details. We are especially short of readers for Sunday afternoon masses . Please volunteer if you are able to do this now and into the future. Thank you.

2024 - YEAR OF PRAYER: After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer.

LENTEN GROUPS: Lent commences early on 14 February. If you would like to join a Lenten group, please contact the office by email or phone.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: **BSB 082 105**

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Pats Church) Acc No:001041198

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule. We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.

May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 7/1/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos Di Bolitho
9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R Volunteers
Counting Team P Shiels; A Bowden
Fri Cleaning M Vella A Jones
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 4 ROSTER: 14/1/24

Vigil: R D Gowing Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Brown, M Donaldson
5.00pm Sun: R Volunteer C Lavell
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: M Vella

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

