

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. '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

## A UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Matthew's Gospel addresses Jewish/Israelite followers of Jesus living in troubled and confusing times in the later part of the first century. The Temple, the centre of Jewish religious life, is destroyed; Matthew's audience seeks confidence and direction anew. All it has is the Torah (the Old Testament teaching from the first five books of the Bible). The evangelist offers the Torah, the Jewish Scriptures, refracted through the teaching of Jesus, as foundational to engage their future with confidence.

Matthew is also aware that the future of the Jesus movement will have to be open to other peoples and cultures—like the missionary thrust of the Church today. Today's Gospel of the Magi following a star and seeking the birthplace of the 'king of the Jews' anticipates the Gospel's future universal growth. The Magi, perhaps Syrian astronomers, come seeking what they astrologically read in the cosmos, the one who rules over everything. But to know the exact place they also need the help of the Scriptures, offered by Herod's priests. These two aspects, science and God's Word, collaborate to give meaning and direction to the Magi's quest.

The star leads them to a *house*. Here they come to the end of their search as they worship the child Jesus and offer gifts worthy of a king. This third element, the domestic and household setting of the child's birth, adds a final dimension to a theologically rich story. Within our own local and domestic lives, we embark on a search to discover Jesus anew, assisted by the science of our world and the Scriptures that we treasure, listen to each Sunday and upon which we meditate.

Fr Michael Trainor



EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

4 JANUARY 2026

## 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.**

- 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.**
- 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.**
- 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.**
- 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!

04 January 2026  
Epiphany of the Lord  
Year A

**WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH**  
**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Administrator** Fr Saji Kappikuzhi  
**Office Administration** Sheryl Brown, Di Bolitho  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Mon & Fri: 9.30 am - 1.30pm**  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND** Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5 pm

**MASSES**

**WEEKDAY** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12noon

**MASSES** Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

**ENTRANCE** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
**ANTIPHON:** And kindship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**COMMUNION** We have seen his star in the east,  
**ANTIPHON:** and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Daphne Sweeney, Laurie Brodbeck, Barry Borham, Eric Chua.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Richard Bowler (1/12), Perce McInnes (2/12), John Paul Vella (4/12), Mary Sampson (2/01), John O'Brien (3/01), Pamela Davy [nee Barry] (06/01), Rod Kelly (20/01), Lawrence Vella (23/01).

**DECEASED:** We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, William Grima, Paul Zammit, Hugh & Dalis O'Brien, Margaret Hudson, Barry Lane, Norma Simmonds, Vincent Pendergast, Phil Eather, John Galloway, Patrick McBrearty.

**SICK:** Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, John Ryan, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Barbara Brennan, Eileen Hudson, Rose Pace, Elizabeth Coroneos.

### THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS

For some Christians, the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.



### **COMING EVENTS:**

**04 Jan:** Fr Saji's 20th Anniversary of Ordination

**11 Jan:** Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Saji

**COLLECTIONS:** BSB: 082 105

**Account Name:** West Tamworth Catholic - 'Church' Or 'Presbytery'

**1st Collection:** Goes to Armidale Diocese Clergy: 001023642 (Presbytery Acc.) Armidale

**2nd Collection:** Goes to St. Patrick's Church: 001041198 (Church Acc.) Tamworth

Happy New Year

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh offered by the Magi are rich in symbolism and have long been understood as revealing who Jesus is and what his mission will be.

Gold is the gift for a king, acknowledging Jesus as the royal Son of David.

Frankincense, a costly resin used in temple worship, points to his divine identity and his role as the one who brings God's presence to his people.

Myrrh, a perfume used both in healing and in burial, foreshadows the suffering and death he will endure for the salvation of the world.

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**CONGRATULATIONS FATHER SAJI:** Fr Saji will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of his Ordination this Sunday (4th Jan). Father, we offer you our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

**REMINDER - FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR FR SAJI:** To show our appreciation, a morning tea will be held for Fr Saji next Sunday 11th January 2026, after 9am Mass. Please bring a small plate of food to share, if possible.

**ROSTER UPDATES:** In the new year all rosters will be updated and if you would like to be added to any you would be warmly welcomed to these ministries, particularly readers.

### **ROSTER FOR: 04/01/26**

**Vigil:**

**R:** Volunteer D Bolitho

**Gifts:**

K. O'Brien, M. Asbury

**9am Sun:**

**R:** J Ryan, G Clout

**Gifts:**

B. Schipp, C. Grima

**5pm Sun:**

**R** C Lavell, Volunteer

**Gifts:**

Volunteer

**Counting:**

P. Sheils, S. Brown

**Altar Linen:**

H. Reid

**Fri Cleaning**

M. Brown, K. O'Brien

### **ROSTER FOR: 11/01/26**

**Vigil:**

**R:** N Pullman, P Bamford

**Gifts:**

A & C Lyons

**9am Sun:**

**R:** D Gowing, A Sartori

**Gifts:**

G & U McKay

**5.00pm Sun:**

**R:** A O'Halloran

**Gifts:**

Volunteer

**Counting Team :**

M. Vella, A. Bowden

**Altar Linen:**

J. Hutt

**Fri Cleaning**

J. Hutt, J. Moran

*We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and cared 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.*

