

St Gregory's Catholic Parish



Priest: Fr Tony Percy PP

E: Tony.Percy@cg.org.au | 0431 225 574

www.st.gregsqueanbeyan.com

Office Team: Ann Burgess & Lisa Mudge

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9am -1pm

Phone 0490 394 096



4 and 5 January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and
dominion.

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.

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.

Continued overleaf.....

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

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.

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

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.

mtate@bigpond.com

Want to learn more about faith?

Are you not baptised, but interested in becoming Catholic?

Are you baptised outside of the Catholic Church, but looking to learn more about Catholicism?

Are you a baptised Catholic, but looking to learn more and deepen your Faith?

(Click on the link below for more info)

<https://www.stgregsqueanbeyan.com/>