

Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

The Feast of the Epiphany

While the hustle and bustle of Christmas ends for many people on Dec 26, (Boxing Day) throughout Christian history Christmas lasts for twelve days – all the way until Jan 6.

This feast marking the end of Christmas is called “Epiphany”.

In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men, but also in his baptism in the Jordan and at the wedding at Cana. This powerful feast in the church’s calendar predates the original Christmas feast - Jesus is the light to the whole world. It is a wonderfully rich and disturbing Gospel starting with the outsiders, the wise men from the east following the Star!

The first week of our New Year 2023 has unfortunately been marred by family tragedies, a number of drownings, some terrible car accidents and the collision involving the two helicopters on the Gold Coast. All these traumatic deaths occurring while people were on holidays.

Our thoughts and prayers for all those involved and affected by these sad accidents.



And, this week ended with the historic Funeral Mass for Emeritus Pope Benedict, presided over by a very frail Pope Francis. Might our present Pope move into retirement, continuing the Benedict effect?

I’m reminded of that famous Chinese proverb: “May you live in interesting times”.

What a week - may the light of Jesus shine in our lives each day and give comfort to all those in need at this time. May this special ‘Feast of the Epiphany’ bring light to our journey ahead.

Michael

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit pol.org.au/eltham or pol.org.au/montmorency.

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.





Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

Montmorency

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Margaret Farrell, Pat Heagerty, Walter Lee

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Arturo Bacani, Tony Belfiore, Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Alana Foulds Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam, Lita Lee, Frances McDonald, Cindy Morrissey, Andrew Pighin, Aguatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Violetta, Jade McAlear, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman, James Sutton, Sarah Thompson

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Reflection:

Matthew’s account of the visit of the Magi has all the ingredients of a gripping drama for stage or screen. Seekers from afar, mysterious signs, corruption at court, unwitting authorities, and a vulnerable target all make for an exciting story. Matthew, however, is not out to entertain his readers but to enlighten them.

He achieves three things at least. He identifies the Christ-child as the long-awaited messiah; he anticipates the apostles’ mission to preach the good news to all nations (28:19); and he foreshadows the conspiracy that will succeed in executing God’s anointed one.

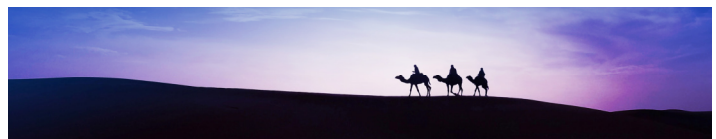
A corollary of Matthew’s story-telling success is the wealth of invention it has sparked ever since, especially about the number and identity of the Magi (whom Matthew never names as kings) and about the meaning of the gifts. For all the charm of this creative imagination, Matthew’s purpose must not be lost sight of.

Except for allusions in some Christmas carols, today is the only day in the annual cycle of readings that this story is told. Summer holidays may mean smaller congregations, but those who attend would be blessed to hear it proclaimed with flair and preached on with insight.

Break Open the Word 2023

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 7/8 Jan 2023	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Emslie, Maureen	W6:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Jones, Marion	W6:00
McEwen, Christopher	R10:00
Milwain, Gianna	ASE
Nolan, Kathleen	C10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Ryan Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 14/15 Jan 2023	
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Frediani, Gabriella	ASE
Furtado, Lionel	R10:00
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Michael	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Scannell Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister;
H = Hospitality; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;
W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader



Prayers of the Faithful for 1 January 2023 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Leader: Like the Magi in the Gospel, rejoicing in meeting the Saviour, let us proclaim to all people the love of the new-born Christ, and let us offer these prayers in His name.

We pray that Christians everywhere become the light of hope and peace that draws people to meet our Saviour.
Christ our Light, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Or world abounds with riches, we pray that governments of all nations ensure the just sharing of resources.
King of Glory, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

As burning frankincense spreads its fragrance of salvation, we pray that the good news be spread to the whole world.
Saviour King, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

With the myrrh of your embalming, Lord Jesus, we pray to you that the sick, and the troubled will find in you a new hope.
Christ Jesus, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray that parents and teachers guide our young in their life choices for the service of humanity.
Son of the Father, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, and those whose anniversaries we remember, *Margaret Farrell, Pat Heagerty & Walter Lee*, we pray that they will rest peacefully in the light of God’s presence.
Christ of the Resurrection, we pray to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you who reveals the love of the Father for all humankind, listen to the prayers of your Church and respond to our calls - you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen