

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



The Epiphany of the Lord

8 January 2023

readings

Next Week

Is 49:3, 5-6
Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10
1 Cor 1:1-3
Jn 1:29-34

in a nutshell

They offered him gifts. For some Christians the feast of the 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 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.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.
For those who have died recently, especially Martin Kelly, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Weekday liturgies are canceled for the next two weeks. Sunday Masses remain the same.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

(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.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon

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

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)
7:00pm (EDST)
Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction
First Friday—11:30am Warburton

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm
Thursdays at Yarra Junction
First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm
Thursdays at Yarra Junction
First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.sjyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Web: <http://pol.org.au/upperyarravalley>

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community. Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Mary Ryan
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Wednesday, 1 February

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

Parish Notices

Holiday Office Hours

Janine will be back in the office Thursday 12 January.

Fr Michel will be taking holidays in the weeks beginning Monday 9 & 16 January. No weekday masses or activities but Fr Michel will be saying Mass as usual on the weekends.

Save the Date: Sunday February 19 2023

All parishioners are invited to a "Shrove" Sunday Pancake breakfast after the morning Mass at Yarra Junction. More details to come.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic Adoration is simply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic Celebration, which is itself the Church's supreme act of adoration. (Pope Benedict XV1)

Confession: Because we have never seen God and because we cannot begin to imagine his infinite greatness, goodness and holiness as they really exist in him, we can never really appreciate the seriousness of offending Him. We as Christians must take evil seriously in order to take God and his Christ seriously and recognise our accountability before Him. (Fr. Antony Jones)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

New Thanksgiving/stewardship Envelopes

Envelopes for the next 6 months are now available. Please note that you may have a different number. Due to the reduced number of givers we have ordered fewer envelopes and so have had to issue some people with a new number. **It would be best to throw out any old envelopes.**

Consider contributing to assist in the upkeep of the Parish through a stewardship pledge. Contact the office to become part of this either by direct debit or envelopes. Only money in envelopes goes towards the support of the parish, loose cash supports the Parish Priest.

Family Online Resource

CathFamily is an online database of prayers, activities, recipes and articles celebrating Catholic culture. Used extensively by parents, teachers and catechists, it equips them with ideas and resources to assist in passing on the faith to the next generation. www.CathFamily.org

Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land creatively blends **live music, media and sacred art** for an **evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny**. Join Christopher West and team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of St John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*.

Choose from:

Tuesday 24 January 2023, St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park

Wednesday 25 January 2023, St Mary's Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong

Schedule:

6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish

Open to all. *All children under 18 years must be supervised by an adult.* Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 concession/student, free for children 10 and under.

Register: www.trybooking.com/CETXQ

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas! To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

Something to Make You Smile

A couple who had been married for forty years were entertaining friends at a dinner party when the conversation turned to marriage counselling. "We'll never need that," said the wife confidently. "George and I have a great relationship. You see, it's all a question of education." "How do you mean?" asked one of the friends. "Well, she continued. "At university, George did a communications course and I studied drama. So, he communicates really well and I act like I'm listening."

Readings Reflection

[A King to Behold](#)

An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the Child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth" (see Micah 5:1–3).

Those promises of Israel's king ruling the nations resound also in today's Psalm. The psalm celebrates David's son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch "to the ends of the earth," and the world's kings will pay him homage. That's the scene too in today's First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing "gold and frankincense" for Israel's king.

The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the "kings of the earth" (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14).

One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are "co-heirs" of the royal family of Israel, as today's Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](http://Dr.ScottHahnstpaulcenter.com)

God is light; in him there is no darkness

The light that shone in the night at Christmas illuminating the Bethlehem Grotto, where Mary, Joseph and the shepherds remained in silent adoration, shines out today and is manifested to all. The Epiphany is a mystery of light, symbolically suggested by the star that guided the Magi on their journey. The true source of light, however, the “sun that rises from on high” (cf. Lk 1:78), is Christ.

In the mystery of Christmas, Christ’s light shines on the earth, spreading, as it were, in concentric circles. First of all, it shines on the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Virgin Mary and Joseph are illuminated by the divine presence of the Infant Jesus. The light of the Redeemer is then manifested to the shepherds of Bethlehem, who, informed by an Angel, hasten immediately to the grotto and find there the “sign” that had been foretold to them: the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (cf. Lk 2:12).

The shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, represent that “remnant of Israel”, the poor, the *anawim*, to whom the Good News was proclaimed. Finally, Christ’s brightness shines out, reaching the Magi who are the first-fruits of the pagan peoples.

The palaces of the rulers of Jerusalem, to which, paradoxically, the Magi actually take the news of the Messiah’s birth, are left in the shade. Moreover, this news does not give rise to joy but to fear and hostile reactions. The divine plan was mysterious: “The light came into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were wicked” (Jn 3:19).

But what is this light? Is it merely an evocative metaphor or does this image correspond to reality? The Apostle John writes in his First Letter: “God is light; in him there is no darkness” (1 Jn 1:5); and further on he adds: “God is love”. These two affirmations, taken together, help us to understand better: the light that shone forth at Christmas, which is manifested to the peoples today, is God’s love revealed in the Person of the Incarnate Word. Attracted by this light, the Magi arrived from the East.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, therefore, alongside an expanding outward movement, a movement of attraction toward the centre is expressed which brings to completion the movement already written in the Old Covenant. The source of this dynamism is God, One in Three Persons, who draws all things and all people to himself. The Incarnate Person of the Word is presented in this way as the beginning of universal reconciliation and recapitulation (cf. Eph 1:9–10).

He is the ultimate destination of history, the point of arrival of an “exodus”, of a providential journey of redemption that culminates in his death and Resurrection. Therefore, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the liturgy foresees the so-called “Announcement of Easter”: indeed, the liturgical year sums up the entire parable of the history of salvation, whose centre is “the Triduum of the Crucified Lord, buried and risen”.

In the liturgy of the Christmas season this verse of Psalm 98[97] frequently recurs as a refrain: “The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice” (v. 2).

These are words that the Church uses to emphasize the “*epiphanic*” dimension of the Incarnation: the Son of God becoming human, his entry into history, is the crowning point of God’s revelation of himself to Israel and to all the peoples. In the Child of Bethlehem, God revealed himself in the humility of the “human form”, in the “form of a slave”, indeed, of one who died on a cross (cf. Phil 2:6–8). This is the Christian paradox.

Indeed, this very concealment constitutes the most eloquent “manifestation” of God. The humility, poverty, even the ignominy of the Passion enable us to know what God is truly like. The Face of the Son faithfully reveals that of the Father. This is why the mystery of Christmas is, so to speak, an entire “epiphany”. The manifestation to the Magi does not add something foreign to God’s design but unveils a perennial and constitutive dimension of it, namely, that “in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are now coheirs ... members of the same body and sharers of the promise through ... the Gospel” (Eph 3:6).

The mystery of the Church and her missionary dimension are also revealed in the liturgical context of the Epiphany. She is called to make Christ’s light shine in the world, reflecting it in herself as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

The ancient prophecies concerning the holy city of Jerusalem, such as the marvellous one in Isaiah that we have just heard: “Rise up in splendour! Your light has come.... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance” (Is 60:1–3), have found fulfilment in the Church.

This is what disciples of Christ must do: trained by him to live in the way of the Beatitudes, they must attract all people to God through a witness of love: “In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your deeds and give praise to your heavenly Father” (Mt 5:16). By listening to Jesus’ words, we members of the Church cannot but become aware of the total inadequacy of our human condition, marked by sin.

The Church is holy, but made up of men and women with their limitations and errors. It is Christ, Christ alone, who in giving us the Holy Spirit is able to transform our misery and constantly renew us. He is the light of the peoples, the *lumen gentium*, who has chosen to illumine the world through his Church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 1).

“How can this come about?”, we also ask ourselves with the words that the Virgin addresses to the Archangel Gabriel. And she herself, the Mother of Christ and of the Church, gives us the answer: with her example of total availability to God’s will—“*fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*” (Lk 1:38)—she teaches us to be a “manifestation” of the Lord, opening our hearts to the power of grace and faithfully abiding by the words of her Son, light of the world and the ultimate end of history. So be it!