

The Epiphany of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 60:1-6

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 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 phah; 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. 7-8. 10-13, R. see 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.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

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.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 2:1-12

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.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Mt 2:2

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

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Is 42:1-4. 6-7

Responsorial Psalm Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel Lk 3:15-16. 21-22



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave

The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Our Parish Vision Statement:
We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord — 2nd January, 2022

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod" The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.



We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/epiphany-of-the-lord-sunday-connection/>

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 Samantha Willis
Gembrook:
Emerald: John Conway & Dennis
Mt. Dandenong: Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

**WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH
 AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.**

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Alida Maria Cabret, Dorothy Surmen, Jean Moule, Maria Wotkiw, Ian Schofield, Anne Oude Vrielink, Anthony Vale, Fr. John Edmond Marry OSA, Ronald Jeanes, James Whyte, Linda Soden, Maria Van Graas.

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingvyn Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

#55 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Information Updated: 23 December 2021, 5:00pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and will be in place until 12 January 2022.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

Face Coverings— From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings will be required for gatherings indoors .

(except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions

A reminder this will mean: For Clergy: Face coverings must be worn as you enter for Mass. They may be removed during the celebration of Mass but are to be placed back on for the distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of Mass as you process out.

The Reader: may lower his/her face covering for the readings. This applies as well for the Universal Prayer.

Cantors and Singers: when a cantor is singing, the face covering may be lowered. It must be worn at all other times. Distancing between singers is recommended.

Communicants: Each communicant comes forward and removes one side of their face covering and sanitises their hands at a sanitation station provided nearby. Following reception of the Blessed Sacrament they step to the side to place the host on their tongue. The communicant replaces their face covering and returns to their seat.

Weddings: Face coverings must be worn by all participants indoors, except the Bride and Groom who do not need to wear face coverings during the ceremony. Face coverings can be removed for photos, but people must be encouraged to stay 1.5m away from others.

Numbers— There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.

QR Code Check ins— QR code check in is required for all Places of Worship.

For those who do not have a device, provision must be made to assist with a check in or to capture name and contact details.

Vaccinations— There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship.

Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated.

Please note that other activities outside of worship, particularly those activities that involve hospitality, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail QR code check-ins and COVID Marshals. This will apply to varying activities held within the parish-context.

People under 18 years of age will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status.

Cleaning of Facilities

Places of Worship will not need to be cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a parish COVIDsafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.

Care Facility Visitors

Hospital Visitors

There are limits on attending high-risk settings, even when fully vaccinated. Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted



Dear Friends of Salesian Missions Australia,

As this year draws to a close, we wish to thank you most sincerely for your generous assistance and prayers. Your support has enabled the Salesians of Don Bosco to assist those most in need during these difficult and trying times.

Please find attached our [News update for 2021](#) which outlines many of the projects that have been implemented to help and relieve the sufferings of so many people as a result of the pandemic, military unrest, floods and other disasters.

Click [video link](#) from **Br Adriano from Timor Leste thanking those who kindly supported the flood victims in April 2021**. Visit the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdD3jY-1WMo>

To make an online donation please click on the [Donate Today](#) button below or visit our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au.

If you wish to mail a donation or contact us please find our details at the end of email.

Donations to this fund of \$2 and over for development and relief projects are tax deductible.



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Parish office is closed from 3rd to 5th January 2022.

Fr. Cruz is not available on 3rd January to 5th January 2022.

New Year Midnight Mass at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

***31st December 11pm Holy Hour
12am Holy Mass***

Homily for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity. Wishing you a joyous 2022!

The first day of the year is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The early Christians already called her “Theotokos”, which means “God-bearer”, for indeed, she bore in her womb the Son of God. She is called Mother of God, not in the sense that she is the source of the life of God, for she is not. She is called Mother of God not because she is higher than God, for she is just a creature. She is called Mother of God simply because she bore in her womb and gave birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal God. As we begin the New Year, the Church invites us to honor Mary, the Mother of God. Just as human life starts in the womb of our mothers, so also we begin another year with the mother of all human-kind, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All of us can easily resonate with the experience of having a mother. The thought of a mother always gives a soothing and peaceful feeling to every human being. We can still recall her tender and loving voice as she sings lullabies to us; her soft hands caressing our hair as we snuggle in her warm embrace; the sweet aroma from the kitchen as she prepares dinner for the family. We often say “Home sweet home”, and this is primarily due to the sweetness and comfort that only a mother can give.

Jesus, the Son of God, experienced this with his mother, Mary. And he wanted to share this wonderful experience with us. That is why, while he was hanging on the cross, he entrusted his mother to us to be our mother also. We have, therefore, our own mother in Mary. As she lovingly cared for Jesus, she also takes care of us as her beloved children. What a consolation and a joy for us!

For most of us, we enter the New Year with some trepidation and worries. The economic problems, the dangers of calamities and disasters and the threats of terrorism make the coming New Year look bleak and dreary. Unfortunately, instead of turning to God in prayer, many people choose to spend the first hours of the New Year by making noise, popping firecrackers and even firing guns, and in revelry and drunkenness. These are practices of a pagan society.

But as Christians, we begin the New Year with God. That is why we come together to pray in this Eucharistic celebration. We look back at the past year, and thank and praise God for His protection and all the blessings He has given us. And as we look ahead to the new year, we implore His continued providential guidance and presence in our life. We take courage from the words of Saint Paul: “If God is with us, who can be against us?”

And we also begin the New Year with Mary, the Mother of God, and our Mother too. We gaze upon the image of the Baby Jesus, sleeping so soundly in the arms of His Mother. He invites us to do the same. Let us come to Mary our Mother. Let us take refuge in the comfort and protection of her loving embrace.

Rightly, then, that the first day of the year is World Day of Prayer for Peace. We come together to pray for peace in the world. We ask Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to be with us. We do this in confidence because we know that Mary, our loving Mother is with us. Full of trust in God’s providence and protection, we enter the New Year filled with hope, joy and peace.

At the start of this year, let us earnestly invoke God’s blessing on us and on our loved ones with the words of blessing in the first reading: “The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

And so we pray: “God our Father, yours is the beauty of creation and the good things you have given us. Help us to begin this year joyfully in your name and to spend it in loving service of you and our neighbors. Amen.”

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/homily-for-the-solemnity-of-mary-the-holy-mother-of-god-new-year/>