

Sunday 2nd January 2022



Mass Times: Monday - Friday 9.30am, Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Baptisms & other sacraments: please call the office to organise.



St Finbar's Catholic Parish

Parish Priest:

Fr Ian W Ranson

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Carmel Cristiano

Office hours:

Tues & Thurs

9.00am –3.30pm

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Year C

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.



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Historical Context

The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference "We saw his star as it rose". It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

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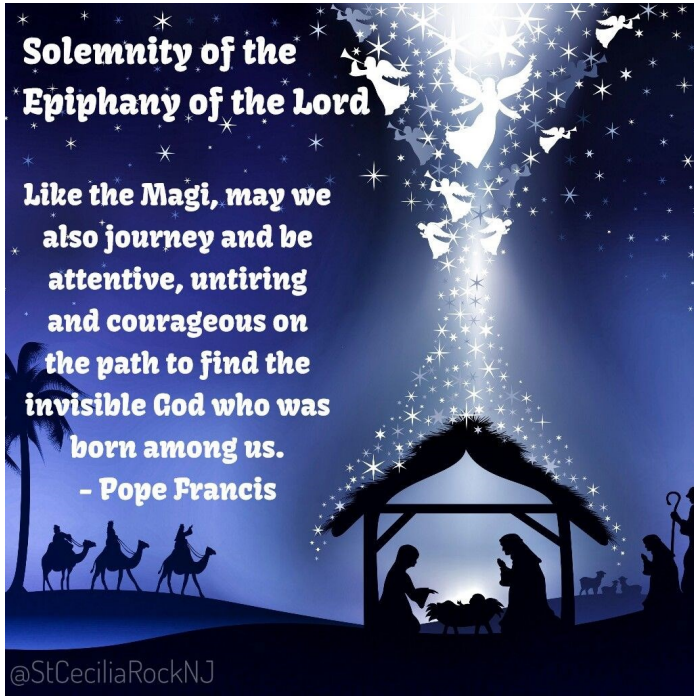
Please refer to the following Archdiocesan guidelines and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>



JANUARY:
Month of the Holy Name

- 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- 4th St Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5th St John Neumann
- 7th St Raymond of Penyafort



A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* ‘



Rosters for Next Week

Parish Roster 2nd week 9.1.22	5.30pm	9.00am	11.00am
Lectors	Anna Conti	Leo	Michael Heffernan
Special Ministers	Volunteers	Mary Callea	Jenny Reiche
Data Projector	Cristiano	Dials	Teresa Meyer

QR check-ins were still required at Places of Worship, even though vaccination status does not need to be checked.

MASKS MUST BE WORN INSIDE CHURCHES.

The Vic Gov Coronavirus page has the following:
Remember to check in everywhere every time using the Service Victoria app.



Thank you for our beautiful cantors over Christmas, Corinne Pettersen, Chelsea Jacotine and Sofia Cristiano. To Philip and Stasia for the amazing setup and decorations of the altar and Church. To our sacristans for the wonderful work and dedication during the year and all the readers and Eucharistic ministers. To our flower ladies, thank you for the beautiful arrangements produced and to our committed church cleaners who keep our church clean and safe particularly during the last 2 years.

Finally, to my team at the Presbytery who attend to the daily upkeep of the administration of St Finbar’s, thank you Tony, Pat, Adeline & Carmel.

Deepest gratitude, Fr Ian Ranson



SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

St Finbar’s Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.