

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / B

7 JANUARY 2024

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS. For some Christians the feast of 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 can 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.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 19:12

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

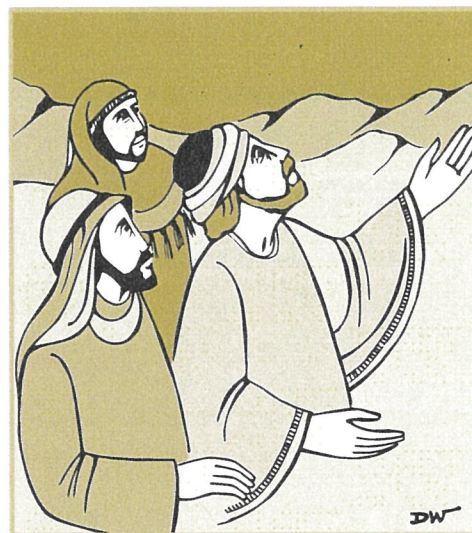
Ps 71:1-2, 7-13. R. v. 11

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

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

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

GOSPEL

Mt 2:1-12

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /
Creator of heaven and earth, / and in
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, /
born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under
Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and
was buried; / he descended into hell; /
on the third day he rose again from
the dead; / he ascended into heaven, /
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty; / from there he
will come to judge the living and the
dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the
holy catholic Church, / the communion
of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, /
the resurrection of the body, / and life
everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread
and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to
each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that
my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at
your hands for the praise and glory of his**

**name, for our good and the good of all
his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these
gifts of your Church, in which are offered now
not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who
by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received,
Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and
ever.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection
until you come again.**

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by
divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Mt 2:2

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere, that we may

perceive with clear sight and revere with true
affection the mystery in which you have
willed us to participate. Through Christ our
Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

"YOUR LIGHT HAS COME"

Wait! Don't pack up your Christmas
tree and crib just yet! Today's feast is the
celebration of the coming of the magi
with their gifts. They come, as we hear in
our Gospel today, because they "observed
his star at its rising" (Matt 2:2). Their
seeking of the child who has been born
the king of the Jews takes us as hearers
on the journey to see the revelation, the
epiphany, of Jesus as the Messiah.

Following the star, the magi will be brought
to a house where, on entering, "they saw
the child with Mary his mother" (v.11).
Coming from the East they are Gentiles
who recognise who Jesus is and fall to
their knees and pay him homage.

From the outset of Matthew's Gospel in
the unfolding of the genealogy it is clear
that "Jesus the Messiah, the son of David,
the son of Abraham" (1:1) is enfolded
in the covenant of God with Abraham
where God makes him the ancestor of a
multitude of nations (Gen 17:4-6). This
Gospel will conclude with the sending out
of the eleven disciples to "make disciples
of all nations" (Matt 28:19). The first
worshippers of the Lord bring out their
gifts of treasure. Through this child the
treasures of the kingdom of heaven will
be revealed. What can it mean to us to
realise "your light has come" and to
recognise and worship our Lord among
us? How do we encounter the treasure of
the kingdom of heaven in our lives today?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B

6/7 January 2024

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

Follow us on: @StGregsDonny

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed: Vera Arief

Tue, Thurs-Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

MASS TIMES:

Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wed & Fri 9.00am (Tue & Thur 9.15am @ St Kevin's)

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11.00am
(or before/after any Mass by request but allow time)

CHILDREN LITURGY: closed January

Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Communicable Diseases are around: be hygienic.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20, Jn 1:35-42

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL: Principal: Michelle Verna Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: Third Friday of the month from 7.00pm-9.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.30pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including Balwinder Kaur, Michael Mullens, Tim Percy-Dove, Enzo Galota, Jason Khoo, Liam Fitzpatrick, Anne Credlin, Nola Tibaldi, Vladimira Sabolic, Brian Croft, Maria Tomasello, John Shew, Rena Sacco, Judy Jones, Clifford Bunardi, Umberto Gianello, Luke Kakoschke, Natalie, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Gilbert De Claro, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Gabrielle Byrne, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Chianna Sacco, Chee Choong Seng, Roy Dos Santos, Maria Stone, Chee Mee Lian and Eliseo Pardiolo.

and for those who died recently

Bill Shiel, Damian Clarke, Paolo Rizza, Fr. Francisco Lau

and for those whose

anniversaries occur about now

Insan Suryawinata, Nuala, Mary Chek Saw Khum, Robert Styevko



Words from PP,

Office Days During January: Luisa will be in the office Tu 9, Thu 11, Fri 12, Tu 16, Wed 17, Fri 19 January. Office closed other days. Then back to normal five days a week. The phone/email will be monitored other days and I might be in depending on my commitments.

THE GATES!!! My apologies for the inconvenience!!!

The gates were supposed to work reliably and at a purely mechanical level they do work reliably. Unfortunately, there are failure modes that can leave you stuck, and it's not your fault.

The major issue relates to the sensor in the ground. It is hard to see the loop you have to drive over to cause the gate to open, so please drive up close to the gate (about 1.5 m from the gate). In addition, there are three or four parking spots from which it is possible to approach the gate without going over the loop, for these, I recommend waiting till someone else goes through the gate or working out a way to drive down the driveway and approach the gate straight from below. I recommend against driving out via the in-gate.

I have requested that these issues be resolved. But ... it won't happen till school returns at least.

A QUESTION FOR YOU: With 2024 underway, I find myself pondering what draws you to love gathering around the Mass? You obviously love it; I can see it in your faces and your attitudes. And I am elated at your presence and participation. Why do you come?

Over the past decade of my ordained life, I've had numerous people say they stopped coming to Mass because it wasn't relevant, because it is a boring meaningless ritual, because they don't get anything out of it. And then we found something over a quarter of people who came to Mass pre-Covid-19 have not returned. And yet ... **you** keep coming. Why? I would like to hear.

I have three purposes in asking for your thoughts on why you keep coming. The first is to help you think a little about why you come – and in thinking a little to fall even more in love with our celebration in Word, Eucharist and Community. The second is to help you understand your participation a little better so that when your child, grandchild, friend asks 'why do you go to Mass' you can give a more extensive answer than 'I just do'. The third is, if you are willing, to share your thoughts and allow me, the parish, to build a personal story about why we gather around Christ Jesus.

If you send me something may I please ask that you don't rely on "Sunday obligation" or "habit" – you are far too involved for that.

If you are willing, I would like you to write down your explanation. It is purely voluntary. 100-200 words to speak to what calls you, what it is about gathering for Mass that speaks into your heart and faith and makes the Mass meaningful, fulfilling. Please, write your thoughts and give them to me, drop a note the parish mailbox. Or email them to doncaster@cam.org.au. Please include an indication of whether I can use your input in a collection and whether I can associate your name with your contribution and then your words can help us help others to see the call in their hearts.

CONTACT DETAILS:

How long since you updated your contact details with the parish? We are planning to have a stewardship campaign later in the year when we will be asking you to update your details. Why not get in early and give us your current details now—there are 1/3 A4 size pink-edged Census cards in the gathering space that you can use to give us your details, doubly important if you've never registered with us. You could also include an indication of any parish ministries / groups you might like to join.

God bless, Fr Charles

St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 9.00am
 Sun 10.30am
 Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Rebecca Law, Peter Whiting
 Ray & Kay Lewis
 Amanda Stefanovski, Sauro Antonelli
 Jane Ma, Mary Tonti-Filippini

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma, Boris Klaric**MONEY COUNTERS:** Bill Taylor; Marion See**NEXT WEEK 13/14 Jan**

Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 9.00am
 Sun 10.30am
 Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Frances Cannizzo, Ian Barnes
 Margaret Wallace, Philip Dunlop
 Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Stephanie Ong, Thomas Ong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Anne McGrath, Josie Masters**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Queenie Wood, Margaret Wallace
 Robert Rukavina, Lilian Antonelli
 Alfred Lee

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Gerard O'Donnell
FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato
 Mary Piccoli

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Karen D' Souza, Iris O'Farrell
 Rachel Kay, Katica Puhaj
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Seleana Ng, Mary Tonti-Filippini

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Cathy McClelland, Iris O'Farrell
 Stephanie and Michael Ong
FLOWERS: Tessa Leung

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20 ppm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest or sacristan know your need.

Anointing of the Sick, can be provided before, during or after any Mass. Just let the Sacristan or the Priest know ahead of time.

We have some reports that there were emails pretending to be from Doncaster Parish, and containing a link. Our systems/email has not been compromised. Please do not click on the link as this can be harmful. Please be aware of the sender email. It will be different from our email addresses. Our email is doncaster@cam.org.au or doncasterparish3108@gmail.com.

**UPDATE FROM PARISH GROUPS:****RESTARTING FEBRUARY 2024**

Charismatic Adoration
 Cornerstone Youth Group
 Children Liturgy

Christian Meditation Group restart on Wed, 7 February

Thank you for your participation and support.

We look forward to seeing you this year!

ROSTERS

The First Quarter Liturgy, Flowers and Morning Tea Rosters for 2024 were already sent out. Please notify the Office if you are away during certain period this quarter. We are also in urgent need for Readers & Special Ministers for our Sunday 9am, Minister of the Eucharist for our Sunday, 5pm Masses and Morning Tea Hosts for our 10.30am Masses. Please email the office doncaster@cam.org.au if you can help. Training will be provided.

Thank you for your continuous support.



Welcome to the family of
Amelia Ivy Guinea
 who will be baptised at St Gregory The Great Church this Sunday.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

For a School Tour or next Open Day dates please contact the School Office on 98484483.

Parish Facilities: The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made: st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com and Jess will get back to you.

Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.

Lourdes Day Mass

ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS – SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2024

Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 10th February 2024 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them. The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Everybody attending will receive a gift pack containing water from the grotto at Lourdes, rosary beads and prayer material. Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who aren't well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the church



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2024

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation.

All information and registration/payment forms are available in our website. For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on DoncasterRE@cam.org.au. There will be an information evening on **Tuesday, February 20th at 5pm**, in the Parish room at St Gregory's school.

Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.

Going to Hospital? Here are some tips for parishioners:

1. Before operations or serious procedures, ask your parish priest to anoint you before you go to hospital. (Our hospital chaplains have to respond to emergencies, but we can all help them with a little forethought).
2. If you are taken to emergency in a serious condition, your relatives should ask the hospital staff to contact the priest who is chaplain to the hospital.
3. If admitted to a public hospital make sure your admission form records that you are a Catholic. The Pastoral Care team will ensure that you receive the Eucharist.
4. If you are admitted to a private hospital, please record that you would like a priest or member of the Pastoral Care team to visit. (If you do not make this request, the pastoral care practitioners and the chaplains will not be told that you are a patient).