



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.

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"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

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.

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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



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Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday 10 am

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment

Principal: Rose André

Sacred Heart School Matraville: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Ernie Ross, Christine Ricketts, Craig Davis, Iedo Ribeiro, Frank O'Brien, Dragutin Sprem, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Anniversary: Joseph Bujeya, Albert Absi, Olivia Baccash, Christina Ng, Lucia Spano, John Donovan, Mary Caraura, Ethel Donohue, John Watts, Donovan, Cussen, Hinks & Newman families.

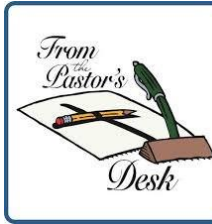
Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

The Sick: Maureen Maron, Barry Dalton, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephine Regan, Mary Vella, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Santa Viselli and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.

Prayers for: Care of the World Environment.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 13 January 2024 - 5.30pm St Agnes Matraville
Sunday - 14 January 2024 - 9.00am St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes Malabar-Matraville.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi as representing us the Gentile people. This being the second manifestation of the Word made flesh as a human being. They bring their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. What do we offer as gifts to our

Lord and in turn to each other? This giving to each other is a very risky experience as it may be fought with vulnerability as we open to others. The gift of giving as St Francis of Assisi would declare that it is giving that we receive. May we be open to the Spirit of the living God who will bless us as he did to the Magi. Tomorrow, Monday 8 January this year, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, with this feast we conclude our Christmas Tide for 2023, you may place your Christmas back into your boxes.

This Wednesday, 10 January you are all invited to St Brigid's Church, Coogee for Mass at 10am to celebrate the life of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor, Co-Founder of the Our Nurses of the Poor—Brown Nurses. Also on this Wednesday, 10 January, you are all welcome to the 5.30pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral for the First Anniversary of the passing of the Late Cardinal George Pell AC and following the Mass to proceed to the Crypt for prayers at his grave.

The restoration of the stairs and forecourt of St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville will be at some stage this January, fenced off to start such works. The entrance for the Church will be the side door and I do appreciate your patience during the completion of these works.

God Bless,

Fr John

We would like to thank Joseph Medcalf Funerals for their kind sponsorship to our Parishes over the last 12 months. If you are wishing to use Joseph Medcalf Funerals who is Australian owned and family operated. They can be contacted on 9694 9494 (Operating 24 hours). Also offering a women's only funeral team, if you so desired. Prepay options available.

Funeral for the Late Iedo Ribeiro, Tuesday ,9th January, 12pm Eastern Suburbs Crematorium,
Funeral for the Late Frank O'Brien, Friday ,12th January, 10.30am, St Andrew's Malabar,
Funeral for the Late Craig Davis, Friday, 12th January, 1.30pm, St Andrew's Malabar,
Funeral for the Late Christine Ricketts, Friday, 12th January, 1pm, St Agnes Matraville,
Funeral for the Late Ernie Ross, Wednesday 17, January, 10.30am, St Andrew's Malabar.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding.enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.