

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

QUEST FOR TRUTH

Truth, like greatness, can come to us in a variety of ways. Some search for it and others have it thrust upon them. What brought the wise men from afar on such a journey of great adventure, risk and discovery? They were indeed people seeking the truth, and even more importantly, they were open to the new and unexpected ways in which that truth came to them. As they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the vision of that great prophet Isaiah is fulfilled. He knew that the call that Israel had received was one destined to be shared by all humanity, united in its worship of the living God. As a reward for their tireless quest for the truth, the wise men receive the gift of knowledge and understanding. It is not so with Herod. The truth is most unwelcome and is thrust upon him. The message of the astrologers from the East is decidedly unsettling for Herod: if this child is the newborn king of the Jews what will be Herod's status in the future?

Paul too has travelled, searched and wrestled with the truth that God wishes to be proclaimed to the world. It is a message that has the power to both liberate and discomfort. Gentiles who accept Jesus now share the same promises and inheritance as the people of Israel. They are part of the same body. Jewish Christians had to deal with the fact that what had been their exclusive privilege was now extended to the Gentiles and that this too was part of God's plan to be graciously accepted.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

8 JANUARY 2023

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 Chron 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.

RESP 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



HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH RYDALMERE

The Epiphany of the Lord / A
8 January 2023

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Mail: 2 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere 2116
Phone: (02) 9684 1541, 0432 950 895
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Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Lamont
Ass. Priest: Fr. Yong Ho Jang (Fr. Pio)
St Mary's School: Mr. Richard Blissenden
St Patrick's Marist: Mr. Paul Ryan

MASS TIMES

SUNDAY EUCHARIST:	Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
	Sunday	7.30am & 10.00am
WEEKDAY EUCHARIST:	Tuesday - Saturday	9.15am
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday	4.30pm - 5.15pm
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	Exposition: Wednesday and Saturday	8.30am
	Exposition: Monday - Friday	7.00pm - 12.00am
BAPTISMS:	2 nd and 4 th Sunday of month	11.30am

Please Pray For

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Betty Griffin, Des Howard, Maurice Reid - Fr Peter Maher - Marco Lulic, Margaret Taylor, Alston Mortier

ANNIVERSARIES:

Howard family, Bartlett family, Freestone family, Butterfield family, Robyn Murray, Catherine Veronica Murray - Arnold Diorio, Brian Oxlee, Louise Gaffney, Frank Gaffney, Jack Kennedy, Anthony Vella, Carmen Vella, Charles Camilleri, Emilia Camilleri, Frank Malkoun, Ray Malkoun, Bernard Thomas Lourey, Nancy Walsh.

Rosters – 14/ 15 January

Cleaning Ministry

Computer Operators:

Vigil 5.30pm	Thomas Russo, Sophie Russo
Sun. 7.30am	Sophie Russo
Sun. 10.00am	Naom Younis
	Antonya Fernando
	Kathleen Burrows

Counters:

Lectors:

Vigil 5.30pm	Anne-Marie Hewkins, Anne Betteridge
Sun. 7.30am	Sue Farrugia, Len Farrugia
Sun. 10.00am	Lynette Rodrigues, Sr Maureen

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

MUSCIANS

We ask parishioners to volunteer their talents as musicians. We have a great team of musicians, but we require more to help share the load. Please give it some thought –

Fr Peter



THANK YOU

I would like to thank all our parishioners who contributed to the success of our Christmas liturgies. I would also like to thank our parishioners for their gifts, cards and expressions of kindness over Christmas. –

Fr Peter

CHRISTMAS

A special thank-you to our choir, especially Catherine Parker and John Gella. I would also like to thank our musicians, the ladies who prepared our altar, lectors, acolytes, collectors, counters, Church cleaners, projector operators and all who helped in any way. God bless you all – Fr Peter



ON THE DEATH OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI (Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger)

A biography of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is available on the Vatican website at <https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography.index.html>

On April 18, 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected the 264th successor of Saint Peter and chose the name Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict, 95, died at 9.34 am on 31 December 2022 at Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican.

Born in 1927, Joseph Ratzinger joined the seminary just months after his 18th birthday and was ordained as a priest in 1951. Pope Benedict's impressive life includes having been a theological expert at the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) and held various professorships in Munich, Bonn, Münster, and Regensburg (1957–1977). He was Archbishop of Munich (1977–1981) and Cardinal, then Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (1981–2005). He will be fondly remembered by Australian Catholics for his attendance at World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney. Pope Benedict XVI will leave behind a legacy as a great teacher who had to walk in the wake of one of the greatest popes in history, Saint John Paul II. He is regarded as one of the greatest Catholic theologians of the 20th century.



SUNDAY ROSARY

The Rosary prayer booklet together with the list of the people who are rostered to lead the Rosary every Sunday before the 10am mass can be found in the Sacristy. Those who would like to participate in leading the prayer can register their names on the list located next to the prayer request book.



WILLOUGHBY ANTIOCH 40 YEAR REUNION: 21 JANUARY

Former members of the Willoughby Antioch community are invited to a 40-year reunion on **Saturday 21 January 2023** at St Thomas' Church, Willoughby. For more information and to RSVP, please email wiloughbyantioch@gmail.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is from: **7pm – 12am Monday to Friday**. All are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." – Pope Benedict XVI

SAVE THE DATE – PARISH OF RICHMOND ST PAUL'S FEAST: 21 JANUARY

Plans are underway for the Parish of Richmond's 2023 Annual St Paul's Feast. Please save the date and spread the word. More information to come soon. The Parish relies on the hands of many to continue the St Paul's Feast tradition. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Vicki on 0410 545 783.

MYSTERY OF ST MICHAEL AND SECRETS OF ST FAUSTINA: A SERIES OF LITURGICAL GATHERINGS IN AUSTRALIA, 6-13 JANUARY 2023

Parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA, in a series of liturgical gatherings from **January 6-13** across dioceses in New South Wales. Fr Peter from Marki, Poland, is a well-travelled international speaker for over twenty years and has spoken at many conferences, retreats, and parish missions all over the world. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to join Fr Peter for Holy Mass with Eucharistic Healing Service through the intercession of St Michael the Archangel and Individual blessing with a relic of St Faustina with a devotion to Divine Mercy. Details on Parish Notice Board.

SACRED CONNECTIONS RETREAT

Beginning 12 February, Jamberoo Abbey is hosting a series of online retreats pondering the values of Silence/Listening, Reverence and Community, which are integral to both Aboriginal and Benedictine Spirituality. All videos and texts from the retreat sessions will be available on the Jamberoo Abbey website. The cost of the retreat is \$300. Register at jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats. Enquiries & registration, contact online retreat@jamberooabbey.org.au.

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on **Saturday 11 February 2023** at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to met@parracatholic.org



FAITH & FORMATION SESSION FOR CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

You are invited to a faith & formation session for those who work & volunteer in the health care ministries of the Church on **Saturday 11 February**, from 9am to 10.30am at the All Saints of Africa Centre, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown. Join us afterwards for the World Day of the Sick Mass at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. Please **RSVP for catering purposes by 6 February** to met@parracatholic.org. For enquiries, please contact Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Friday, 13 January – Saint Hilary

Born into a pagan family, Hilary is said to have studied his way into the Church, meditating on the prologue to John's Gospel. He was sometimes referred to as the "Hammer of the Arians" and the "Athanasius of the West". His name comes from the Latin word for happy or cheerful. In 353 he was chosen Bishop of Poitiers, France, and only three years later was exiled to present day Turkey by the emperor, a professed Arian. There Hilary composed his great doctrinal work "On the Trinity". "Anyone who fails to see that Christ Jesus was at once true God and truly man is blind to his own life: to deny Christ Jesus, or God the Spirit, or our own flesh, is equally perilous", he wrote.

