



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Maryanne Hewitt (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
(02) 4979 1116

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Week of Christmas Time, Year C

Monday—3rd January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—4th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—5th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Tighes Hill

Thursday—6th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 7th January

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11:00am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11:00am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—8th January

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ St Joseph's **

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—9th January

The Baptism of the Lord

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Cathedral website:

[https://www.youtube.com/c/](https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)

SacredHeartCathedralHamilton

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

THE CHUCKLE

I have this weird talent where I can identify what's inside a wrapped present...It's a gift

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

Is 40: 1-5, 9-11, Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7, Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Weekday and Sunday readings
can be found at www.usccb.org

Office Closure

Please be aware the Parish Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year from noon on **Friday 24th December till Tuesday 4th January**.

Phone calls and emails during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Christ the King Church, Mayfield West. All welcome.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th February @ 6pm to discuss

Wild Abandon by Emily Bitto. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email

newcparrish@mn.catholic.org.au

I ♥
Book Club

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat recommences in February via Zoom. To participate, please email the Parish Office.

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Barry Alcock

ANNIVERSARIES: Maisie Owens, Mary Ethel

Sattler. Eliza O'Dae, Mary-Lou Alexander,

Sylvia Fitzpatrick, Victor & Winifreda

Fernando, Francis & Delicia Fernando, Ashoka

Jayanthi, Hugo Perera

SICK: Maree Halbert, Betty Stott, Carlo Rossi, Jon Hartley, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddie, Tomislav Kefceck

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit

www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.



Wise*Men



Still Seek
Him

STARS AND SEEKERS AFTER TRUTH

By Fr Michael Tate

There is a fascination with stars: their beauty shining and sparkling in the dark canopy of the night; amazement and wonder at their number and extent.

And who amongst us hasn't stolen a furtive glance at the horoscopes, half humorously checking 'what the stars hold for me'.

The Magi, the wise men in today's gospel story, were not like the writers of our horoscope columns. They were astronomers – astrologers from ancient religions found to 'the East' of Bethlehem, perhaps modern day Iraq or Syria.

In particular, they would have thought that the birth of those destined to be great figures would be signalled by unusual constellations of events in the night sky. They really believed that stars greatly influenced and controlled the destiny of human beings.

But, *these* Magi were open to the insights of other religious traditions. And it was that combination of their own religion of astrology and their reading about Jewish expectations of a wonderful person who would inaugurate a new epoch of history, which led them to:

To what? To whom?

To Jesus, in a nondescript dwelling, in a nondescript town, hovered over by an exhausted Mary and a protective Joseph.

This would be a most unexpected culmination of their journey.

Yet, because they were genuine seekers after truth, they were open enough to see in this baby what their own religious teaching had prepared them for, even as they were led beyond that religious system.

They were the first non-Jewish people to kneel before that infant. They did homage to this baby. Why? I think it was because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant.

On the contrary: 'There is something in *this* baby which *caused* the night sky to respond. *This* baby is responsible for the movement of the stars!'

They were sufficiently filled with wonder that they preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, not reporting where they had found him.

And, then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

What does this Gospel passage hold for us today?

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

People may be trapped in the limiting language of their astrology or Buddhism, or an ideology such as atheism or whatever. Of course, those systems of thought cannot save anyone.

But, individually and personally, Buddhists and atheists and astrologers can be set on a journey towards 'the Love which moves the sun and all the stars' (Dante).

As a person responds to the (often anonymous) prompting of the Holy Spirit and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God.

This is where we differ drastically from some fundamentalists. The Catholic Church believes that the billions in China and India, who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved.


But, such persons, even leading humane lives, do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

That Truth which we have the privilege of understanding leads us to accept the claims made on us by the baby to whom the Astrologers paid homage:

We understand and accept that *He* is the Body Language of God, that *He* is 'God with us', Emmanuel, that *He* is The Answer to all the seeking after truth and the yearning of the human heart.

O come, let us adore *Him*.

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Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The glory of the Lord shines upon you

Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1, 2, 10abc, 10de-11, R. see v.11
Mt 2:1-12

I D Y U Z K M Q B A A Q L D W J G
Y O C R O W D G L O R Y Q U P I W
T F Q Y K D X P Z S M Y L G J X N
B N V A H O V V U T Q X E T V U E
S I J D C I W F C P Q Y P U Y J P
W N F K D V A A N I E E L M G E O
A C P H R S F J J S T K M F C K F
U A M E X R M H V K D S T S S M X
I Q S Z G V T E R L S R A I I C C
F B A X D Y W O O R U I S E A M F
V U W J U S G G P C Y O A D U S U
V M O A K X B I C Q I M M D Q W G
N H B D E F U M I O U D I S B R G
V E S U O H C S J H N A M L P A R
W N N V R E Z G H R P Q Q J A T A
M F Z E S N E C N I K N A R F S X

Try to find these words:

crowd
day
east
eyes
frankincense
glory
gold
house
myrrh
open
sea
star

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The glory of the Lord shines upon you

Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1, 2, 10abc, 10de-11, R. see v.11
Mt 2:1-12

M R W M F S P J Z N Z B O G F
Y W P L C F K X F A O I T R D
R F G O L D T S S H P N E M I
R C R N X D P O A M E V G T V
H Y Y M C R O W D A N F H R Z
G L O R Y Y Q R J I Q Q J P D
F R A N K I N C E N S E T L X
U F V X A X Z Z R L I Q B X E
W Z H K H D C Q J S W S M W B
A O Y E B D H O U S E T U C P
O Y F M C E J V K W E A R Q C
R G D G X L X J S Z A R S E A
E G E Y E S D L Q H S T Y I L
E G L L O Z P R U V T I V N E
E L D A Y I Q I S Y S P I P E

Try to find these words:

crowd
day
east
eyes
frankincense
glory
gold
house
myrrh
open
sea
star