



City Pastoral REGION
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



St Benedict's 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.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker, Parish Priest
Fr Sabu Pulimalayil, Assistant Priest
Fr Niel Olano, Assistant Priest
Fr Anthony Coloma, Assistant Priest
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St, Newcastle West, 2302
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au
After hours emergency phone: 0494 390 653

Our Staff

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Jenny Pascua (*Parish Secretary*)
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)
Elul Teclé (*Administration*)
Peter Davies (*Administration*)
Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music & Liturgy*)

Bereavement Team:

Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory,
Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard
(02) 4979 1252

St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding:

Louise Outram, Adele Rubino, Cynthia Tamonan,
Sr Kath Williams rsm



By both His appearing and the manner of His appearing (the Incarnation), the infant Jesus was the Epiphany, the revelation of the saving love of God for His people. The term 'Epiphany' literally means to reveal, manifest or show forth. We also need to be aware of the personal epiphanies, or signposts, that occur in each of our lives. If we can recognise these, they will help us to discover and fulfil the unique calling God has in store for each one of us.

Jenny Close

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)

Christmas Time, Year A/2

Mon 5 Jan

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 6 Jan

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wed 7 Jan

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (anointing)

1:00pm Funeral Mass for Lawrence Smith at The Cathedral

Thurs 8 Jan

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

1:30pm Mass @ Charles O'Neill, Mayfield West

Fri 9 Jan

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

12:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 10 Jan

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

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 11 Jan *The Baptism of the Lord*

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

12noon Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—
www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton and on the Diocesan website.

FAREWELL ELUL

This week we say "farewell" but not "goodbye" to Elul Tecle, who is moving from the Parish Office to Reception at the Diocesan Offices. It was also great to see Elul graduate *with distinction* at Newcastle University recently.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:



The Baptism of the Lord, Year A
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lawrence Smith, Katy Carraro, Doris Gertrude Nicolai nee Divko

ANNIVERSARIES: Robert Allan, Boleslaw Wozniak, Bessie Maurer, Doris Pearson, Moira Young, Marie Babic, Kevin Smith, Rita Maloney, Ivy Wolfgang.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: John Hayes, Gary Valaire, Jeremy Eden, Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Carlo Rossi, Tui Innes, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Phil Riordan, Twon Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen Haggerty, Nick Fazzini, Rose Gathercole, Alexander Klein, Patty Keegan, Kathryn Kennedy

Names may be placed in "Prayer Requests" by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website - visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

Please send prayer requests and items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in January.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Colleen Bennett	Allan Hart
Patricia Blick	William Hart
Maureen Burke	Ken (John) Johnson
Madeleine Cherry	Margaret Jones
Elaine Dodds	Maureen Narvo
Lawrence (Jack) Drage	Frank (Fiore) Pati
Mary Drage	Thi Bich Van Pham
Robert Driscoll	Margery Presland
Bernard Duggan	John Scrogings
Nancy Gorman	Margaret Scrogings
Harold (Harry) Hancock	Hendericus (Henk) Van Schyndel
Henry Charles Hardy	

At St Joseph's:

John Edward Carr	Stephen Smith
Annie Stamp	Peg Sugden
Rita Schuck	Kerrie Walters
Ray Callen	Thea Ethel Bennis
Brendan Blakemore	Christine Brain
Doug Carey	Shirley Casey
Raymond Dent	Jack & Dinah Heaton
Joyce Gleeson	Milce Lettoof
William Hartsorn	William 'Bill' Henderson
John O'Callaghan	

Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Dear Parish Family,

Another year gone – saving this as the first bulletin of 2026 – what a funny feeling. We are so lucky as a Catholic and Christian

Community that we get to celebrate two New Years: The Church's at the beginning of Advent and the world's on 1 January. Two opportunities for New Year resolutions, two opportunities to reflect on transformation and change, two opportunities to pop the champagne corks and toast what has been, what is and what will be! We are so lucky. Our new year resolutions of course should be realistic enough that they are more than simply *pie-in-the-sky* hopes.

Around the world people acknowledge New Year's Eve differently. In Italy they eat 12 grapes in 12 seconds for luck just prior to midnight. In some of the southern states of the US they carry 12 black eyed peas in their pockets. In some places the gift of coloured underwear – yellow for wealth in the new year, red for love etc. In Mexico some carry an empty suitcase around the block if they are hoping for travel. In Chile they light candles on the graves of their ancestors at midnight and in some cases sleep over night. In one place they bang pots and pans at midnight to drive the 'demons' of one year from entering the new year. In another they tie ribbons around the outlet pipes of their sinks so that in the new year they won't flush money away. It is all about wanting, hoping and working for a better year ahead. They go to Church, mostly. 'Lucky Charms' or rituals don't work.

This weekend we will end our Christmas. You can now take your trees down. These 12 days I hope have been a wonderful time of celebration and joy. This weekend, to mark this end, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wise Men (if such a thing exists LOL) or Kings finally make it to the crib. They bring the gifts that acknowledge the kingship of Jesus but are practical as well. Mary and Joseph will use those gifts to care for and protect 'their' newborn Son. We don't really know how many Kings arrived, we simply align the number to the number of gifts – practical and simple. We don't know their names either, our tradition calls them Balthazar, Melchior and Gaspar. We read they come from the east. Our tradition too says that they stand for three of the known corners of the world (Persia, India, Arabia or Ethiopia) and with Jesus himself will acknowledge that salvation has come into the world for all humanity, no matter where we live. Those practical gifts will be used to aid that salvation.

My favourite carol, The Little Drummer Boy or Carol of the Drum, which I didn't get to often hear this

Christmas, picks up on the 'Wise Men theme'. There is a challenge as the Wise Men give their gifts for all of us and ask us to reflect on what gifts we bring to the crib for our Saviour's use. The drummer boy really has only one gift, and it is unique to him: himself. That gift is worth more than all the gold the world has and like all of us because it is unique to him, only he can share it for Salvation's use. There is only one status in our lives: we are all born brothers and sisters, equal and uniquely crafted in the image of our loving God, with a gift only we can share. The Wise Men also show us that it does take effort, reflection and prayer to know how our gift is needed and for what purpose it has been given.

Happy New Year.

Greg, PP

2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

The Holy Year, during which we focussed on being "Pilgrims of Hope", began with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024. It will end with the closing of the Holy Door on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, celebrated in Rome on 6 January.



The call remains to be instruments of hope, willing to share Christ-centred hope with others.

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." Pope Francis

CHRISTMAS—THANK YOU!

A note of thanks to all those who participated in and supported all our Christmas Masses. It was a wonderful celebration with larger than usual crowds across all our Masses. So many elements all working together to ensure our Christmas time was truly an uplifting and joy filled time. Whilst a couple of our Mass centres forgot to collect the Christmas dues by taking up collections, those attending were incredibly generous supporting our parish with an incredible \$14,000 in collections from all our Masses. As parish priest I am incredibly grateful and moved by such generosity and overwhelmed by the support. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year. Greg



ST MARY'S CHURCH, THE HILL

Please note the stairwell and gallery at St Mary's Church are not to be used, due to a termite management plan currently in progress.

Prayer/Meditation

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP

Keep an eye out for news of next year's activities. And a very happy New Year to all.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational - everyone welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

The sessions include guided relaxation exercises, a reading from Fr John Main and 20 minutes of silent meditation.

LIVING WATERS MEDITATION CENTRE

A Christian Meditation Centre at 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, which offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am. After meditation on Fridays, Lectio Divina, a personal interaction with Sacred Scripture, is offered. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj 0412122297.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY



Pray the Rosary each Wednesday after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary is held the first Saturday of every month following Mass and Novena at Sacred Heart Cathedral. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

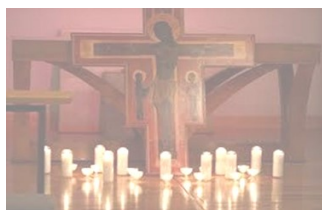


DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month - 4 January @ 3:00pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy at Christ the King, Mayfield West.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday, 4 January, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill 5pm – 6pm, followed by a shared supper. All welcome.



REFLECTION by Richard Leonard

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

*'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth
and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.*

I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.



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.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets on Sunday, 1 February, to discuss *Scent of Oranges* by Kathy George. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email:

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



DIOCESAN EVENTS

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

PARISH CENSUS & PLANNED GIVING FORMS

You can use the link or QR code to complete and submit the form online.

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>



Faith Development

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AT MASS

Symbols of the Mass

The Kiss of Peace

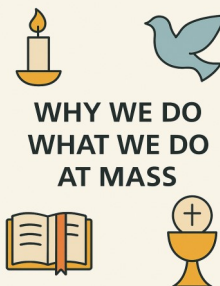
Before receiving Communion, we exchange a sign of peace — a gesture that goes far beyond politeness. It is the visible expression of reconciliation and unity among all who share the same bread of life.

The peace we share is not our own but Christ's: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."* When we extend our hand or nod of peace, we express our readiness to live in harmony with others and to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Peace is the fruit of love and the mark of true communion.

Scripture: *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body."* — Colossians 3:15

Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§1345, 1398



ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT



We will be back in February for a wonderful new faith sharing opportunity. All welcome to join us then! To participate, please email the parish office.

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

EFTPOS TAP & GO DONATION OPTION

For some time now, EFTPOS devices have been used at the Cathedral and at Stockton and St Mary's churches as an option for 1st & 2nd collection donations. We are now extending this option to other Mass centres. The collection plates remain available for cash offerings, but the EFTPOS option will also be available. Thank you for your generosity and support.

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: 02 4979 1390, or email childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

FROM THE PROMOTERS OF SAFEGUARDING

In New South Wales (NSW), a **Working With Children Check (WWCC)** is **not generally required** for working with **vulnerable adults**, unless the role also involves working with **children**. The WWCC is specifically designed to protect children under 18 and is mandatory only for jobs or volunteering that involve child-related work such as teachers (school, pre-school, music, dance), sports coaches, tutors, nannies, faith leaders and children's entertainers.

For roles that involve working with vulnerable adults, **different background checks may apply**, depending on the sector. For example, workers in the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** are required to have an **NDIS Worker Check**, which assesses whether a person poses a risk to people with disability. Similarly, those working in **aged care** may need to complete an **Aged Care Worker Screening Check**, which focuses on protecting older people from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

In New South Wales (NSW), a **National Police Check** is **often required** for people working with **vulnerable adults**, but whether it is legally mandatory depends on the **role, industry, and employer**.

Even when not legally required, employers may request a police check as part of their **duty of care and risk management**, especially when workers have close, unsupervised, or ongoing contact with vulnerable adults.

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.

Helping Others

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY



Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. When donating please check expiry dates. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the following non-perishable items are welcome: UHT milk, cereal, spreads, tinned goods, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. Thank you.

COMMUNITY KITCHENS

The Community Kitchens run by CatholicCare can be accessed by anyone who needs a warm meal or support. Local locations are:



Hamilton South: Every Wednesday, 12pm to 1pm at 29 Fowler Street, Hamilton South
Newcastle: Every Saturday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm (6.30pm to 7.30pm during Daylight Savings) at Civic Park, King Street, Newcastle

BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News, you might consider including us in your Will. You just need to specify which parish(es) you would like to help.

DONATION OPTIONS

For anyone who wishes to make donations to the parish via direct deposit: Details are provided below for the individual parishes.

Account name: **CDF** BSB: **066739**
Account number: **see below***
Reference: **Donation [Surname]**

***Account numbers:**

Newcastle Parish – A/c no: **100008696**
Mayfield Parish – A/c no: **100007169**
Stockton Parish – A/c no: **100003308**

THE CHUCKLE

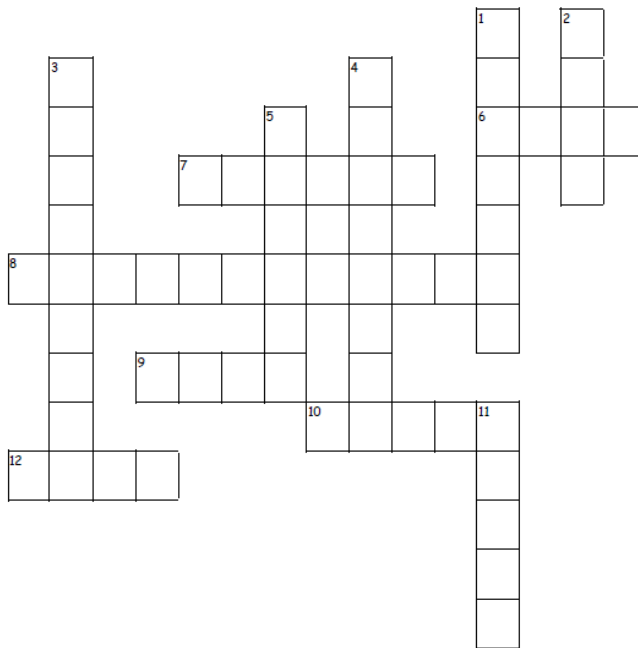
I have this weird talent where I can identify what's inside a wrapped present... It's a gift.



CROSSWORD

We come to worship the king

Mt 2:1-12



Across

- 6: north, south, _____ and west
 7: look
 8: one of the gifts given to Jesus
 9: a soft, yellow metal
 10: another of the gifts given to Jesus
 12: this showed the wise men where to find Jesus

Down

- 1: rested on your knees
 2: one who has wisdom
 3: significant
 4: to do something without others knowing
 5: alerted to danger
 11: a type of building people live in

The Epiphany of the Lord,

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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

The Epiphany of the Lord

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TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see 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

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

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

We have come from the East to worship the king.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by
your Cross and Resurrection you have
set us free.



Communion Antiphon: Cf. Mt 2:2

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

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THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family.

Chalk will be blessed at Masses this weekend and you are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

20 C + M + B 26

The letters C, M, and B stand for the traditional names for the three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ Bless this Abode).

CHALK MARK



WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME

Peace be upon this house and with all of us
who live here. **Amen**

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

The wise men from the East came to
Jerusalem asking: *Where is the child who has
been born king of the Jews? For we observed
his star at its rising and have come to pay
him homage.* When they saw that the star
had stopped, they were overwhelmed with
joy. On entering the house, they saw the
child with Mary his mother, and they knelt
down and paid him homage.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.**

The three wise men

Caspar

C Melchior,

M Balthasar

B Followed the light of the star to find Jesus,
the son of God, who came to live among us.

20 Two thousand

26 And twenty six years ago

+ May Christ bless our home today and remain
+ with us throughout the year.

Let us pray,

God of mercy, fill our home with the light
and love of Christ that it may be a place of
hospitality and welcome.

May Christ be our shelter when we are at
home,

our companion when we are away,

and our welcome guest when we return,

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**