



Welcome to

# St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

**Parish Priest:** Fr Phillip Zadro

**Presbytery Office:** 97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045  
**P:** 02 9798 6657 **E:** admin@stjoanofarc.org.au **W:** www.stjoanofarc.org.au  
**Parish Secretary:** Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**6th January, 2019**

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgment to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgment. **R.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

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 the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.**

**Alleluia!**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

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.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**ROSTER for  
The Baptism of the Lord**

**Scripture Readings for next week:**

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11  
Second Reading: Titans 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

**Scripture Readers for next week:**

Saturday Vigil: Judith Molloy, Marea Dorman  
Sunday 9.00am: Don Bastone, Rhonda Albani  
Sunday 6.00pm: Maria Greenaway, Mina Nohra

**Ministers of Communion for next week:**

Saturday Vigil: Julie Garrard, Anna Attard  
Maria Del Vecchio, Alex Mediat  
Sunday 9.00am: Grace Mediat, Beatrice Bastone  
Trish Bjorenak, Rita Piras  
Sunday 6.00pm: Carmel McKeough, Grace Cardillo

**Children's Liturgy for next week:**

Sunday 9.00am No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

**Reflection**

*"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage."*

Interest in astronomy dates back into the mists of time and our ancient forebears had made remarkable progress in plotting the course of the moon and the stars as well as calculating the cycles that establish the seasons of the year, long before modern technology was able to provide us with the wealth of knowledge now available to us. We marvel at the immensity of the universe surrounding us. The light years that separate us from other galaxies and their billions of stars leave us speechless. We wonder at the complexity of it all and watch in amazement rare experiences like total eclipses of the sun as they produce eerie and mysterious sensations.

Today's story from St Matthew's Gospel provides us with an insight into how men and women two thousand years ago would stargaze and learnt to plot the course of a journey in doing so. It is worth pondering just how challenging journeys in those days must have been. There were none of the modern means of transport and travel, and yet we know that men and women had by then migrated from one continent to another and trade routes were already well established. Beasts of burden, like camels and donkeys, carrying not only the travellers but their belongings, made long journeys possible, yet the risks associated with such ventures must have been enormous. This is the context of the story which provides us with the backdrop to today's feast.

It is no exaggeration to say that every story included in the Gospels is there for the purpose of enlightening us and helping us enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ. And, of course, each of the four Gospels was written for particular Christian communities coping with the social circumstances in which they found themselves. Matthew was writing for his own Jewish people and one of his concerns was that they grasped the fact that Jesus, while he had come to liberate them, had also come to liberate all men and women of all time.

Matthew is unique in giving us the story of the wise men: mysterious travellers coming from the east, an exotic part of the world full of mystery and mystique. Having helped his own people make the necessary connection with the prophecy about Bethlehem being the place towards which they were heading, he also links their journey with Isaiah's prophetic vision of the nations seeing the light and travelling to pay homage with their gifts. The wise men are there precisely to represent all of us and even their precious gifts are of considerable significance. The gold points us to the fact that the Christ child has come to establish the kingdom of God. The incense reveals that he is no ordinary child but God's Son, while the myrrh warns us of the disturbing prospect of his passion and death: his body will need to be anointed after his death.

The Church has incorporated the wonderful symbols of the wise men's gifts into its liturgy. Just think of how we use incense to remind us not only of the preciousness of Christ's presence in the sacraments, but also of the preciousness of each and every one of us. In the funeral rite the body, which has been anointed in the sacraments, is incensed: a reminder that our mortal bodies are destined for resurrection because now we are Christ's adopted brothers and sisters and heirs to his kingdom. St Paul, after his conversion, grasped the truth of all this and was at pains for the rest of his life to make sure that everyone else grasped it. Christ had come that the pagans, too, could share the same inheritance as his own Jewish ancestors.

In today's world the invitation to you and me is to be ever conscious of the need to reach out to everyone and embrace all people as God's precious children. With so many displaced people travelling across the world to avoid persecution, warfare and violence, Pope Francis has appealed to us to see in them the face of Christ and make them welcome. This feast of the Epiphany of the Lord provides a wonderful opportunity for us to think again about the expansive and all-embracing nature of God's revelation to the world, embodied in Jesus, and above all of what it means for us to respond to the needs of our brother and sisters.

*The Living Word*

**LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

**Recently Deceased:** Maria Fresta, Mark Dolahenty, Bruna Alibrandi, Dominic Banno, Giuseppe Cozzubbo, Caterina Ciancio, Joseph Ventura, Maria-Gaetanna Giorgio, Dr John Robilliard, Joyce Tolhurst, Gaetano Defina, Victor Kasalo, Maria Catania, Anna Di Maio, Luigi Vella, Carmelo Coluccio, John Ryan, Margaret Powning

**Rest in Peace:** Ted & Val Constant, Ornella Deluchi, Gildo D'Amici, Mario Scardilli, Sarina Tringali, Giovanni Tama, Lucia & Erminio Coruzzi, Carmen Muscat, Carmela Cini, Sabatina Giunta, Ingazio Pendino, Carmela Ruberto, Angelo Ruberto, Franco La Manna, Immacolata Angilletta, Francesco Angilletta, Cosmo Angilletta, Rocco Calautti, Lucrezia Calautti, Saveria De Grazia, Wanda Angelucci, Rachel Swanson, Guiseppina Magani, Pina Zaia, The Conte Family, John & Kathleen Huie, Lucy The, Jim Tuite, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiaco, Fr Frank Furfaro & All Souls in Purgatory.

**In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community:** Nicholas Hanania, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Budda, Mario Bianco, Tony Sulfaro

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657



**VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

Thank you to everyone who donated food items so generously for our hampers. A wonderful response. Hampers were distributed to families in need in our Parish area just before Christmas. The many donations of food allowed us to give some to the Burwood St Vincent de Paul Office and the Exodus foundation at Ashfield which assists people in need with food parcels and meals every day.

**BAPTISMS - January, 2019**

*We welcome these children into God's family  
and our parish community*

Zane Patchett, Zoe Patchett, Ryu Pakata