

The Living Word

The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2024

First Reading Is 60:1-6

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 your 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.

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 falls. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

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.

As a person responds to this prompting 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. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons 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.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

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Entrance Antiphon Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12
Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Matthew 2:2
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ----- 6pm SPP Goulburn
6pm Taralga

Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)

Binda - 10.30am (1st Sunday) Not for January

Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)

Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)

Tuena - **Nil until further notice**

Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 5.15pm

OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am

Taralga: 5.30pm (1st Sat)

Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION:

11am Friday SPP

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),

Wed, Thurs Fri - 12md (SPP)

Sat 9am (OLOF)

Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central collection boxes.

Australia Day MASS: 9am in the Cathedral on 26th January, and also St Mary's Church Crookwell.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JAN 17 Taralga Prayer group 10am in the Convent
JAN:26 Australia Day Mass 9am: SPP and Crookwell.
FEB 11: Sr Rosemary Farewell- Crookwell.
FEB 14: Crookwell sacramental program enrolment
FEB 15 Goulburn sacramental program enrolment
FEB:23 Steel City Strings 6pm Cello quartet in the Cathedral
FEB: 29 Chamber Philharmonia Cologne 7pm in the Cathedral.

Notices

CHILDREN'S RCIA

For those school age children desiring to be baptised and celebrate the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and Eucharist, the parish program will be held over three sessions. Please contact Sr Janet Glass or Diane green via goulburn@cg.org.au.

SACREMENTAL ENROLMENT DATES

2024

Reconciliation and First Holy

Communion

Crookwell enrolment: 14th February, 6pm

Goulburn enrolment: 15th February, 6pm

Confirmation

Crookwell Not this Year
Goulburn: 8th August

TARALGA PRAYER GROUP

Taralga resumes its prayer meetings this year at 10 am Wednesday 17th, in the Convent.

BUNNINGS BBQ SPECTACULAR

A big thank you to Dennis, Chanel and all the team that helped to make the Bunnings BBQ fundraiser such a resounding success. We look forward to the next one!

CONGRATULATIONS to Sr Janet Glass, Sr Carmel Clear and Sr Julie Connolly, who celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of their first profession this year.

Recently Deceased: Patrick Connell, Donald (Ray) Bowden, Dorell Hogan, Eileen Van Duran, Joe Agius, Kevin Wellspring, Dr Warwick Renton, Geraldine Ryan OAM, SR Barbara Fogarty rsj,

Anniversaries: John Probert, Wayne Bensley, Maxine and Frank Probert, Patrick Fisher, Kevin Bogg, Geoffry Bogg, Rev Fr Joseph Staunton, William Sharp, Debbie Schirk, Paul Heffernan, Clare Jasek, Leonard Smith, Mary Walsh, Jack Walsh, Drufen family,

Prayers: Dale Young, Gavin McKensie, Martin Strait, Geoff Croker, Brian and Lyn Murphy, Dulcie and Charles Millynn, Dorothy and Winston Selmes, The People Of Gaza