

# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing

To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission.



*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

## 3 JANUARY 2021 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B



### Entrance Antiphon

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

### First Reading

from the prophet  
Isaiah 60:1-6

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13,  
R. see v.11

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

Second Reading from  
the letter of St Paul  
to the Ephesians  
3:2-3. 5-6

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his  
star in the East;  
and have come to  
adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Holy Gospel

according to  
Matthew 2:1-12

## Gospel

## 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.

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**Parish Associate: Sr Ninfa Timbal, CM**

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## **GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

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.

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.

# ROSTERS

10 Jan 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	A & G Correya	C & M Pew	P Wicks
	J Ransom	A & A Roma	R Thompson
<b>Altar Server</b>	R Potter	O Simbul	R Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	R Kaldasaun	Volunteer	I Johnson
<b>Counting</b>	Marquinez / Balane	<b>Flowers</b>	T Kaldasaun
<b>Vacuuming</b>	Binny Family	<b>Foyer</b>	K Randal

Sunday Mass times	Weekday Mass times
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
Reconciliation: by appointment	All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

**Parish Office Ph: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

**Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**

**Email: varroville@dow.org.au**

**Website: olmcvarroville.org.au**



**For the sick & homebound:** Fr David Catterill, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Eduvigis Reyes, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Jenny Bishop, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Claude Fricot, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Mary & Reg Gardner, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Gabor Weiner, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Marie

Atkins, Jeana San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson.

*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Jean Claude Furlong, The Cuong Nguyen, Geraldine Hurren, Edmond Pew, Elizabeth McCleary, Colleen Eggleton, Marian Owens,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Joseph Remedios, Anthony Campbell, Teresa Thompson, Resse Mangulabnan, Anthony Pinto, Pauline Marquinez,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

# Bulletin Notices



## ALPHA: YOU'RE INVITED

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly open and informal environment. Beginning Tuesday 2 March, 2021 at 7pm.

For further information contact the parish office 9603 7373 and [olmcvarroville.org.au](http://olmcvarroville.org.au). Find out more at [alpha.org.au](http://alpha.org.au)

## Summer Nights for 18-35's at Varroville January 2021

Register now for *Summer Nights* at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre with the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL's). An outdoor experience featuring quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation will be available each day with COVID safe dinner provided.

There are two options to register, with the retreat running twice during the week:

- Monday 11 January – Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm)
- Thursday 14 January – Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

To register go to **[www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au)**

**Sacramental Preparation in 2021:** A Christian family lives within a wider parish community, which also has a responsibility to share its faith to nurture you and your child. Our parish will offer an opportunity of providing faith education for both adults and children. Specific dates and information about Sacramental preparation will be available on our website by the end of January 2021 or by calling the parish office during office hours.

**Parish Planned Giving** There are many ways that you can help enable the liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable works of your parish. One way is to contribute to parish planned giving via the two collections at Sunday Mass. As we move more and more into a cashless society, many parishioners prefer to contribute to parish planned electronically. If you are not already part of our parish planned giving program, contact the parish office to arrange. There are sets of envelopes available and there is also a tap donation point in the foyer. Electronic giving is available via direct debit or credit card.

**Request for Prayer for Catechist Ministry in the Diocese:** Each week, hundreds of volunteers around the diocese answer the call to share our Catholic faith with Catholic children. Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teachers, the children they teach in state schools and their families. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please go to [www.ccdwollongong.com](http://www.ccdwollongong.com).

**Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:** For all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>