

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -Year A

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. v.11 (R.) Lord, every
nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading from the Letter
to 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 Mat-
thew 2:1-12

Communion Antiphon

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

Next Week:

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year A

First: Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Respons: Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

Second: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The Epiphany of the Lord

Under the vast
night sky, a
star blazed
with a bril-
liance that
stirred hearts
across distant
lands.



In the East, three wise men gazed upon its
light, sensing a divine summons. Guided by
faith and mystery, they set out on a journey
beyond borders, bearing gifts of gold, frankin-
cense, and myrrh, symbols of kingship,
worship, and sacrifice. Their path wound
through deserts and valleys, each step echoing
a silent question: Who was this child worthy of
such signs?

At last, the star came to rest above a humble
dwelling. Inside, simplicity veiled majesty a
young mother cradling her son, Joseph stand-
ing watch with steadfast care.

The magi knelt in reverence. Gold gleamed in
the lamplight, frankincense perfumed the air,
and myrrh whispered of a destiny beyond the
cradle. In that sacred moment, heaven touched
earth. The child's gaze held eternity, and
creation seemed to pause, recognizing its King

Departing in silence, their hearts were trans-
formed. The Epiphany was more than a star or
a child, it was the revelation of hope, a light for
all nations. God had come, not in power, but in
love, and the echo of that night would resound
through time.

Parish Notices

The Art of Dying Well: a four part series based on Eternal Rest (a powerful video program from the Augustinian Institute). This series helps us honestly and prayerfully confront questions about death, dying and our hope in eternal life. Commencing on Saturday 10 January at 10.30am and concluding on 31 January 2025 in our parish meeting room. Each session opens with a short video from the Eternal Rest Series, followed by small group discussion so everyone can share, ask questions and learn together. Light refreshments will be provided.

Celebrate Darren McDowell's ordination to the priesthood with a Thanksgiving Mass on Saturday, 17 January 2026, at 6:00 PM. Concelebrated with Fr Shane. Join us in prayer and thanksgiving. Everyone is warmly invited.

Pastoral Care Team will not be meeting again until Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are in need of a member of the Pastoral Care Team to visit please advise the Parish Office.

Looking for Quality Vacation Care This School Holidays?

CatholicCare offers safe, fun, and engaging Vacation Care programs at 11 schools across our Diocese. Children enjoy exciting activities, make new friends, and are cared for by experienced staff—giving parents peace of mind and kids a holiday to remember. Secure your child's spot today: Call (02) 4227 1122 OR visit <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> for locations and enrolment details.

Stouthearted men's program- coming in 2026 Stouthearted is a new Jesus centred men's program designed to meet a desperate need in men. It's an 8-week program that draws from well-known experts, shares powerful teachings and models real world conversations. Stouthearted fosters learning, discussion, prayer, reflection, healing and builds essential practical strategies. In addition to the main sessions, there are short daily reflections that include video input, bible study, and self-reflection. The Stouthearted program will be running in Wollongong in 2026, starting on Monday 2 Feb and finishing on the last Monday of March. Register now

New Study Opportunities at the Notre Dame Study Centre, Oran Park

The University of Notre Dame Australia is now offering a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Primary Education through the Notre Dame Study Centre at Oran Park. The Reach Higher Program supports students from rural, regional, and remote areas with scholarships, flexible study options, and community engagement opportunities. For more information, please refer to the flyers or contact education@nd.edu.au



Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran,
 Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins,
 Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella,
 Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys,

Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

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

For our recently departed Maria Cuaresma, Graham Henneberry,

May Whitlock, Paul Crawford, Alex Sitjar

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Lily Pereira, James Pereira

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

| 11 Jan 2025 | Saturday 6pm | Sunday 9.30am | Sunday 5pm |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Welcomers | Estela & Cecilia | Sarah & Jessica | Terry & Maree |
| Altar Servers | Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliana | Orly | Michael & Nathan |
| Readers | Louise & Candice | Martin & Tess V | Fev & Madonna |
| Refreshments | Tracey & Richard | Samoan Choir Community | Margaret, Geoff & Danni |
| Altar Linen | Maria D | CLOTW: | |
| Flowers | Asinate & Mago | Church Vacuuming | Feiloakitohi Family & Margaret Mc D |
| Counters | Tess V & Jeanette B | Church Foyer | Feiloakitohi Family & Maritas B |



Parish Office: **Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm**

Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

Address: **193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**

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.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 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.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Stars and Seekers after Truth

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.