



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 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.

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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.

- 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.)*
- 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.

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



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tues 9.30am—5.30pm)
Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: fb.me/smgh2 **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall
God and Us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 02 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES (English):
 Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am
 Weekdays: Wednesday 6 pm
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00am

VIETNAMESE MASS
 Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION
 Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm
 or anytime on request

**ADORATION OF THE
 BLESSED SACRAMENT**
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

**SACRAMENT OF THE
 ANOINTING OF THE SICK**
 Offered to those in need on
 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

Baptisms: Sunday 11.00am
 Bookings are necessary

Children first Sacraments:
 Please contact Elaine Nehme:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

Parish site maintenance:
 John Impala Phone TBA
 Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

Parish Pastoral Council:
 Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Dening,
 Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui,
 Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

Finance Committee:
 Bernie Freeburn, Michael Anderson,
 Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening, Eileen
 Stevenson

Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul: Mary Scott

Special Religious Education:
 Lorraine Corkeron

Music Ministry: Vivienne Mosely

Youth Ministry: Grace Mokdassi

Children's Liturgy: Nancy Khalil



COVID-19 is still around, please use
 sanitiser when you enter the church.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES If you are
 interested in any diocesan events, please
 collect a copy of the additional bulletin
 at the back of the church.

**PACKING UP ADVENT WREATH,
 NATIVITY SCENE AND
 CHRISTMAS TREES** will take place
 on Monday 8th January at 6pm.
 Parishioners are invited to lend a hand.
 All volunteers welcome.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered
 for various ministries with Christmas
 Masses. Much work and much time was
 given in the background and
 anonymously in order to celebrate
 Charismas with dignity and solemnity it
 deserves. May God reward you
 hundredfold. We have received much
 positive feedback about the Children's
 Christmas Mass and the Nativity
 reenactment. We look forward to
 bringing it to our parish for years to
 come.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE HOME
 VISITS** The parish has purchased a new
 statue of Our Lady of Grace that will be
 available for weekly home visits
 beginning in February 2024. If you are
 interested in hosting the statue in you
 home for Rosary and prayer nights for
 one week, please contact Zenna Azar by
 email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

CATECHISTS NEEDED

We are blessed to have dedicated
 volunteers who share their faith with
 children in our local public primary
 school. Many of these volunteers are
 getting on in years - we need more
 volunteers to step up. Can you assist?
 Training will be provided. Initially one
 can start as an assistant to an
 experienced catechist prior to becoming
 an independent catechist. If interested
 please talk to Fr Peter or Lorraine
 Corkeron on 9644 8480.

BIBLE STUDY will resume Wednesday
 10 January 2024. If you have any
 questions or for more information, please
 contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

PARISH CENTRE A second round of
 feedback with our Architect was
 completed and drawings submitted. Our
 Building Committee is expected to meet
 after Christmas break to decide on
 further action.

DAILY MASS BOOK 2024 - Copies of
 the Daily Mass books are at the back of
 the church. Please return them at the end
 of mass.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD - This
 beautiful resource is available to assist
 Proclaimers prepare for Sunday liturgy.
 Proclaimers are all invited to collect a
 copy of the 2024 Break Open the Word
 book from the sacristy - one copy per
 family.

LATEST UPDATE ON PARISH ROLES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WWCN (Working with children number)

• Cleaners, Gardener, Choir members, Musicians, Finance
 Committee, Parish Pastoral Council, Counters, Audio
 Visual Coordinators, Piety Stall, Flower Arranger,
 Offertory, Hospitality Workers, Ministers of the
 Homebound, Welcoming/greeting Ministry, Ministers of
 the Word/Readers/Lectors, Parish Collectors (AKA
 Wardens)

PARISH WEBSITE - is updated on a weekly basis, if you
 have any feedback on content please email:
gracemokdassi@gmail.com

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION is available on
 Wednesdays from 5-5.55pm prior to the 6pm evening Mass
 and on Fridays from 9.30-10.30am after the 9am Mass.

MINISTRIES ROSTER is now also printed in the
 bulletin for the current and the following weekend. We can
 have up to 4 Altar Servers for each Mass. To get on the
 roster children need to have received their First Holy
 Communion and undertaken initial training. Please see Fr.
 Peter or Bernie Freeburn to organise training.

SILENCE IN THE CHURCH We all need silence
 especially in the modern world filled with noise. Many
 seek and hope to find it in the church as they immerse
 themselves in prayer. Let us remember that our church is
 also a House of God and a House of Prayer and let us
 observe silence before and after Mass out of reverence for
 God and respect for others. If there is an urgent necessity to
 speak, please use low voice. Thank you.

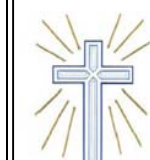
LOW GLUTEN HOSTS are available for gluten sensitive
 persons. If you or your child would like to receive such
 host, please inform the celebrating priest prior to the
 commencement of the Mass.

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
January 6/7 - The EPIPHANY of the Lord, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Brian Kurrle	Abraham Family	Barbara Kains Annette Simpson	Laurie Simpson		Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Carmen Heredia	Goetz Family	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen		James Ghanem	William Amicucci
January 13/14 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Zenna Azar	Brian Kurrle	Pauline Tonkli Barbara Kains	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Carmen Heredia	Coorey Family	Jenny Freeburn Karen Worley	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Ghanem Family	Alex Driessen Gill Cramp	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	William Amicucci



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Jayden Turk, Joseph Akkary, Paul Tonkli, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery,
 Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Barbara Kains, Daniel Matesic,
 Phillip Nehme, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Rest In Peace

Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Giuseppina Bombara, Bernard & Ivy Hurworth, Josephine and Thomas Pientka, Jennifer Falvy, David Anthony
 Sanders, Attilio Colussi, Eddy & Tom Counihan, Sr. Rita Yammine, Barry Sligar, Carmelina Calcagni, Trevor +
 Colin + Eileen Newton, James Barrett, Wilson + Ursula Barrett, Sara + Michael Dolahenty, Elizabeth + Philo-
 mena Dolahenty, George + Jenny + Mary Goure, Ian Urquhart, Louis & Mary Grech, Wood Fml, Janet Wood

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

ANOINTING OF THE SICK to those in need is offered
 during the Mass on 1st Tuesday of each month. Please
 consider to bring your shut-in loved ones to this Mass.

BURNING CANDLES are the most common cause of
 church fires. If you light a candle or visit the church and
 see an unattended burning candle, please blow it off before
 you leave. Of course electric candles are safe to be left
 turned on even after you leave. Thank you.

BEWARE OF SCAMS Number of our parishioners have
 received a scam email or SMS soliciting money/ gift cards
 in the name of Fr. Peter. Please note Fr. Peter will never
 ask you for money. If in doubt always check with Fr. Peter
 personally. Simply ignore any such requests without
 responding to them.

PARISH EMAILS - a recent upgrade to our parish
 webmail has resulted in our email distribution lists not
 carrying across correctly. If you want to receive email
 notifications from the parish re the bulletin and other
 matters please email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com and
 request to be added to the distribution list.

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a
 crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the
 police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please
 contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the
 Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email:
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese
 has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our parish has a folder with Safeguarding information in the
 church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest
 safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child
 Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our
 parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries:
 Veronica via email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Check out the latest Safeguarding newsletter-in the folder