

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



The Epiphany of the Lord

8th January 2023

Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

(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 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians

**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

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

Communion Antiphon

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



Reflection by Scott Hahn

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the Child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.”

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king (Solomon).

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob.

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth.” Jesus, however is greater than Solomon. He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068

Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326

Parish Email: Ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths: Sr Mary Coman

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, Laura Burns and John Nihill 🙏

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace.

Sunday 15th January - Mass

Ouyen: 11:00am

Reader: Merrill Boland

Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder

Offertory Procession: The Brady Family

Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 1st January

Ouyen: \$ 188.00

Planned Giving: \$ 285.00

Christmas Appeal: \$ 10.00

Church Cleaning:

January: Peter & Marie Shaddock

Presbytery Cleaning:

January: Faye Nihill

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Father will be available after the Friday Mass for Reconciliation, after the 11:00am Masses, or at any other time by appointment.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

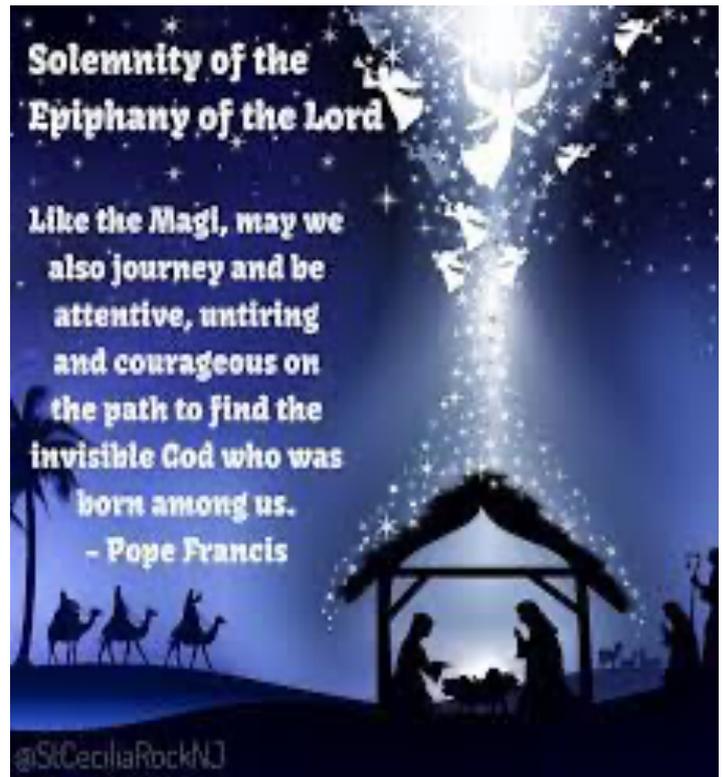
- ~ QR Codes are no longer required to sign in
- ~ Face masks are no longer required to be worn
- ~ Kindness and Common Sense strictly enforced

Mass Timetable

Wk 1 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 2 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 4 U'Bool	Mass	9:00am	Sunday
Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 5 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

Pope's Prayer Intention for January: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

Prayer For Australia: Eternal Father, I offer you the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ offered at all the Masses throughout the world for the Holy atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Did you know: that the Epiphany marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas, which is the period from the birth of Jesus to the arrival of the 3 Wise Men on the 6th of January.

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Did you know that the “Star of Bethlehem” was a real astronomical event, that not only reveals Jesus’ birth but also his death? The “Star” is one of those real, external events outside of the bible, that shows the reliability of the bible, just as the remains of Pharaoh’s army at the bottom of the Red Sea confirms the biblical account of Moses’ crossing and the eclipse and earthquake at Jesus crucifixion signify that something other than an execution was

taking place.

God often uses nature to draw attention to what he wants us to see and Jesus himself tells us that “there will be signs in the sun, the moon and the stars.” In the year 3BC there were some unusual things happening in the night sky. This was what the “Three Wise Men” were watching over a long period of time. The Annunciation was seen in the sky with a Virgin (Virgo) clothed in the sun with the moon at her feet. A star called Regulus Rex meaning regal/ruling king or king star beside the biggest star Jupiter was rising in the east and Jupiter moving backwards and forwards to crown and create a halo effect over this ‘regal king’. This star and its movements fulfilled all the 9 prophetic properties that Matthew notes in his Gospel.

Not only did the stars show where and when Jesus was born but they also show Jesus’ death. “Johannes Kepler’s (a German astronomer and mathematician) equations indicate that on the day of Jesus death the moon rose already in eclipse, already bloody, fulfilling the prophet Joel’s vision. Necessarily, this means that the eclipse commenced before moonrise. With software we can look below the horizon and see Earth’s shadow begin the eclipse. When we do, we find that at 3 PM, as Jesus was breathing his last on the cross, the moon was going to blood.

The sky at Christ’s birth can be viewed as a kind of visual poetry, with the new moon symbolically “birthed” at the foot of Virgo, the virgin. To complete that celestial poem, on the night of Jesus’ death the moon had returned to the foot of the virgin. But now it was a full moon. A life fully lived, blotted out in blood.” *Adapted from Frederick Larson’s “The Star of Bethlehem”*

If you would like to know more, you can watch the film “The Star of Bethlehem” on YouTube. It is well worth a look, and goes for about an hour. You can also go to the website: [The Star of Bethlehem.com](http://TheStarofBethlehem.com) where all the information is listed.

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