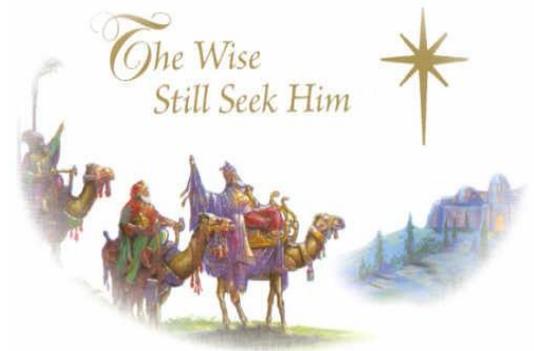




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Sunday, 2nd January 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord



Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You.

SUNDAY MASSES:	Vigil Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00am, 10am
WEEKDAY MASSES:	Tuesday to Saturday	9.15am
ROSARY:	Tuesday to Saturday	8.30am
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday – 4.15pm or by appointment	
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:	Saturday	4.15pm
BAPTISMS:	By appointment, Sundays after 10am mass	
WEDDINGS:	By appointment (minimum of six months notice required)	
ANOINTING MASS:	2 nd Saturday of the month March, June, September and December	
PARISH SECRETARY:	Tuesday & Friday	9am to 3pm
	(Mass Intentions & news items for the bulletin must be left at Presbytery by 12pm Wednesday)	
This Church is equipped with an induction loop for the hearing impaired		

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Recently Deceased: Alejandro Roblero,

Anniversaries: Felisiana Ros Penano, Domenico C., Hilda Victorine La Porte, Patrick La Porte

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

We pray for: Thomas Laidler, Judy & Leo Melville, Caterina Smiroldo

“Mother of God, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted. Pray for us”

READERS ROSTER 2nd Week

<u>Time</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
5:00pm	Therese Di Paolo Jerome Vandenbosch	Tony Allan
8.00am	Mark Wang – Shi Barbara Mucha	Elia Saulekaleka
10.00am	Joseph Anasi Sesalia Anasi	Sione Anasi

Dear parishioners, we wish you a happy new year with all the blessings from the Lord.

From the Team: *Gustavo, Zeljko & Sally*

IGNITE YOUTH – 2022 Want to give your children the best faith-filled experiences throughout the year. Get excited! Events include **Ignite Summer Camp**, **Ignite Launch** and **Ignite Conference** for high school delegates. These one-off tickets are only available until 10 Jan 2022

PARISH RENEWAL TEAM Download the *Go Make Disciples* logo here to use in your newsletter. Advent Companion Available Now – Prepare to Join or Lead a Group in your Parish Churches have reopened, and Advent is here. With gratitude in our hearts, let us gather in our parishes to prepare a welcome for the newborn Jesus at Christmas and to be channels of His peace and joy to those around us. Joining or leading an Advent group is a great way to do this. *‘Rejoice! Receiving and Sharing the Gift of the Good News’* contains Gospel readings for Sundays and Christmas Day, spiritual reflections, and other resources for Advent. For individual or group prayer, in-person or online gatherings. Available for download on the *Go Make Disciples* website.

RECLAIMING EVANGELISATION SERIES This series continues with Dr Mary Healy Live Online, Saturday 12 February 2022, 10 – 1:30am You are invited to attend Dr Mary Healy’s live online address to the faithful of Sydney on the topic ‘Why Make Disciples? What Scripture tells us about calling and forming disciples.’ Dr Mary Healy is a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as an accomplished author and international speaker. Places limited. Registrations essential via www.gomakedisciples.org.au

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SYNOD The Synod of Bishops consultation has now commenced and parishioners are invited to gather in small groups to discuss one or more of the topics for the Synod. This is a low key discussion with responses invited to the National Team by February 27. The Coffee Conversation leaflet will be available in parishes for interested parishioners to assist in the conversation. If you require more information can you please contact Sr Jo Brady RSJ Plenary Council/Synod Liaison Support Officer at jo.brady@sdneycatholic.org

AGING WELL MASTERCLASSES Bringing together a team of clinical experts and professionals in the field of ageing, Catholic Care’s Ageing Well masterclasses will help you live life to the full. These series of masterclasses, Age Well covers everything you need to know from staying connected to community, diet and exercise, navigating the many choices around ageing support, why mental health matters as we age and financial and legal planning. Ageing Well masterclasses are due to begin in February 2022 and will be held in casual, non-judgemental community forums in Liverpool, Haberfield and Lidcombe. please visit catholiccare.org/ageingwell.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading: Isahia 60:1-6 Above you the glory of the Lord appears

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: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance

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 Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12 The visit of the Magi

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.

Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord

The Magi's (ie. the three wise men) journey across mountains and deserts, following the star, strikes a chord in our hearts. We all have our own star to follow – a yearning deep within our being for meaning, truth and happiness – an individual path in life which we alone are called to tread. When the Magi found the Child Jesus, they would not have seen an infant with a halo who was clearly recognizable as God's Son. They saw just another tiny child but with their eyes of faith they were able to see beneath the surface and recognize, in this child, God's light which had come into the world.

We too have been given the eyes of faith to keep us on course as we follow Jesus along the highways and by-ways of life, across desert paths of loneliness, pain, failure and illness. Those Wise Men of yesterday represent all of us on a spiritual adventure which continues as long as life lasts. We are to be the Wise Men of our day, making Jesus visible to the whole world as its Saviour and Redeemer. Our role is to make Jesus known along the pathways of life by being open and receptive to his Word. The Lord needs our commitment in furthering his work. The Wise Men did not come to the Lord empty-handed, but with gifts specially chosen which expressed the reason for their search, and neither must we come empty-handed. We may not have gold, frankincense or myrrh, but we can bring the gift of ourselves as human beings grafted into Jesus.

The Church calls on us all to rejoice today. This is the day when we proclaim to all the world that Jesus came to save all people and that his influence is not restricted to any one culture or religion.

Christmas is about making two journeys. The journey to Bethlehem and the way home by a different route. We are all making our journey home through life. Having found Bethlehem, let us hope that at the end of life's journey we will be met once more by Jesus and Mary.

The Three Gifts given by the Magi

Gold – because Jesus is King.

Frankincense because Jesus is God.

Myrrh because Jesus suffered for every single person, and He is the Saviour of humanity.



New Year's blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.

Amen.

Happy and blessed New Year 2022!

Fr. Gustavo