



THE SAVING WORD

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

4 JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

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



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 11 Jan: The Baptism of the Lord

Thanksgiving



Thank You Fr Brendan Lane

We thank Fr Brendan Lane for celebrating this weekend's Masses with us at St Joseph's and Holy Cross.

Fr Pat's Birthday Celebration

Fr Pat's 90th birthday is on 30th January 2026. We, together with our sister Parish of St Anthony's, will celebrate the occasion on **Sunday, 1st February** at St Anthony's Parish Hall after the 11am Mass.

The organising team will meet soon to discuss further details.

Fr Pat's Holidays

We wish Fr Pat a restful and refreshing time away from 1st January to 10th February. Fr Pat will be back on 1st February for his birthday celebration.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 19:12)

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Mt 2:2)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Thanh Ninh

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: Marie Gaudry

Death Anniversary: Theresa Francis, Carmelina Scandurra

Reverend Father Varghese Kattikattu MC



Fr Varghese's 1st death anniversary falls on Friday 9 January 2026. A Mass for the repose of his soul will be offered at St Joseph's, Elsternwick on the day. He will also be remembered at all the weekend Masses at both St Joseph's and Holy Cross.

May His Soul Rest In Peace!

Reverend Monsignor Gerard Diamond



Msgr Diamond's 2nd death anniversary falls on Saturday 10 January. He will be remembered at all the Masses at St Anthony's Church next weekend.

May His Soul Rest In Peace!

Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask you to bless our Parish of
St Joseph's, Elsternwick and
Holy Cross, Caulfield South.

Make us faithful in our duties to you and each other
and open-hearted to all who need our help.

We ask you also to bless our Clergy
who lead us to our heavenly goal,

And all those who will come after us,
who strive to keep the faith alive.

Remain forever in our hearts and minds,
always drawing us closer to you.

May St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family
and the Holy Cross of Christ,
be our guiding lights in our Parish's future.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with us forever.

Amen.

Feast of St Vincent Pallotti



Thursday, 22 January at St Joseph's Church.
Mass at 11:30am, followed by light lunch at the Presbytery.

There will be an update on The Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero in Congo along with an opportunity to donate to it.

Bring along friends and family. Kindly RSVP a.s.a.p. by contacting Brother Lindsay, Fr Pat or Fr Leenus. Your presence will help make it memorable.

Messages from Pope Leo on 1st January 2026

(1) Dear brothers and sisters, happy New Year!

While the rhythm of passing months repeats itself, the Lord invites us to renew our times by finally ushering in an era of peace and friendship among all peoples. Without this desire for the good, there would be no point in turning the pages of the calendar and filling our diaries.

The Jubilee, which is about to end, has taught us how to cultivate hope for a new world. We do this by converting our hearts to God, so as to transform wrongs into forgiveness, pain into consolation, and resolutions of virtue into good works. In this way, God himself dwells in history and saves it from oblivion, giving the world our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He is the Only Begotten Son who becomes our brother, illuminating the consciences of people of good will, so that we can build the future as a welcoming home for every man and woman who comes into the world.

In this regard, the feast of Christmas today directs our gaze towards Mary, who was the first to experience Christ's beating heart. In the silence of her virginal womb, the Word of life presents himself as a heartbeat of grace.

God, the good Creator, has always known Mary's heart and our hearts. By becoming man, he makes his heart known to us. The heart of Jesus, therefore, beats for every man and woman; for those who are ready to welcome him, like the shepherds, and for those who do not want him, like Herod. His heart is not indifferent to those who have no heart for their neighbor: it beats for the righteous, so that they may persevere in their dedication, as well as for the unrighteous, so that they may change their lives and find peace.

The Savior comes into the world by being born of a woman. Let us pause to adore this event, which shines forth in Mary Most Holy and is reflected in every unborn child, revealing the divine image imprinted in our humanity.

On this World Day, let us all pray together for peace: first, among nations bloodied by conflict and suffering, but also within our homes, in families wounded by violence or pain. Certain that Christ, our hope, is the sun of justice that never sets, let us confidently implore the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

(2) ...Since 1 January 1968, at the request of Pope Saint Paul VI, today the World Day of Peace is celebrated...

I wanted to repeat the wish that the Lord suggested to me when calling me to this service: "Peace be with you all!" A peace that is unarmed and disarming, which comes from God, a gift of his unconditional love, and is entrusted to our responsibility.

Dear friends, with the grace of Christ, let us begin today to build a year of peace, disarming our hearts and refraining from all violence...

At the beginning of this year, which marks the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis, I would like to extend to each person his blessing, taken from Sacred Scripture: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

May the Holy Mother of God guide us on our journey in the new year. Best wishes to everyone!

Extract of a publication from The Holy See, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 59th World Day For Peace, Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, St Peter's Square, Thursday, 1st January 2026.



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today we remember the day when, guided by a star, three Kings with gifts visited Baby Jesus. But our focus is neither on the kings, nor on their gifts, nor on the star; rather on the fact that, that day Baby Jesus revealed the Truth of Himself to the rest of the world. Therefore, this feast has the name "Epiphany". Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "to make known".

The Kings to whom Jesus revealed himself were: Melchior, Caspar, Balthasar.

Theokeno: (Oldest) was also known as Melchior, a name meaning 'Gentle approach'. He was a King of Arabia, later baptised 'Leo' by St. Thomas,

Mensor: (Youngest) was also known as Caspar, a name meaning 'He is won by love'. He was a Chaldean, King of Sheba, baptised 'Leander' by St. Thomas,

Seir: was also known as Balthasar, a name meaning 'He accomplishes the Will of God whole heartedly'. He was a King of Tars and Egypt and underwent a Baptism of Desire.

Their journey to Bethlehem was 700+ hours (journey time only). They should have taken 60 days but accomplished it 33 days. They often travelled day and night, at good speed. Sometimes they sat on camels, otherwise walked beside the camels, praying, and singing as they went. They were composing songs as they travelled, one intoning and others repeating after. In the quiet night their voices produced a very touching effect. Their hearts were filled with joy and devotion. Their songs were something like "Over the hills we make our way, to visit the newborn king and our homage to pay".

The Kings spoke of their vision of the star and all that happened during their journey. Their words were simple and childlike. They always said we rather than I; "we have seen the star; we have come to adore the King of kings". And they with tenderest tears prayed fervently to Child Jesus, offering themselves together with all they were and all they valued on earth. They begged the Child to take their hearts, their souls, their actions, their thoughts. They entreated Jesus to enlighten them and bestow on them all the virtues and to grant the whole world peace, joy and love...

This feast gives us hope that if those kings in ancient times could find Jesus, then anyone can.

Fr Leenus.



A carpenter, a gardener and an electrician argue whose profession is the oldest. The carpenter says: "When Noah built his ark before the flood, he made it out of wood, so carpentry is the oldest." The gardener says: "Well, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, someone had to plant the flowers there, so gardening is the oldest." The electrician smirks and says: "Fellas, when God said 'let there be light,' we already had the cables laid down."

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA Sessions resumes on Thursday, 15th January at 6.30pm. The sessions are held at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick.

Legion of Mary at St Joseph's & Holy Cross

A new Praesidium has been formed at The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross. Weekly meetings are held at 7:30pm on Fridays at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. New members are welcome. Contact Mable 0493-5926154.



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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

A UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Matthew's Gospel addresses Jewish/Israelite followers of Jesus living in troubled and confusing times in the later part of the first century. The Temple, the centre of Jewish religious life, is destroyed; Matthew's audience seeks confidence and direction anew. All it has is the Torah (the Old Testament teaching from the first five books of the Bible). The evangelist offers the Torah, the Jewish Scriptures, refracted through the teaching of Jesus, as foundational to engage their future with confidence.

Matthew is also aware that the future of the Jesus movement will have to be open to other peoples and cultures—like the missionary thrust of the Church today. Today's Gospel of the Magi following a star and seeking the birthplace of the 'king of the Jews' anticipates the Gospel's future universal growth. The Magi, perhaps Syrian astronomers, come seeking what they astrologically read in the cosmos, the one who rules over everything. But to know the exact place they also need the help of the Scriptures, offered by Herod's priests. These two aspects, science and God's Word, collaborate to give meaning and direction to the Magi's quest.

The star leads them to a *house*. Here they come to the end of their search as they worship the child Jesus and offer gifts worthy of a king. This third element, the domestic and household setting of the child's birth, adds a final dimension to a theologically rich story. Within our own local and domestic lives, we embark on a search to discover Jesus anew, assisted by the science of our world and the Scriptures that we treasure, listen to each Sunday and upon which we meditate.

Fr Michael Trainor