

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

4 JANUARY 2026

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS. For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chron 19:12

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP 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.

R. Thanks be to God

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

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered

now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPOH

cf. Mt 2:2

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son,  and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Epiphany of the Lord (A) 3/4 January 2026

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: doncaster@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.stgregs.org.au/>

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Anton Aseervathampillai

Business Manager: David Hii

Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed: Vera Arief

Tue, Thurs & Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

MASS TIMES:

St Greg's: Sat Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wed & Fri 9.00am followed by Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am
(Resumes 2nd Feb 2026)

YOUTH MASS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5PM: 11 JAN, 8 FEB, 8 MARCH, 12 APRIL

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11.00am (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

Anointing of the Sick before/after any Mass or by appointment

St Kevin's: Sat Vigil 5.30pm; Sun 9.15am; Tue & Thurs 9.15am

"Wash your hands" says my son to his daughter: sensible hygiene is essential at home and at church.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isa 42:1–4, 6–7, Ps 28:1–4, 9 – 10, Acts 10:34 – 38, Mt 3:13 – 17

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Email Margaret O'Donnell at margaretodonnel@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room

Contact Paola Cheng 0415 280 216

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: 3rd Fridays of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.00pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for: Those who are sick at this time including Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Phaisan Luethamphakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Marleen Liu, Amy Liu, Chantal Wong, Christopher Wong, Ximena Simian, Nik & Somaratna, Michael Mullens, Bob Ulehla, Carmel Alois, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay



and for those who died recently Mate Mejak and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Insan Suryawinata, Carmelita Spina, Linda Bodey, Luis Angel Arrubla, Caterina Scaffide, Robert Styevko

Words from the desk of the PP:

Thank you: Christmas Masses that you made so full of life, the Christmas Season that you have shown extends beyond mid-day on Christmas Day, the New Year wishes, the cards and the gifts you have given me: I am as always overwhelmed with gratitude. Fr Gerry McKernan presided for two of our Christmas Masses and found them both full of energy and life and love of Christ.

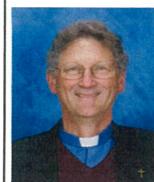
I won't have time to send individual cards of thank for the gifts / cards you have given me but thank you to the 30+ anonymous donors, and to Henny, Joan, Ros, Mark, Mel, Paul, Julie, Jeremy, Malia, Dirce, Noel, Cathy, Agnes, Fred, Andrew, Maggie, Don, Lina, Atje, J, B&S, F&H, Matins, Janee, Shirley, Anna, Madeline, Will, Beth, Carmel, Tony, Kim, Chiara, Marian, Mary, Joan, Valda, Mary, J, Ceclia, K&M, Christopher, James, Mary, John, Peter, Michelle, Agness, Rocco, Anthony, Katica, Chanh, Ho, Luke, Tony Enea, Dexter, George, Agnes, Seng, Connie, the Spinas, Boris, Ana, Terry, Young, Georgette, Frank, Maria, Kennedy, Ceclia, Skadiang, Chris, Brianna, Kathleen, Jeries, Liana, Victoria, Roger, Tristan, Elizabeth, Sauro, Lilian, Vera et al, Anton, Miriam et al, Mark, Judy, Peter, Ally, Nadia et al, Gerry, Pat, Kath, Col, Karen, Kai, Aidan, Anselm, Vicki, Trevor, Coco, Marcel, Peter, Rafaella, Bruno, Joan, Geraldina, Joe, Bernadine, Jim, Barbara, Izabella, Mario, Denise, John, Ferd, Agnes, Ian, OiKhan, Gunawans, Hannah, Elijah, Marg, Gail, Lilian, Alan, Issy et al, Ann, John, Frances et al, Colynne, Sylvia, Byron, Christine, Terry, Geralyn, Mandy, Phil, Anil, Dianne, Robert, Nic, Gayle, John, Gabriel, tony, Lynley, Mick, Lyn, Margaret, Gerard, Iris, Andrea, Carolina, Fay, Kevin, Maryanne, David, Roger, Anne, Joan, Hilary, John, Di, Roy, Ana, Barry, Dot, Jan, Peter, Mark, Mar, Sharon, Elmo, Lorraine, Barbi, Baard, Schools, Mary, Maria, Frank, Yvonne et al, Agnes, Gery, Ros, Wendy, Gira, Mary, Christine, John, Margaret, Jackie, Alex, Margaret, Richard, Debbie, Luisa, Mike, Max Tyler, Franca, Proclaim Team, CatholicCare Victoria, Caritas, Catholic Mission, St Vincent de Paul, Opening the Doors Foundation, ... and to all those for whom I managed to not have a written record of your presence..

Thank you all, whether for a gift, a card, a few words, being at our Masses. Your love of Christ and your care for me are indeed appreciated beyond measure.

The Epiphany is not just a memory of the Maji arriving to see and worship Jesus. It is a real event which inspires us to look at the skies of our lives and see the Star shining, calling us to let go and follow Christ in all ways and learn new way, different ways, as the Maji did.

I am looking forward to 2026 with thank that I have you journeying with me in Christ, and with great hope that you will be a part of our ongoing efforts to become a parish which flourishes and excels at inviting people to come to know Christ Jesus our Lord.

God bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For all our youth and young adults: that we will be inspired to help them to know and love Jesus and the Holy Spirit in their lives, and to deepen their desire to be and action as intentional disciples.

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Sun 9.00am Jacqueline Rogers, Philip Dunlop
 Sun 10.30am Erin Djukadiromo, Sauro Antonelli
 Sun 5.00pm Jane Ma, Gerard O'Donnell
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson
MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana

LECTORS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Jacqueline Rogers, Philip Dunlop
 Erin Djukadiromo, Sauro Antonelli
 Jane Ma, Gerard O'Donnell

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson

MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana

NEXT WEEK 10/11 Jan**LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
 Sun 9.00am Greg Lesmana, Tony Nimmo
 Sun 10.30am Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Sun 5.00pm

YOUTH MASS

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim, Josie Masters

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell
 Margaret Wallace
 Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Mahdi, Lilian Antonelli
 Alfred Lee, Margaret O'Donnell

MORNING TEA: N/A

FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato

COMMUNION MINISTERS

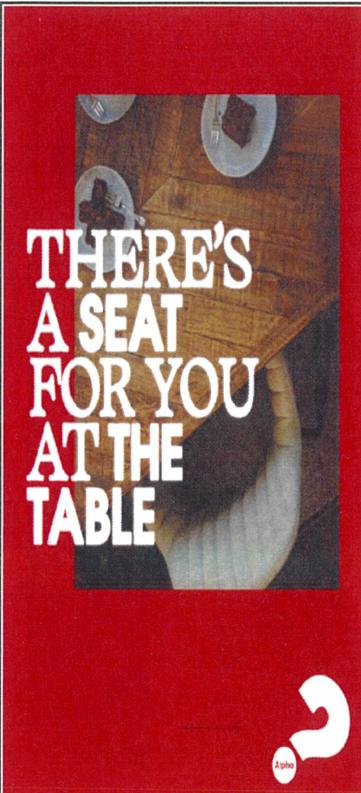
Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Mary Stocco
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina

YOUTH MASS

MORNING TEA: N/A

FLOWERS: Mary Piccoli

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20 pmm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest or sacristan know your need.



Alpha

Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm
 28 January to 25 March,
 Plus a day retreat on Sat 14 March

**Meals included—Free
 donation welcome**

St Kevin's Parish
 30 Herlihys Road
 Lower Templestowe

To register email:
templestowe@cam.org.au
 phone 03 9850 5983
 or
doncaster@cam.org.au
 phone 03 9412 8425

Find out more at
alpha.org.au

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

For School Tours and Open Days visit
sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

Parish Facilities: The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made:
St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com

(03) 9848 4483 principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au



Ways of Giving—

Thank you for your generosity and continuous support!

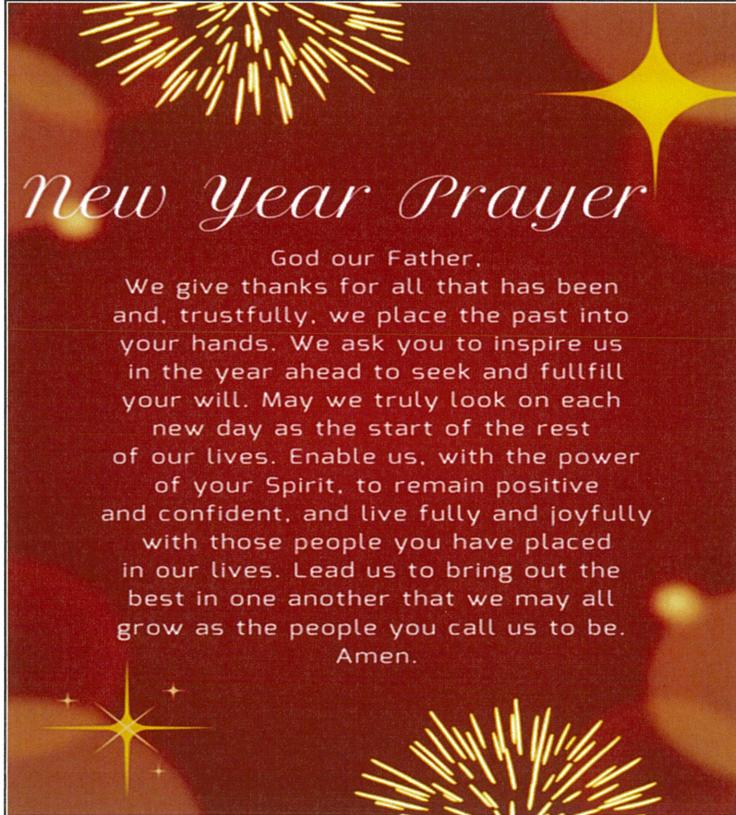


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Scan this code with your phone camera and donate directly to our church. Choose Payment for Church Donations. It's simple and secure.

Give by Contactless

Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit/credit card. It's simple and secure.



Parish of
 St Gregory
 the Great

Monthly

YOUTH MASS

Youth and Young Adults led Mass

**EVERY SECOND
 SUNDAY OF EACH
 MONTH AT 5PM**

UPCOMING DATES:

11TH JANUARY 2026
 8TH FEBRUARY 2026
 8TH MARCH 2026
 12TH APRIL 2026

All are Welcome

More information:

St Gregory the Great Parish
 71 Williamson's Rd, Doncaster
 03 9412 8425 Doncaster@cam.org.au
stgregs.org.au

Sacramental Preparation Classes

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on margaretodonnel@gmail.com. There will be an information session on Tuesday, 17th February at 4.30pm in St Gregory's Parish Church. Specific details for celebrating each sacrament will be made available at that meeting.

Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.