



ST JOSEPH'S Parish of Benalla



WE THE PARISH OF BENALLA ARE WORKING TOWARDS BEING A WELCOMING, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, WHICH ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OUR LIFE. RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, AS WE JOURNEY IN LIVING OUT JESUS' GOSPEL MESSAGE.

We acknowledge the custodians of the land of the Yorta Yorta Nation which, includes the eight clan groups.

We also acknowledge the Taungurung clan of the Kulin Nation whose lands are within our parish.

We remember their ancestors with respect and commit ourselves to a better future through reconciliation and justice.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

4 January 2026



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

FIRST READING

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. **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.**

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.**

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

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 the same 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

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.

REFLECTION

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates God's revelation of Jesus Christ to all nations. In the Gospel, the Magi—foreigners and seekers—are guided by a star to the newborn King. Their journey reminds us that God meets people where they are and invites everyone, regardless of background, to encounter Christ. The Magi's openness contrasts sharply with Herod's fear and the indifference of those who knew the Scriptures but did not move. Epiphany challenges us to ask whether we are willing to set out on a journey of faith or remain comfortable and unmoved. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh reveal who Jesus truly is: King, God, and Suffering Servant. These gifts also symbolize what we are called to offer Christ—our loyalty, our worship, and our willingness to carry the cross. When the Magi encounter Jesus, they are filled with joy and respond in adoration. True encounter with Christ always leads to transformation. Finally, the Magi return home by a different route, showing that meeting Christ changes the direction of our lives. Epiphany invites us not only to recognize Jesus as the light of the world but also to reflect that light in our daily lives, bearing witness to God's love for all people. God Bless always, Fr Vijay



REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am

Thoona Mass – Third Sunday of each month,
12 noon

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Stanislav Kaluzinski, Pat Hickey, Veronica Hodges, Dianne Brown, Frances Evans, Kaz Niedwiedzki and Edward Murray

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Brigid Chalmers, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan and John Downie



Subscribe and receive Parish Bulletin, Newsletter & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Benalla



The Carpenter

Building our Parish Community

Have you received your copy of the 'The Carpenter'

Benalla Parish newsletter 'The Carpenter' is now available. Eleanor MacNamara once again has done an amazing job of producing, the Third edition of the parish newsletter! If you have not received your copy, there will be printed copies in the Narthex.

Liturgical Jottings

Epiphany and Ourselves

It is easy to regard the feast of the Epiphany of the

Lord as a past event, a cultural festival and as a liturgical presentation. The Feast is rich with symbolism, curious in its origins and its personages and deeply theological in the mysteries of Christmas, Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord. But where do we fit with it other than in Christmas pageants? We may ask the questions: "What are the



Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING Jason Blyss 0407438219	 Goulburn Murray Credit Union 30–32 Bridge Street PH 5762 3380	 Accountants Income Tax Returns Business Advisers 107 Bridge St Benalla Ph 5762 1588
MAHERS TREE SERVICE JOHN MAHER M: 0413 842 525 MTS COMPLETE LANDSCAPING DANIEL MAHER M: 0412 083 618	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006 <i>Manor</i>	 Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
COOKS KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046		N.J. TODD Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEENAN FAMILY Est. 1938- AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla

Magi (the wise men) to us today? How can we relate to the incarnation of the Lord? What are the demands on us? The Magi fulfil the prophesies of Old that all nations will acknowledge the power and reign of God. We are in the mix of the nations and its people to recognise God with us and that he has become flesh and bone like us. The incarnation teaches God lives with us and Christ's divinity teaches us we have that spark of divine life within us. Every Christian is to be a wise person in their time and space. Every Christian is to be a light to the world, and to follow the star and the cross of Christ to eternal life. © Diocese of Sandhurst 2025

EPIPHANY SYMBOLS - The Star: Gives light and guidance. Christmas lights remind us of the Light of Christ. The Star on top of the Christmas tree brings God's creation and Christ's salvation into our hearts and minds. **Three Gifts:** Gold a gift from a king to the King; Incense is burnt to honour God. The gift of incense is given to honour the divinity of Christ; Myrrh is an ointment for anointing the dead. It reminds us of Christ's humanity and our mortality. **The House:** The star stopped over the house where the wise men entered. It was not a stable. Epiphany is a time to bless houses. The house, a family home, is the place of safety, growth and love.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
3 Jan	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Vince Brannigan	Kath Elliot	K Elliott & Volunteer
4 Jan	9.30am	Ruth Jelliff	John Smyth	James Flynn	Louise Beling	J Berry & Volunteer
10 Jan	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Clare O'Brien	Cath Duncombe	K & S Chacko
11 Jan	9.30am	Richard Rubira	Brian Higgins	Paddy O'Brien	Susie Buykx	W Rettke



St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish, and we are committed to the wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese of Sandhurst Safeguarding Committee is part of the structure under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, which is designed to be implemented by Catholic entities across Australia. Any questions, queries, comments or suggestions are welcomed by the Safeguarding team who can be contacted through the Parish House by phone or email. **St Joseph's Parish Child Safe Officers** - Xavier O'Kane and Cath Duncombe 0423 203 154

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

www.catholicparish.app>benalla Office Email: benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, Fr Vijay's Email: frbasuoss@gmail.com

For donations/planned giving bank transfers BSB: 083543 Account No: 457724666 Reference: Your name