



Image by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj

# Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale.

We gather as a community of believers in Jesus, to grow as his disciples, using our gifts, to proclaim the Gospel

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7TH JANUARY 2024, YEAR B

Diocese of Broken Bay  
Ancestral home of the  
Darkinjung people

**Readings:** Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**Response:**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**



### Reflection

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for

Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

### Sacramental Program Dates 2024

**Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** for children in year 4 and above will run over 6 weeks. Parent information and enrolment meeting is on **Tuesday 13th February at 7pm**. Classes commence on **Sunday 18th February at 10am** and continue for 6 weeks. The Sacrament of **Reconciliation** will be on **26th March from 3pm to 7pm**. **First Holy Communion** will be celebrated with a special Mass on 7th April at 11:45am.

**Sacrament of Confirmation** for children in year 3 and above will be celebrated on Saturday 29th June at 10am.

### Sunday Mass

Sat (Vigil) 5pm,  
Sun 8am, 10am, 5pm

### Family Mass

Every Sunday at 10am  
Includes Children's Liturgy

### Weekday Mass

Mon—Communion Service  
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.15am  
Wednesday 8:45am

### Monthly BBQ

4th Sunday of each month  
after 5pm Mass

### Devotions

Rosary after weekday Mass  
Tues 6pm Rosary

### St Joseph's Men's Group

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7pm

### Anointing Mass

3rd Saturday of the Month  
at 9:15am

### Reconciliation

Sat 4pm - 4.45 pm

### Baptisms

Sunday 11.30am Contact the  
Parish Office for details.

### Baptisms Preparation

3rd Tuesday of each month at  
7pm in the church

### Weddings

By appointment

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues to Sat/ 8am to 9am

### Parish Luncheon

2nd Thursday of the month  
12noon at Wallarah Bay Club

### Men's & Women's Breakfast

4th Saturday of the month at  
8am at Warnies Café.

### Syro-Malabar Mass

1st Friday at 6pm  
1st & 3rd Sunday at 7pm

**Priest:** Fr Philip Thottam MSFS, Parish Priest ([philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au))

**Secretary:** Kim McCarthy

**Bookkeeper:** Johnson Mani

**Church:** Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

**Mail:** PO Box 4367, Lake Haven, 2263

**Telephone:** 8379 1740

**Parish Mobile:** (out of hours) 0423 279 263

**Office email:** [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Web:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale)

**Office hours:** Tues—Fri 8:30am—3:00pm

**Safeguarding:** When safeguarding is embedded in Parish leadership, governance and culture; members of the Parish recognise that it is a shared responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding officer - Bill Mifsud ([bill@earthgold.com.au](mailto:bill@earthgold.com.au)) 0412 051 839

## Young People becoming Catholics

If you wish for your child/ren to become a member of the Catholic church, we will be holding the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) course **commencing on 27th January 2024 at 3pm in the Church.**

The children will then celebrate their sacraments at Easter Vigil Mass on **Saturday night 30th March**

For more information or to register please contact the parish office on 8379 1740 or via email [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## Salesian Thought

**How happy are we to be slaves of God, who made Himself a slave for us!**  
(Letters to Persons in Religion, II 8)



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for JANUARY

### For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

## Baptism Information Night



Our next Baptism information session is on **Tuesday 17th January 2024 at 7pm in the church.** Please contact the parish office to register your interest or for more information about Baptism.

## PARISH COLLECTIONS

**1st collection:** goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests.

**2nd Collection:** Funds the operational management of the Parish  
You can also donate via Bpoint, which will take you to our

Website for secure online payments. [www.bpoint.com.au/pay/WarnervaleParish](http://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/WarnervaleParish)

**Name: St Mary MacKillop Parish**

**BSB: 062 784**

**Account no: 10000 5628**

*Thank you for your generous contribution*



## Catechist Corner

### Combined Years 3 and 4 Catechist Roles

Our Parish Catechist Ministry is currently seeking to fill a combined year 3 and 4 Catechist role starting this year at Woongarrah Public School on a Thursday on 12.00 noon for 30 minutes.

The Ministry is also seeking to fill a year 5 Catechist role at Warnervale Public School on Wednesdays from 12.25pm for 30 minutes.

We are also seeking classroom assistants. If you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to share God's Good News with our Parish children Please contact Kerrie on 0402815633.

To "be" catechists!  
Not to "work" as catechists.  
Catechesis is a vocation:  
"being a catechist",  
this is the vocation,  
not "working" as a catechist.

Pope Francis,  
Congress on Catechesis



## Funeral Liturgy Information

The parish is now offering a document to plan your own funeral liturgy.

The document will come in an envelope for you to fill out and then seal and return it to the parish office, where it will be kept confidential and secure until requested by your family, or you can keep the pack with your personal belongings

This is an opportunity to have your final wishes planned and give your loved ones a guide on what you would like for your funeral, which will relieve some stress from your loved ones when you pass away.

If you wish to receive the information please contact the parish office during office hours (Tuesday to Friday 8:30am to 3pm) or see Fr Philip.

## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 8 January**  
The Baptism of the Lord

**Tuesday 9 January**

**Wednesday 10 January**  
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Thursday 11 January**

**Friday 12 January**

**Saturday 13 January**  
St Hilary

## Return and Earn

**This fortnight we raised \$146.70**



Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Return and Earn fundraising project and commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility for our community.

### Please remember:

- ♦ containers need to be empty of all liquid;
- ♦ not crushed or broken;
- ♦ labels must be on the containers;
- ♦ cans and bottles must have 10c refund logo.

### Thank you for your continued support!



## Find us on Facebook



Keep up with parish happenings on Facebook at [St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryoftheCrossMacKillopParish), please "like" our page.

**Please remember our sick:** Margaret Bowman, Joel Diaz, Finn McConnon, Robyn Donnelly, Helen Cohen, Lucy Hardman, Bill McGuinness, Len Carlos, Caterina Allen.

**Anniversaries:** David Pennings, Mike McQueen, Michael McQueen, John Butler, Vincent Abela, Leo Galea, Sue Landen, Peter Larkin, Alice Joseph, Venancio Villalba, Frank Costa, Abraham K.

**Recently Deceased:** Jim Speight, Alf James, Jason Davis, John O'Reilly, Ronnie O'Loughlan.



# The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B

## First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

### The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, 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.

Life 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 signing the praise of the Lord.

The word 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 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.**

# The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B

## Second Reading

St Paul to Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

**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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

**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 to 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 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 on 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 dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.