

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah

St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville

St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah



Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community

Pastoral Team

Administrator

Rev Tomy Kuruvelil Ouseph CFIC

Phone: 0408 632 015

Email: tomyfcic@yahoo.co.in

Assistant Priest

Rev Baby Thomas CFIC

Phone: 0400 568 491

Email: baby.thomas@bbcatholic.org.au

Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation—Convent

11 Pandora Pde Noraville

4396 9128

Sr. Josefa Mabini OSA

Sr. Jennifer Canillas OSA

Parish Office Hours

9am to 2pm Mon To Fri

Ph 4396 4455

458 Main Rd Noraville NSW

Mail PO Box 1 Toukley NSW 2263

Email toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Website www.bbcatholic.org.au/toukley

Facebook: Toukley-Lake Munmorah Parish

Parish Secretary: Mrs Sarah-Jane Rosen

Office Assistant: Mrs Lorrie O'Brien

Catechist Coordinator

Sr Josefa (Josie) Mabini OSA

Sacramental Coordinator

Mrs Lorrie O'Brien

Sunday Parish Bus Service

Mrs Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Ms Emma Sellars 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Ms Charlene Reid 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mr Adam Murdoch 4358 4278

The Epiphany of the Lord

8th January 2023



Dear friends today we celebrate the Solemnity of Epiphany. The Greek word Epiphany means *appearance* or manifestation or showing forth, is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles.

Today's gospel passage gives us an account of how the three wise men from the east came to pay homage to infant Jesus at Bethlehem. They paid homage and offered their precious gifts to the divine child. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. These three men left their homeland in search of the child. This story of the three wise men is a story of all genuine faith seekers. They left everything precious to them and were guided by a star. They diligently searched for the child Jesus till they found the child and His mother. When they found Him, they worshipped Him. Thus, the Gospel story gives us the journey of the three wise men from the east to Jerusalem. This journey of theirs is a symbol of search for truth by genuine seekers of God.

Today's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring Him their hearts and offer their lives to Him. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah (first reading), prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light, bringing gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. Today we ask for the gift of finding God in us and around us.

Fr Tomy

Special Notices:

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased

Helen Turner, Paul Head, Beau Rutherford, Kenneth George Durley, Gwen Lee, Michael Slattery

Anniversaries

Frederick Jurd, Mario Azzopardi

Remembrances

Millicent Zietsch, Carol Brown, Moore & Langley families, Valmai Joseph Stark Family, Brown and Miller Family

Birthdays

Elena Mabini Teofilo 25 December

Kye Sutherland 26 December

Fr. Baby 26 January

Rita Jeffries 26 January

Anniversary Mass for Mario

Azzopardi

St Brendan's Church Fri 13th January at 6pm.

Holidays Fr. Baby is away from 9th January for a month. We wish him a safe journey and a wonderful time.

Communion Service

Every Wednesday there will be only communion service at 9am at St Brendan's.

Confessions

Confessions will finish at 10am as Fr. Baby is away on Saturdays.

Parish Office - Holiday Hours

closed 18-27 Jan, re-opens

Mon 30th January.

Fr Tomy's Anniversary

We pray for Fr. Tomy as he celebrates his 20th anniversary as a Priest. Please join us on 9th January to celebrate.

Farewell to Alicia and welcome to Sarah-Jane 15th January 9am

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

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

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.**

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 2:2*

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 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

St Mary's Church Carpet

The carpet is booked to be replaced in the church in February. The supplier/installer we have chosen is very experienced. The total price is considerable so we thought we'd invite Parishioners to 'sponsor a square metre' to help with the cost. The cost per square metre is \$93. There are envelopes available at the church doors for anyone who would like to contribute and thank you in advance.

Next Sunday - Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel - John 1:29-34

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