The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

A Prayer for the New Year

God grant us this year a wider view, so we see others' faults through the eyes of You.

Teach us to judge not with hasty tongue,
Neither the adult ... nor the young.

Give us patience and grace to endure
And a stronger faith so we feel secure.
Instead of remembering, help us forget
The irritations that caused us to fret.

Freely forgiving for some offence and finding each day a rich recompense. In offering a friendly, helping hand and trying in all ways to understand;

That all of us whoever we are ...
Are trying to reach an
unreachable star.
For the great and small ...
the good and bad,
The young and old ...
the sad and glad

Are asking today;
Is life worth living?
The answer is only in,
loving and giving.
For only love can make man
kind and kindness of heart
brings peace of mind.

By giving love, we can help this year To lift the clouds of hate and fear.

Helen Steiner Rice



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

Cast all your cares to the Lord and soon you will discover that the Lord directs all things to the best outcome!







PARISH DIRECTORY

Pittwater Parish

1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103 Tel 9157 0999 www.pittwaterparish.org

> **Parish Priest** Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS Tel 9157 0999 ext 0 pp@pittwaterparish.org

Assistant Priest Fr Richard Sadowski SDS Tel 9157 0999 ext 0 ap@pittwaterparish.org

Bishop - Emeritus Bishop Bernard O'Grady op Tel 9918 0372

Parish Secretary Suzy Caruso Tel 9157 0999 ext 0 office@pittwaterparish.org

Administrative Assistant Angela Smit Tel 9157 0999 ext 0 office@pittwaterparish.org

Youth Director Josh Willard (Soul Youth) music@pittwaterparish.org

Music Director Josh Willard Tel 9157 0999 ext 17 music@pittwaterparish.org

Media & Communication Laura Ee Tel 9157 0999 ext 31 media@pittwaterparish.org

Sacramental Program **Suzy Caruso**Tel 9157 0999 ext 13 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

> **Parish Office Hours** Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 4.00pm Friday 9am to 12 noon

Sacred Heart Church 1 Keenan Street Mona Vale

Maria Regina Church 7 Central Road Avalon

Mona Vale **Sacred Heart School** Tel 9999 3264 Principal: Mrs Suellen Garey

Avalon Maria Regina School Tel 9918 2608 Principal: Mrs Kathy Gee

Warriewood Mater Maria Catholic College Tel 9997 7044 Principal: Mr Marc Reicher

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of community trust.

We Pray for

Recently Deceased Maureen Suggitt (Funeral arrangements are yet to be finalised)

Caterina Randazzo (Bishop Anthony's Mother)

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May they Rest in Peace. Amen. May Their Souls And The Souls Of The Faithful Departed, Through The Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.

Deceased Anniversary

Margaret Traves Ivan Vodanov Leticia B<mark>uhat</mark> Angela Mitchell **Vimala Anthony**

If you would like the names of your relatives or friends and offerings included, please drop the envelope in to the Parish Office by Midday on Wednesdays. Thank You.

Prayers for the Sick

Bill Eyre Manny Zarb Philip Maddrel Gail Reiher Imelda Vince Eric Domagas Vicky Villaluz Ben Castillo Moira Howie Carol Brennan Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Donald McRae
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
John Andrew Graham
John Charles Graham
Michael Carrodus
Pat Regan
Robyn Sheather
Lynette Buhat
Candida Hernandez
Chin Quang Le Chin Quang Le Gill Page Tony Quatroville Garry Gleeson Elizabeth Kral

The names on this list will be removed after four weeks unless otherwise requested or advised. Thank you



Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo,

Fr Bronek, Fr Richard, Brother Anthony, th<mark>e</mark> staff and parishioners of Pittwater Parish would like to extend our deepest condolences to you on the sadnews of the passing of your mother, Caterina.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

BOOK REVIEW

A Woman Clothed with the Sun Edited by John J. Delaney



We have heard of some of the apparitions of Our Lady over the last 200 years and this volume explains each one as it happened. A great read.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand from Broken Bay's Cathedral at

https://www.youtube.com /channel/UCNenwlfI7i14 XB9TsVBrLvQ

We hope that this will help the faithful to celebrate the Holy Mass online wherever vou are





The office will reopen on Monday 11 January 2021

From Monday 11 January to Wednesday 27 January 2020, the office will be open: Monday to Friday from 9am to 12noon.

PLANNED GIVING

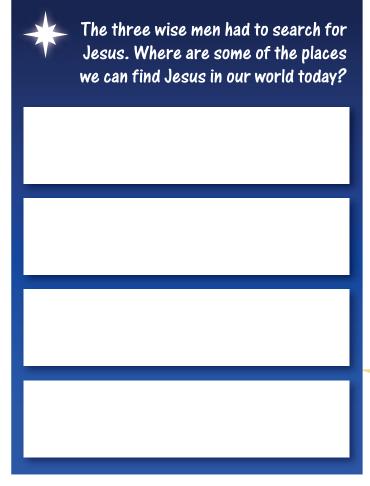
The money contributed to our parish via our second collection helps us to meet the running costs which our Parish incurs, including wages, electricity, telephones, insurances, rates, building and equipment repairs and maintenance, to name but a few. Whilst you are unable to attend Mass, if you are able to make your regular donation by way of automatic direct debit from your credit card, please complete the form included in this bulletin. Or donations can be made on our website: www.pittwaterparish.org through the donations and giving tile. If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office, 9157 0999 for













Want to know the history behind the Feast of the Epiphany?



While the hustle and bustle of Christmas ends for many people on December 26, throughout Christian history Christmas lasts for twelve days — all the way until January 6.

This feast marking the end of Christmas is called "**Epiphany**."

In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men, but also in his baptism in the Jordan and at the wedding at Cana.

In the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, Theophany — as Epiphany is known in the East — commemorates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity at his baptism in the River Jordan.

While the traditional date for the feast is January 6, in the Australia the celebration of Epiphany is moved to the Sunday between the 2 and 8 January, overlapping with the rest of the Western Church's celebration of the Baptism of Christ.

However, the meaning of the feast goes deeper than just the bringing of presents or the end of Christmas, says Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo, a Melkite Catholic priest and founding executive director of the Institute of Catholic Culture.

"You can't understand the Nativity without Theophany; or you can't understand Nativity without Epiphany."The revelation of Christ as the Son of God – both as an infant and at his baptism — illuminate the mysteries of the Christmas season, he said.

"Our human nature is blinded because of sin and we're unable to see as God sees," he told CNA. "God reveals to us the revelation of what's going on."

Origins of Epiphany

While the Western celebration of Epiphany (which comes from Greek, meaning "revelation from above"), and the Eastern celebration of Theophany (meaning "revelation of God"), have developed their own traditions and liturgical significances, these feasts share more than the same day.

"The Feast of Epiphany, or the Feast of Theophany, is a very, very early feast," said Fr. Carnazzo. "It predates the celebration of Christmas on the 25th."

In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the advent of Christ on January 6 by commemorating Nativity, Visitation of the Magi, Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast of the Epiphany. By the fourth century, both Christmas and Epiphany had been set as separate feasts in some dioceses. At the Council of Tours in 567, the Church set both Christmas day and Epiphany as feast days on the December 25 and January 6,

respectively, and named the twelve days between the feasts as the Christmas season.

Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ on January 6. Meanwhile, the Eastern Churches' celebration of Theophany celebrates Christ's baptism and is one of the holiest feast days of the liturgical calendar.

Roman Traditions

The celebration of the visitation of the Magi — whom the Bible describes as learned wise men from the East — has developed its own distinct traditions throughout the Roman Church.

As part of the liturgy of the Epiphany, it is traditional to proclaim the date of Easter and other moveable feast days to the faithful — formally reminding the Church of the importance of Easter and the resurrection to both the liturgical year and to the faith.

Other cultural traditions have also arisen around the feast. Dr. Matthew Bunson, EWTN Senior Contributor, told CNA about the "rich cultural traditions" in Spain, France, Ireland and elsewhere that form an integral part of the Christmas season for those cultures.

In Italy, La Befana brings sweets and presents to children not on Christmas, but on Epiphany. Children in many parts of Latin America, the Philippines, Portugal, and Spain also receive their presents on "Three Kings Day."

Meanwhile, in Ireland, Catholics celebrate "Women's Christmas" — where women rest from housework and cleaning and celebrate together with a special meal. Epiphany in Poland is marked by taking chalk — along with gold, incense and amber — to be blessed at Mass. Back at home, families will inscribe the first part of the year, followed by the letters, "C+M+B+" and then the last numbers of the year on top of every door in the house.

The letters, Bunson explained, stand for the names traditionally given to the wise men — Casper, Melchior and Balthazar — as well as for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat," or, "Christ, bless this house."

In nearly every part of the world, Catholics celebrate Epiphany with a Kings Cake: a sweet cake that sometimes contains an object like a figurine or a lone nut. In some locations lucky recipient of this prize either gets special treatment for the day, or they must then hold a party at the close of the traditional Epiphany season on February 2.

These celebrations, Bunson said, point to the family-centered nature of the feast day and of its original celebration with the Holy Family. The traditions also point to what is known — and what is still mysterious — about the Magi, who were the first gentiles to encounter Christ. While the Bible remains silent about the wise men's actual names, as well as how many of them there were, we do know that they were clever, wealthy, and most importantly, brave.

"They were willing to take the risk in order to go searching for the truth, in what they discerned was a monumental event," he said, adding that the Magi can still be a powerful example.

Lastly, Bunson pointed to the gifts the wise men brought — frankincense, myrrh and gold — as gifts that point not only to Christ's divinity and his revelation to the Magi as the King of Kings, but also to his crucifixion. In giving herbs traditionally used for burial, these gifts, he said, bring a theological "shadow, a sense of anticipation of what is to come."

Revelation of God

Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo explained to CNA the significance of the feast of the Theophany — and of Christ's Baptism more broadly — within the Eastern Catholic churches.

"In our Christian understanding in the East, we are looking at creation through the eyes of God, not so much through the eyes of Man," Fr. Carnazzo said.

In the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, he continued, there is special divine significance.

With this feast day, the pastor explained, "God has come to reclaim us for himself." Because of original sin, he continued, humanity has inherited "a human nature which has been dislocated from its source of life."

Sin also effected parts of creation such as water have also been separated from their purpose and connection to God's plan for life, Fr. Carrazzo said, because its original purpose is not just to sustain our bodies, but our souls as well.

"With the fall, however, it has been dislocated from its source of life, it is under the dominion of death- it doesn't have eternal life anymore. So God comes to take it to himself."

"What Jesus did was to take our human nature and do with it what we could not do — which is, to walk it out of death, and that's exactly what He did with His baptism." As it is so linked to the destruction of death and reclaiming of life, the Feast of Theophany is also very closely linked to the Crucifixion — an attribute that is reflected in Eastern iconography of both events as well.

The feast of the Theophany celebrates not only Christ's conquering of sin through baptism, but also God's revelation of Christ as his Son and the beginning of Christ's ministry. "The baptism of the Lord, just like the Nativity, is not just a historical event: it's a revelation," Fr. Carrazzo said.

To mark the day, Eastern Catholics begin celebrations with Divine Liturgy at the Church, which includes a blessing of the waters in the baptistry. After the water is blessed, the faithful drink the water, and bring bottles of water to bring back to their homes for use and not only physical but spiritual healing, he explained. Many parishes hold feasts after Liturgy is over. In many Middle Eastern cultures, people also fry and eat awamat — dough that is fried until it floats, and then is covered in honey.

During the Theophany season, priests also try to visit each home in the parish to bless the house with Holy Water that was blessed at Theophany. Fr. Carrazzo invited all Roman Catholics to come and become familiar, "to be part of a family" and join in celebrating Eastern Catholic traditions.

Why Do We Call Mary the Mother of God? St Paul's Centre

Feast Day on January 1.



The image of Mary as Queen Mother is directly related to the first official Marian dogma defined by the Church: Mary's status as Mother of God. The Greek word for the title is Theotokos, which literally means "God-bearer."

That title is one of the oldest and most commonly used titles for Mary, with Christians using it in the very first centuries of the Church. The title also appears in one of the oldest known Christian prayers, the Sub Tuum Praesidium ("Beneath Your Protection"), an early form of the Memorare that dates to the third century.

The first Christians called Mary the "Mother of God" without hesitation. There was scriptural precedent, and it seemed logical. If Jesus was God, and Mary was his mother, then that made her the Mother of God. That sort of logic depends on a principle called the "Communication of Idioms." According to that principle, whatever one says about either of Christ's natures can be truly said of Christ himself. That's because His two natures, the divine nature and the human nature, were united in Him. He is one divine person.

In the fifth century, however, some people raised the same objections to the title that many non-Catholics raise today: They argued that the title "Mother of God" implied that Mary was the "originator of God." Those objectors said

that they could accept the title "Mother of Christ," but not "Mother of God." At the heart of those objections, however, was an objection to the unity of Christ's two natures. Mary, they claimed, gave birth only to Christ's human nature, not his divine nature. The Church, led by Pope Celestine I and St. Cyril of Alexandria, disagreed. As St. Cyril pointed out, a mother gives birth to a person, not a nature. Accordingly, Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, who was and is a divine person. Although Mary did not "originate" or "generate" God, she did bear Him in her womb and give birth to Him. She was God's mother.

The controversy over Mary's title as "Mother of God" was addressed in 431 A.D. at the Council of Ephesus. There, more was at stake than simply defending Mary's title. The Christian teaching about Christ's two natures was the real issue. The Church wanted to settle one question: Was Jesus one person or two? Rejecting the teaching of the heretic Nestorius, the Church declared that Jesus is one divine person, with two natures—his mother's human nature and his Father's divine nature. Mary did not give Jesus his divine nature or his divine personhood—those He possessed from all eternity as the only begotten Son of the Father. But she also didn't just give Him His flesh: She gave birth to the whole person. She gave birth to Jesus Christ, both God and man. That is what we confess every time we say the Apostles' Creed.

Calling Mary "Mother of God" states a truth that must be stated in order to protect an essential truth about Christ. In a similar way, that's what all Mary's queenly predecessors did for their sons. One of the three essential tasks of the Queen Mother was to be a sign of her son's legitimacy. She was the link between his father, the former rightful king, and her son, the present rightful king. Likewise, Mary as the virginal "Mother of God" is the link between her Son's humanity and divinity. She is the sign that He is both God and man.

Marriage Tribunal – Diocese of Broken Bay

The Marriage Tribunal in the Diocese of Broken Bay is a service of the Diocese to assist with the pastoral care of:

- divorced persons seeking to remarry in the Catholic Church;
- divorced and remarried persons seeking to have their marriage recognised in the Catholic Church;
- divorced persons seeking clarification of their standing in the Catholic Church for peace of conscience or for reassurance in developing relationships in the future.

Marriage Tribunal Contact Details

Diocesan Director: Fr Julian Wellspring JV Administrative Assistant: Mrs Alda Mendezona

Phone: 9307 8309 • Email: tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au

Postal address: Level 7

Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000

The Marriage Tribunal will reopen on Monday, 4 January 2021.

To read the messages from Bishop Anthony and from the people Vox Populi please go to www.pittwaterparish.org. News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.



The Living Word

Entrance Antipho Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12 Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First ReadingA 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 your daughters being tenderly carried

carrieu.

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. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(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)

or 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!

Gospel Mt 2:1-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the

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

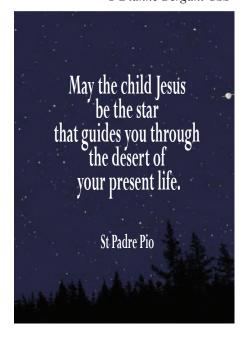
Communion Antiphon Cf. Mt 2:2 We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world. There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and peace.

goodness and peace.
The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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Liturgy for the Week

JANUARY

04/01 **Monday of Christmas Time** 1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

05/01 **Tuesday of Christmas Time** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

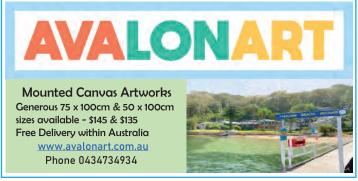
06/01 **Wednesday of Christmas Time** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

07/01 **Thursday of Christmas Time** 1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4; Lk 4:14-22

08/01 **Friday of Christmas Time** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

09/01 **Saturday of Christmas Time** 1 *Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30*

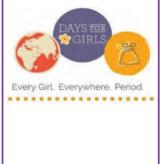
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