Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times St Cecilia's Church

23 Byron St Wyong

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

St John Fisher Mass Centre Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

Weekday Mass

St Cecilia's: Mon-Sat: 8.00am

St John Fisher:

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am

Tue & Fri: 9.15am

**Reconciliation/Confession** 

**St Cecilia's** Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

**St John Fisher** Saturday at 4.30pm

**Emergency Priest Contact** 

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099 Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

**Parish Contacts** 

Parish Priest Fr Raul Balute, SOLT ph:0450 115 099 email: frraul\_solt@yahoo.com

Assistant Priest Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT

ph:0432 947 245

Parish Coordinator Jo Helm ph: 0424 763 734

email: jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary Helen Bath ph:4352 1011

Parish Office 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259 **Office Hours:** Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm

& Fri 9.30am to 12pm

Parish Email:

wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Website:

https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Anointing of the Sick First Friday of the Month and will recommence Feb 2021

St Cecilia's During 8.00am &11.30am Mass and

**St John Fisher** During 9.15am Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration** 

**St Cecilia's** Daily 7am-8am **St John Fisher** 1st Friday 8.15 - 9.15am

**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help** 

Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher (after the 8am mass)

**Devotion to the Divine Mercy** 

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Fr Raul/Fr Alex and the Legion of Mary **visit Berkley Vale Nursing home** 3rd Wednesday of

the Month

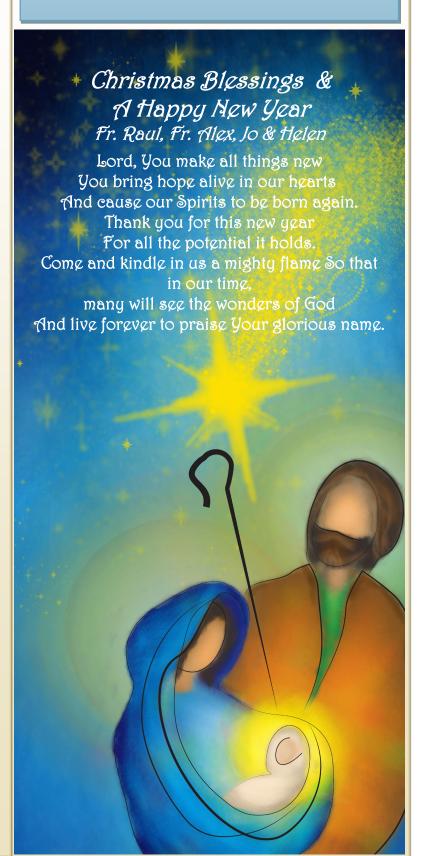
prayer groups

St Čecilia's Rosary Group 2pm Tuesdays
St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 8am Wednesdays

PARISH BULLETIN,
27TH DECEMBER 2020 AND 3RD JANUARY 2021

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH
ST CECILIA'S CHURCH & ST JOHN FISHER MASS
CTR

Under the Pastoral Care of the Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)





### Anniversaries

### Best Wishes

#### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Joanne Helm 5/1/1971 Janelle Murace 19/1/1971 Catherine Murace 18/1

## Warmest Congratulations

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Pat and Gerard Byrne 30/1/1960 (60 Years)

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Parish Office is closed and will reopen Wednesday 13th January. During January the office will only be open:

Wed 13th/ Thurs 14th and Wed 20th/ Thurs 21st.

Office hours will return to normal Wednesday 27th January.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A very sincere thank you for everyone's generous donations. Your contributions have assisted us in putting together Christmas hampers which will be distributed to the needy families in our area. Thank you for your continued support.

We wish you all a very happy and Blessed Christmas.

Wyong Conference Centre

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We uphold that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

#### **KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS**

## Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Margaret Hobbs, Christine, John Baxter, Joey Moloney, Noel Muir, Cathryn Sharkey, Jacqui Stacey, John Bof (Jnr),

RECENTLY DECEASED:

**Anniversary January:** Sophie Roe, Peter White, Patricia Unger, Bill Martin, Tony Kerr, Armida Bito-on.

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who organized and participated in all the Christmas Masses; you made the celebration of Christmas more meaningful and very memorable. May we imitate the Holy Family and make Jesus the center of our families. We wish you all the Blessings of the New Year as we strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in our everyday lives.

#### Invitation to participate?

Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home?

Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic?

Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation. So this is that *personal invitation* and a challenge to all of you who might know someone who fits the categories above, invite that person.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] is the faith-stirring process by which adults seek a deeper knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ and decide whether to commit themselves to the Catholic faith.

If you are: Interested in becoming Catholic

Never baptised or

Baptised in another Christian denomination

Come and join us. For further information, please contact the Parish Office 43 521011, Jo 0424 763 734 or speak to Fr Raul or Fr Alex after Mass.

#### **P**RAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

For through your goodness, you surround us with people to share life and with beautifully diversified living spices through which to behold you.

Help us develop a sensitivity for their needs and suffering and the will to act on them.

Amen.



#### **Property Transfer Professionals**

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## SUNDAY MASS THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 27 DECEMBER 2020 THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **FIRST READING GENESIS 15:1-6, 21:1-3**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 104:1-6, 8-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

#### **SECOND READING HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HEBREWS 1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL LUKE 2:22, 39-40**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him

### REFLECTION 27 December (Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

Today, we reflect on the life of the Holy Family in Nazareth. At one level we know very little about this period of Jesus' life. In today's Gospel of St Luke simply tells us that in Nazareth 'the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom, and God's favour was with him.'

Luke also tells us that his parents did 'everything the Law of the Law required'. From that we can conclude that Jesus grew up in a religious home in Nazareth, characterized by prayer and faithfulness to God's law.

Throughout his public ministry Jesus revealed a familiarity with the Hebrew Scriptures – the Torah, the prophets and the psalms – and we can assume that he came to know these texts during his formative years in Nazareth. We also know that he worked as a carpenter, like Joseph.

No doubt the Holy Family experienced difficult times in Nazareth, as well as blessed moments. We have the record of an incident when Jesus was twelve-years-old, and his parents lost him. How traumatic that must have been for Mary and Joseph. At a certain stage Jesus and Mary would have grieved the death of Joseph. Simeon's prophecy to Mary that a sword would pierce her own soul points to Jesus passion and death, and much more besides including incidents, unknown to us, during Jesus' childhood.

Outwardly, modern-day family life appears so different to family life in Jesus' day. But in the essentials of faith in God, love for each other, and courage in difficult times, the life of the Holy Family continues to offer us encouragement and inspiration.

Reproduced from God's Word 2021: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield





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#### SUNDAY MASS THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 3 JANUARY 2021

#### FIRST READING ISAIAH 60:1-6

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 PS 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13**

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

#### SECOND READING EPHESIANS 3:2-3, 5-6

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 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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> January the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

In telling the story of the birth of the Messiah, Matthew looks back to the Jewish Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) and forward to the events in Jesus' later life.

In the Book of Numbers, King Balak of Moab summons Balaam, an occult visionary from the east, to curse Israel, but this seer ends up blessing the Israelites instead. In ecstasy, he sees that 'a star from Jacob takes the leadership, a scepter arises from Israel' (Numbers 24:17). Scholars suggest that this oracle speaks of the emergence of the Davidic dynasty: David is the star and the scepter ruling over the kingdom of Judah and Israel. Now, Matthew tells the story of the magoi ('magi' or 'wise men') who, like Balaam, speak of the star of the newborn king of the Jews: Jesus, the Messiah of the house of David.

Other details point to the later story of Jesus. The Jewish rulers, represented by Herod and his cohort, refuse to believe in Jesus and persecute him. Israel, in general, will not recognize the day of 'their visitation' by God in Jesus. But the Gentiles accepted the Gospel when it was preached to them. The wise men represent the Gentile worshipers in Matthew's community.

The star can also symbolize the revelation of God in nature. God can be known and understood in the things that he has made (Romans 1:20). Creation can lead us to Jesus. But to know him as the Messiah, we must e directed to him by a special revelation: God's word in the Sacred Scriptures.

Like the wise men we are invited to approach Jesus and pay homage to him. We do this through our participation in the Eucharist and by bringing to him the gifts of our ordinary life.

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