



## The Epiphany of the Lord

7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### First Reading *Is 60:1-6*

*A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah*

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.

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.**

### Psalm *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11*

*(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore  
you.*

1. 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.)*
2. 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.)*

3. 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.)*
4. 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 *Eph 3:2-3, 5-6*

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians*

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. **Thanks be to God.**

### 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*

*The Lord be with you. And with your spirit*

✠ *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in  
Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some Magi  
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 Magi 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.**

### **REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem.

The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

### *Historical Context – The Magi*

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names...

### *Have you thought? – Epiphany*

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

### *Gospel Focus – Going home*

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

# HOLY TRINITY

## CATHOLIC PARISH

*Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of*

Holy Family      Our Lady Star of the Sea      Holy Trinity  
101 Hitchcock Av      68 John Dory Drive      34 Stevens St  
**Barwon Heads**      **Ocean Grove**      **Queenscliff**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen  
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura  
Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan  
Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes  
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

[www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au)

**PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY**  
34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225  
Telephone: (03) 5258 1673  
Email: [queenscliff@cam.org.au](mailto:queenscliff@cam.org.au)

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10:00am to 1:00pm (excluding public holidays)

**PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS**  
St. Aloysius, Queenscliff  
Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736  
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove  
Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**  
BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am  
QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**  
Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
is available prior to each weekend Mass,  
and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**  
Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office  
[www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/)

**COLUMBARIUM**  
Please visit [www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/)

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING  
NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
Enrolments are open for 2024.

Please visit our website for enrolment form and all information:  
<https://hollytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-2/>

**Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays**

## The EPIPHANY of the LORD

**Recently Deceased:** Bruce McCormack.

**Anniversaries 7<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> January:** Edith Mary Reilly, Eileen Butler, Peter O'Sullivan, Marie McInerney, Elizabeth Moore, Patricia Veronica Dickinson, Leon Righetti, Anthony Calleja, Yvonne Sticklen, Donald Sticklen, Yvonne Caruana, Elaine van Oosten and Mary Edward.

**Please pray for those who are Sick:** Elly Anwyl, Naomi Bianco, Denise Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Brian Cotter, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Gloria Forbes, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Ben Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koertjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, George Marshall, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Piec, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Jeannett Stevens, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren, Susan Weston, Cathy Williams, Michelle Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

### ROSTERS

*If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day,  
please arrange a substitute. Thank you!*

**COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM),  
WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)**

**OCEAN GROVE: 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9:00am:**

(C) Janine Fitzpatrick (L) Lachlan Fitzpatrick (SM) Dan O'Meara, Fiorentina Romeo (W) Catherine Hayes, Bev O'Meara.

**QUEENSCLIFF: 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9:00am:**

(C) Michael Scott (L) Bel Campbell (SM) Helper needed (W) Helper needed.

**COUNTERS: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 10:00am:**

Remo & Naomi Bianco.

### \*\* NEWS & EVENTS \*\*

*If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.*

For all Safeguarding updates, please visit the parish website:

[www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/](http://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/)

*We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*

**Congratulations to Michael and Patricia Leahy** of Ocean Grove on your 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Warm wishes and blessings to you on your marriage milestone.

**Madonna Magazine Summer Edition 2023/24:** free magazine copies available to take home or share in the narthex of each Mass centre.

**Catholic Mission thanks the parish of Holy Trinity** for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$1,657.00 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!

**Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR):** TAR is collecting non-perishable groceries and cash donations in each Church throughout January and February. Many refugee families in Geelong are still waiting for permanent Visa approval. They struggle to make ends meet and to retain hope. Your contributions will help the volunteers at the Wesley Welcome Place to give these refugees food and friendly support. To donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066. Website: [www.queenscliffar.org](http://www.queenscliffar.org).

### PRAYER FOR BAPTISM FAMILIES:

Dear Parents, as you prepare for your child's Baptism, the people of Holy Trinity Parish rejoice that you have chosen to baptise your child, and we pray that in the coming years, you and your family will continue to know and grow in the love of God that is everlasting.

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### LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Weekday, Ordinary Time 1**

9:15am Mass, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Weekday, Ordinary Time 1**

9:15am Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Queenscliff;  
11:00am Mass, Arcare Pt Lonsdale

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Weekday, Ordinary Time 1**

9:15am Mass, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Weekday, Ordinary Time 1**

9:15am Mass, Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – St Hilary (Memorial)**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

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### THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

#### Marking homes with blessed chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the Feast of the Epiphany into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for the Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

**20 C +M+B 24**

The letters C, M, and B are the traditional names for the Three Magi who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Dwelling).

#### WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME

Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here.  
**Amen.**

*Matthew 2: 10-11.*

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### THE THREE MAGI

**C** CASPAR  
**M** MELCHIOR  
**B** BALTHSAR

FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND  
JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE  
AMONG US

**20** TWO THOUSAND  
**24** AND TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO.  
+ MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY AND  
+ REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Let us pray,

God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ, that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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### \*\* YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY \*\*

1. If an emergency occurs near you, please raise your hand or stand up and speak out to alert the Emergency Wardens. Directions as to what to do next will then be given and assistance rendered.

2. If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the Chief Emergency Warden or other nominated Safety Wardens will take control. The Chief Emergency Warden will be identified by the wearing of a yellow Hi Vis vest.

Please remain calm and in your seats etc until you are directed by the Chief Emergency Warden as to what to do next. You will be advised as to which exit/s to use and the location of the Assembly Point. Please remain at the Assembly Point until you receive further advice.

3. In an emergency, our first priority is your safety, so please remain calm & follow all directions of the Emergency Wardens.

Thank you, OH&S Committee.


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**Ocean Eyes**  
OPTOMETRISTS

Anthony & Letitia Dowling  
with the friendly team you know and trust.


2 Park Lane, Ocean Grove VIC 3226  
Phone: 5255 5655  
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**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

#### Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("NILS")

Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email [enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au](mailto:enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au).



**NPTS** Nelson Property Transfer Services  
Geelong & Bellarine

Looking to buy, sell or transfer property?

Contact Frank Nelson  
0413 017 053  
[bellarine@npts.com.au](mailto:bellarine@npts.com.au)

You're in safe hands

### CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email [charlie.sutera76@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.sutera76@gmail.com).