



Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord 2nd / 3rd January 2021

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: This Week:

Wednesday 9.30am; Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



It is interesting to recall that the Feast of the Epiphany pre-dates Christmas, and its celebration has developed rich cultural traditions in different parts of the world. For many 2020, due to the reality of COVID-19, was a very challenging year because of the upheavals of so much that was taken for granted, especially for families that suffered the death of a loved one.

But 2020 was also a year that demonstrated the importance of the values of solidarity and the common good over the shortcomings of autonomy and individualism in a time of crisis. Therefore, as we begin 2021, peoples, including believers and non-believers, all around the world are looking forward with hope for a better year ahead.

So, no matter how the feast of the Epiphany is celebrated today, it points us towards the mystery of the incarnation and the first encounter of three gentiles with Christ. Three risk-takers in faith searching for the truth in foreign lands. They were lucky in that they had a bright light to guide them. For us Christians, our guiding star can only be the person of Jesus Christ, whose example and word are our light in creating a better, more just, and human world.



Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dianne Brown, Jamie Nelson, Fran Cudmore, Dr Josef Hruz, Corrie Van Lint, Rita Clear, Jean Parker, Margaret Liston.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Gill, John Sykes, Dawn Robison, Miroslav Student, Peter McKee, Catherine Glennon, Susan Lally, Eileen Howard, Kerryn Mildren, John Mamouney, John Cronin, Daniel Darcey, Brian O'Donoghue, Peter Liepins, Veronica Fagg, Badea Ghosn, Fred Owen, Agnes Armstrong, Frank Lacey, Catherine Weldon, Martha Oldcarn, Margaret Keys, James Whitehead, Noel Frauenfelder.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

Christmas Season



Communal Prayer for Lighting the Four Candles of Advent And the White Christmas Candle

Fr Martin: Today is the Feast of the Epiphany, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

Last Candle Now we light our white candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again, and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now)

All: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby, yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Blessing upon the New Year

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year,
I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I
speak be filled with encouragement
and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work
they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I
walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your
goodness, your kindness and your
leading.

Shine your light in us, through us, over
us. May we make a difference in this
world, for your glory and purposes. Set
your way before us. May all your plans
succeed so that we may reflect your
peace and hope to a world that so
desperately needs your presence and
healing. Amen.

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"The Lord's star, is a reliable and constant light that takes you by the hand in life and accompanies you to peace and joy as it did with the Magi."

Parish News

Welcome

The Christmas season provides us with a unique opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God's love. That love finds its manifestation in us, our families and in our celebrating community. Christmas reminds us of the need to care for those who live on the margins of society - those who need to discover not our judgement, but God's mercy and hope.

May this New Year lead you to discover and share the peace and happiness which only God can give and which is reflected by our journey of faith.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

We welcome home to our local community many young women and men over the Christmas holiday season. You are a great blessing to the Church. May you continue to be aware of the presence of God's Spirit in your life's journey - a presence that is real, inspiring, challenging and comforting.

St Vincent de Paul North Albury wishes to thank the parishioners of Sacred Heart for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal. Together with The Rotary Club of Albury, our local schools and the community, St Clare's Conference have been able to assist 100 families with Christmas vouchers to the value of \$8,050 and approximately 170 children with toys and gifts.

On behalf of Vinnies I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas and may 2021 bring good health and happiness.

Trish Parkinson, President St Clare's Conference.

UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk.

After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building.

Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient.

Sacred Heart Bank Account for Parishioner Depositing

Church Account Second Collection

Pays insurance and utility accounts. Covers all maintenance and pastoral/liturgical activities expenses.

Internet Transfer

Account Name: Sacred Heart North Albury Church Account

BSB: 066-789; Account Number: 100005574

Description: Surname & Envelop or Planned Giving Number

Presbytery Account First Collection

Pays for household expenses and Priest's Stipends.

Internet Transfer

Account Name: Sacred Heart North Albury Presbytery Account

BSB: 066-789; Account Number: 100005575

Description: Surname



Christmas Crib

Thanks to Marie & John Van Lint for the meticulous repair work on the figures which were re-discovered in the loft and now reside on the sanctuary. The vibrancy of the colours and the diverse hues are a reminder of the nature of our own Christmas journey.



Liturgy of the Word

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 around: 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.

Responsorial Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

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 the 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**

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

After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in Judea 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 Judea,' 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 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, 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

A reading from the letter 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 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!