



*Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury, pays respect to the Wiradjuri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. We acknowledge with respect elders past, present and emerging.*

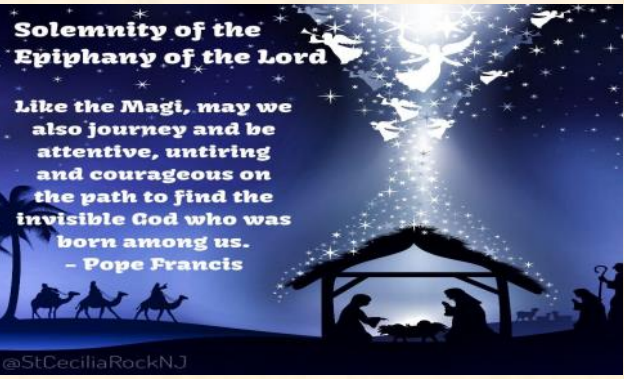
## Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

### 6th / 7th January 2024

**Parish Clergy**  
**Fr Martin Cruickshank—Parish Priest**  
**Parish Office**  
**Gemma Whitehead—Monday**  
**Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday**  
**9.00 am – 2.00 pm**  
**Phone: 60251516**  
**Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com**  
**Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>**  
*Bank A/c Details for Parishioners wishing to Direct Deposit into our Church A/c (2nd Collect)*  
BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 10000 5574; Ref No: Please contact Office for a number.  
**Presbytery A/c BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 100005575**

**Mass Times**  
**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**  
**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**  
**Live-streaming on Sunday 9.30 am Mass by accessing our website**  
**WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week: Wednesday & Friday 9.30 am**

**RECONCILIATION**  
**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM**  
**BAPTISMS—By appointment.**



### **Stars and Seekers after Truth**

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. *Come, let us adore him.*

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kevin Quirk, Greg Scott, Buster

Upshall, Betty Lindner.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kath Duck, Brian Mawson, John Sykes, Patrick Togher, Kevin Murphy, Keith Hertzog, Raymond Fogarty, John Mamouney, Sr Monica Esler, Lynette Dosenko, Albert Williams, Robert Watson, Katherine Wishart, Alma Putnam, Marie Sullivan, John Whyte, Michael Mullavey, Daren Fisher, Myrtle Westblade, Doris Hourigan, Frank Tracey, Maria Kramer, Martha Oldcarn, Margaret Keys, Tom Drum.

*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*

## ROSTERS

### Sat / Sun: 6th / 7th January

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Colleen Day	Ed Brown
<b>Lector 1</b>	Michael Byrnes	Roy Thompson
<b>Lector 2</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill	John Dowling
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill Justin Clancy	Trish Parkinson Moira Porta Fran Kernaghan
<b>Cantor</b>	John van Lint	Bernadette, Helen and
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	Wendy
<b>Counters:</b> Judy Warren & Michael Byrnes		

### Sat / Sun: 13th / 14th January

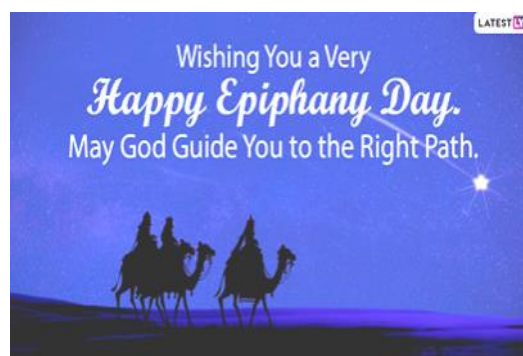
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill	Richard Parkinson
<b>Lector 1</b>	Colleen Day	Liz Phegan
<b>Lector 2</b>	Paula Waters	Sr Patricia Weekes
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Michael Regan Pat Hopkins	Sue Betts Carey Menz-Dowling Pamela McIntosh
<b>Cantor</b>	Brian Waters	Bob Mathews
<b>Musicians</b>		Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Damien Parkinson		

### 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.”

## An Epiphany Prayer

God of all heaven and earth,  
From the breath of your love came  
the creation of the world.  
We are amazed at the vast beauty  
of the night sky and at the intimate  
nature of the love you have for us  
your children.  
Be our daily star,  
Guiding our lives to search for  
kingdom love.  
May we always follow your light of  
truth in all that we do,  
Forever trusting, hoping and  
believing in your word.  
Lift our eyes to see your eternal life  
shining brightly,  
Leading us home.  
Amen





**Artwork:** *Adoration on the Strand (2004).* Jan Hynes

We welcome you to our New Year celebrations. This 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. As we prepare to enter a New Year we are reminded 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 2024 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.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST– 2024—Sacred Heart Hall**

For 2024 Men’s Breakfast will be held monthly in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Mate Street, North Albury. It begins next Saturday 13 January. Great Food—Great Fellowship—All men welcome  
**Time:** 7.45 am for tea/coffee. Grace at 8.00 am followed by cereals etc., hot food—summer special.

**Cost:** Donation (\$5.00 + pp recommended). Surplus over costs goes to Scripture in schools.

**Enquiries:** Kip **0417 668 717** or

**Email:** [asleeper@bigpond.com](mailto:asleeper@bigpond.com)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**ALL:** We light the Christ candle to celebrate and thank you for sending this Child to be Emmanuel, God among us. We join the chorus of angels with our glad tidings and great joy. God has been made real, God has come close. Holy God we rejoice in your presence and pray for wonder and delight. We live in **HOPE**, we pray for **PEACE**, we share your **LOVE** as we are filled with **JOY**.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**PRAYER FOR UKRAINE & THE HOLY LAND**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amen

# 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**

**(When the Psalm is sung, the words will vary slightly but the meaning remains the same.)**

***Response: 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 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!**

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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.