

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: olol.pastoralcoordinator@gmail.com

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.45pm

Mass times: Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.30am & 5.30pm

weekday masses - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am

Primary School: e: lourdes@twb.catholic.edu.au | p: 4591 1200

<https://www.ololtwb.catholic.edu.au>



We would like to acknowledge the Giabal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 7th January 2024 The Epiphany of The Lord- Year B

First Reading

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

A 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.
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. 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

[Ephesians 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.

Gospel Acclamation

[Colossians 3:15. 16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord..
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.

*We have come from the East to worship
the king.*

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.

Next Week's Readings (13th/14th January 2024) – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B
1st Reading: [1 Samuel 3:3-10.19](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20](#) Gospel: [John 1:35-42](#)

Parish Activities

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information nights are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 9.30AM Mass (except school holidays) for children in Prep - Yr 4.

CRAFT & FRIENDSHIP GROUP - meet every Thursday at 10:30am in the quiet room at the church.

ECUMENISM GROUP - meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room followed by a cuppa.

LITURGY GROUP - meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Quiet Room.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet after the 10am Mass every Tuesday.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Quiet Room.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30am in the quiet room of the Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings in the quiet room at the church at 8:00am.

Parish Councillors

Cristianne Dias, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Bernadette Witham, Anna Chandler, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean and Julie Whittaker.

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at risk:

In Our Lady of Lourdes Parish we commit ourselves to ensuring the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk in our Parish community. The best interests of the child, young person or adult at risk come first.

Our Parish takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives (**Joe & Sarah Kelly 0437 839 838**). If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000. You are encouraged to provide feedback on Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/>

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 and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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 sustains the world in 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.



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 'Jewishness' 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.

Thought of the day.....



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Fr Don Murray, Rita Collins

Anniversaries: Catherine Kruger, Chahira Coorey, Malisa Golightly, Bill Walsh, Patricia Wright, Frank Connolly, Marlene Devlin, Jessie Webber, Jim Canning, Bridget Leahy, Trevor School, Mal Golightly, Bernice Kiepe, Bea Logan, Mary Eldred, Pope Benedict XVI, Elsie Alman, Mal O'Mara, Rohan Kajewski, Simon Davidson, Patricia Collins, Eileen Bougoure, Rev Fr Thomas Concannon

Those Who Are Sick: Anne Fisher, Patrick Byrne, Eileen Reedy, Robert McLean, Graham Belz, Kevin Arnott, Con Sullivan, Carmel Green, Ernie Kupfer, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Trish Betros, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Kevin Boland, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Fr Don Murray, Judy Reardon, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Ted Schulz, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

January Birthdays: Faye Kroh, Desley O'Connell, Margaret White, Chloe Soriano, Molly Ferguson, Karlie Ward, Lily Ward.

Parish News...

Sat 06/01	o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 07/01	o 9.30am Mass o NO 5.30pm Mass
Mon 08/01	
Tue 09/01	o NO 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 10/01	o NO 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Anam Cara
Thu 11/01	o NO 10.00am Mass
Fri 12/01	

Mass times during Clergy Retreat

Mass will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral at the following times:

Sunday 7th Jan 7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm

Monday 8th 5.30pm

Tuesday 9th 9.00am

Wednesday 10th 7.00am

Thursday 11th 7.00am

Friday 12th 7.00am

Australia Day Mass

Please join us for Mass to celebrate Australia Day.

When: Friday 26 January, 10:00am

Where: Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Morning tea will be served after Mass.



Special Thanks

The Liturgy Group would like to extend a very special thank you to all the wonderful people who helped in any way to make the Christmas celebrations so meaningful. The gift of your time and talent is really appreciated.

Prayer for the New Year

God of this new year,
we are walking into mystery.

We face the future,
not knowing what the days and months
will bring to us or how we will respond.

Be love in us as we journey.

May we welcome all who come our way.

Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes.

Fill us with hope and an abiding trust
that you dwell in us amidst our joys and sorrows.

Thank you for the treasure of our faith life.

Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day
with the assurance of your walking through the day with
us.

God of this new year, we praise you.

Amen

*May I have This Dance? An Invitation to Faithful Prayer throughout
the Year,*

By Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria Press), 1992, 2007

Jam Sessions

The next jam sessions will be held on Sunday 21st January at 4.30pm. All musicians and vocalists welcome.

Have any suggestions or need help?

One of the aims of the Parish Pastoral Council is to support and develop the ongoing life of our parish community. If you have any suggestions, concerns or need help in any way, please see a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. They are available before and after Mass to assist.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
13 th Jan at 6pm	E Ward	Whittaker Family	L Borger	J Wilson C Ferguson	M & J Wells	W Hoopert	Kelly Family	J Wells
14 th Jan at 9.30am	E Dwan J Poulton	P McDonnell A Mullins	T O'Mara	J Anderson C Anderson	Gleeson Family	P Murphy	K Kruger	C Watson
14 th Jan at 5.30pm	H Beutel H Ryan	J Michel S Whitelegg	M Whitelegg	J Axtell J Michel	Hickey Family	A Beeston	Daniel Salty	V Barker

Pope Francis' Christmas Message

[Click here](#) to read Pope Francis' Christmas Message for 2023. A copy has been placed on the noticeboard at the back of the church. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to receive a paper copy.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Jan

For the gift of diversity in the Church

"Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church."

Funeral Mass for Fr Don Murray

The Funeral Mass for Fr Don Murray will be celebrated at 2 pm Friday 12 January in St Patrick's Cathedral. His burial will follow in the priests' section of Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance.

Fr Don will be remembered right across the Diocese, however in particular in the Parishes he served: Chinchilla, Stanthorpe, Mulgoa [CBC Training College], Dalby, Miles, Aogathella, Wallumbilla, Surat, and Allora [PP 1988-2006]

Parish Groups

Our parish has many active groups that provide opportunities to get to know other members of the Parish and foster community spirit. These groups offer us the opportunity to reach out and care for one another, to offer support and encouragement and to share joys and sorrows. If you would like to join a Parish Group or you would like more information about any of our Groups, please contact the Parish Office and we can put you in touch with the group leader.

Bathroom modifications

The Parish Pastoral Council has recently undertaken bathroom modifications to make the bathrooms safer for all members of our parish community. The changes include grab rails both inside and outside, lower door handles, accessible doorways & fold down rails either side of the toilet in the bathroom on the northern side. The bathroom on the northern side is now a Unisex toilet and is the best option for those in wheelchairs. Lowering of the hand basins, soap dispensers and hand towel dispensers will be done in the coming weeks. We thank the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee for making these changes possible.

Book Launch: Graced Beyond Telling

The Missionary Sisters of Service are delighted to invite you to the launch of a new book:

Graced Beyond Telling
by Corrie van den Bosch

Date & Time: Thurs, 15 Feb 2024, 7pm-8.30pm

Location: St Thomas the Apostle school hall, 67 Central Road, Blackburn, Victoria, 3130

RSVP for catering purposes: by Friday 9 February

[Book here](#) or go to www.trybooking.com/COATA

"Graced Beyond Telling is a love story of great depth, beauty and honesty as Corrie shares both the outer and inner journey of her life and call. ...It holds together light and darkness, dislocation and connection, adventure and ordinariness, pain and delight, wonder and struggle. Laced through these paradoxes is a resilience of spirit and a profound openness of heart to a God who is always present – even in seeming absence."

– Madeline Duckett rsm

The Epiphany of the Lord

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." The Three Kings are men unsatisfied by their possessions and search for the only one who can satisfy the deepest aspirations of the human heart. They longed to find the very meaning of their existence. Every person will find meaning in life by being open to God. The Epiphany is not only about three wise men- it is about the plan of God for the entire human race.

The Three Kings, were not Jewish, they came from the Orient. Some scholars believe that they began their travels together from Persia, while others believe that they came from three different regions of the Orient, one of them maybe even being China.

Obviously, the Magi were not part of the chosen people. They were not Jews. They were part of the vast populace of people extended throughout the known world at that time who were called pagans, or gentiles.

The Three Kings of this Sunday's gospel narrative are men who are left unsatisfied by their possessions of wealth, fame and power, and search for the only one who can satisfy the deepest aspirations of the human heart. They longed to find the very meaning of their existence.

After a long and difficult search, they discover the place where he lay, and they encounter the One who has come to redeem us and fulfill our intense longings. They know who he is because they bring him the most appropriate gifts: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for a victim. They know that he is the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the only one through whom salvation can be found.

Because the Three Kings were open, they were given the gift of faith. Through this gift they searched, they found, and they believed.

The quest of the Magi reminds us that God is truly with us. Sometimes during our journey, clarity disappears and we begin to doubt. Let us remember that Jesus is always with us. Like the shining star, he is present in the tabernacle, just as he was present in the manger of Bethlehem.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is not only about three wise men that visited the manger. Instead, this Biblical event speaks to us about the plan of God for the entire human race. "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." © www.catholicnewsagency.com



Prayer for The Feast of the Epiphany of The Lord

God of all,

Be our daily star that guides our lives as we search for your 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 the heavens so we too may follow your guiding star,

As we travel home to you.

Amen.