

# Sunday Readings

Year B

## First Reading - Isaiah 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.

## Second Reading - Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

### A reading from the letter of St 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.

## Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

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

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.

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday (9.30am to 3.00pm)



*A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all*

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B

January 7, 2024

## ***This witness that begins in our hearts***

In my office there is a wall hanging with the letters C+M+B. which I was given when I visited Innsbruck in Austria in 1997. As I walked from the railway station to our Redemptorist house, I noticed these letters written in chalk above the entrance doors to a number of houses in the following fashion 19\*C+M+B+97.

When I asked one of my confreres about the meaning of the sign, he explained that in German-speaking Europe the feast of the Epiphany has become a charitable, fund-raising event. Officially known as "Operation Three Kings Singing" the annual event is sponsored by the Catholic church and Catholic youth organisations. Most of the participants are young people who dress in costumes resembling what the Magi supposedly wore when they visited the baby Jesus.

With the leader carrying a star, the costumed Star Singers walk from house to house and sing traditional Christmas carols. At each stop they also solicit donations for various children's charities in Austria, Germany and abroad, as well as programs to end hunger in parts of the world. In Catholic regions, especially in rural areas or in smaller towns, the Star Singers may also inscribe the C+M+B house-blessings.

## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

**Saturday: 6:00 pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:00 am**

Tuesday: 5:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 5:30 pm

## RECONCILIATION

Friday: 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm

Saturday: 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

## DEVOTIONS

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday: 9:30am - 11:00am

First Friday : 6:00pm - 9:00pm

### Divine Mercy Chaplets

Second Wednesday: 7:30pm

### Novena

Saturday: 5:30 pm

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Phong Nguyen  
**Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. Anthony Vu  
**Parish Secretary:** Heidi Lu

Traditionally, the letters C+M+B stand for the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates as “Christ bless this house.” However, in a popular interpretation, the letters in the inscription stand for the names of the three Wise Men (Magi): Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar and the numbers indicate the year which in my experience was 1997. The inscription is usually made with chalk that has been blessed by a local Catholic priest. The letters are clever as they include both the blessing and a popular interpretation.

The word ‘Epiphany’ comes from the Greek and means *appearance* or showing forth and describes Jesus’ first appearance to the Gentiles. The Gentiles are represented by the Magi or wise men whom we have traditionally called the three kings or wise men. The names of the Magi from the East are not mentioned in the bible but come from a sixth century Roman tradition. The number three is taken from the gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Originally, the word Epiphany referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. In the context of Christianity, Epiphany refers to God’s self-revelation in Jesus.

The gospel story of the wise men from the east following a star is an invitation to all of us to seek the Lord in the living of our lives, and to become what Pope Francis calls ‘missionary disciples’ who bear witness to others to the difference Jesus makes in our lives. This witness will begin in our hearts and homes and reach out to the wider world where we witness by our faith commitment and the values by which we live.

May the feast of the Epiphany be an occasion of personal and family blessing.

Michael A Kelly CSsR  
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**Baptisms:**

We welcome Nathaniel Ezra Mayes into our Parish Community.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Dean Antonio Pasquale, Encabo Buena Ventura, Kathleen Ganfield, Doug Roberts, Benedict Vong, Sam Barbara, Edward, Nobel Pillay, Ken Rao, Regina Patricia Limas, Michael Pennefather, Vincent Victor Russo, Josephine McCorry and Kazimierz Osko whose anniversaries occur around this time.

**R O S T E R S**

**FOR 14TH JANUARY**

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Catherine Tan  
 Counters: 1. S Fernandez      2. J Pereira      3. L Thornett

	<b>Saturday 6.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8.00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.00am</b>
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Acolytes	D Morais	M Humble	P Doray
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Altar Servers	S Buntoro	J Cherian	G Chua
	B Dass	I Lu	A Demberger
	C Dass		E Gatchalian

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) and Readers –**  
 Please come up as required – **NO ROSTERS FOR JANUARY 2024.**

<b>Piety Stall</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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**Safeguarding Officers:**

- Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
- Derek Choo (Derek.Choosafeguarding@gmail.com)
- Marguerite Parker (margparkersgo@gmail.com)
- Monica de Rozario (monica.derozario.safeguarding@gmail.com)

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2023, 3.00PM AND WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2024, 9.30AM.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** In 2024, there will be Masses for the following Solemnities, Holy Week, Octave of Easter, and Octave of Christmas that will fall either on Monday or Saturday:

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 9.00am – St Patrick

**PARISH MORNING TEA - SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Morning Tea is held every Sunday after 8am mass in the hall. All welcome. First Sunday of the month morning tea is held after 10am mass in the quadrangle. Please join us on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 17<sup>TH</sup>/18<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2024 IN BAHASA INDONESIAN LANGUAGE**

It will be held at Corpus Christi College, Bateman. This is a rare and wonderful opportunity for Indonesian speaking couples to enrich and deepen their relationships. Please pass the word around to Indonesian speaking couples, including couples in a long term committed relationships. Contact Dwi or Sandra: 0416 433 741.

**MORE CARE - DO YOU NEED HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

- ♦ Stephen 0408 167 400 (Coordinator) Monica 0419 945 005 (Meals)
- ♦ Christine 0412 887 950 (Transport) Serina 0420 991 868 (Visiting)
- ♦ Angela 0418 953 992 (Bereavement Support)
- ♦ Parish Office 9310 1747 (General Enquiries)