

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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



MATTHEW

A UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Matthew’s Gospel addresses Jewish/Israelite followers of Jesus living in troubled and confusing times in the later part of the first century. The Temple, the centre of Jewish religious life, is destroyed; Matthew’s audience seeks confidence and direction anew. All it has is the Torah (the Old Testament teaching from the first five books of the Bible). The evangelist offers the Torah, the Jewish Scriptures, refracted through the teaching of Jesus, as foundational to engage their future with confidence.

Matthew is also aware that the future of the Jesus movement will have to be open to other peoples and cultures—like the missionary thrust of the Church today. Today’s Gospel of the Magi following a star and seeking the birthplace of the ‘king of the Jews’ anticipates the Gospel’s future universal growth. The Magi, perhaps Syrian astronomers, come seeking what they astrologically read in the cosmos, the one who rules over everything. But to know the exact place they also need the help of the Scriptures, offered by Herod’s priests. These two aspects, science and God’s Word, collaborate to give meaning and direction to the Magi’s quest.

The star leads them to a *house*. Here they come to the end of their search as they worship the child Jesus and offer gifts worthy of a king. This third element, the domestic and household setting of the child’s birth, adds a final dimension to a theologically rich story. Within our own local and domestic lives, we embark on a search to discover Jesus anew, assisted by the science of our world and the Scriptures that we treasure, listen to each Sunday and upon which we meditate.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

FIRST READING

Isa 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 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.

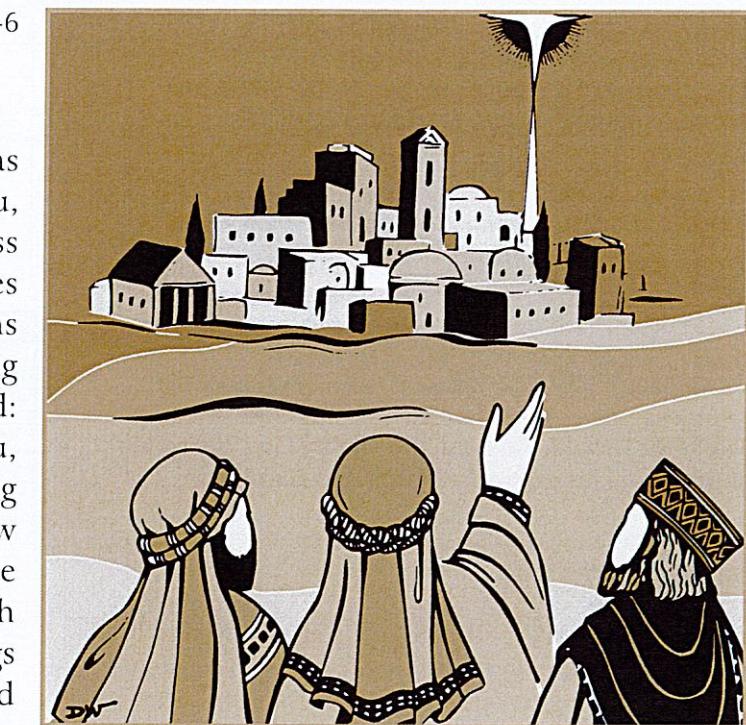
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2, 7-13 R.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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

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

Welcome to
St Nicholas' Catholic Parish,
Tamworth
for
The Epiphany of the Lord
Year A

4th January 2026

Fr Christopher Onuekwusi – Parish Priest

Fr Clarence Canafe – Assistant Priest

stnicholasparish@armidale.catholic.org.au (02) 6766 2228

Parish Website: <https://www.stnicholasparish.org.au/>

Parish Secretaries: Finance: Stephanie Hetherington - Mon/Tue 9-5pm

Admin: Anne Jones Wed/Fri 9-5pm Pauline Skewes Thurs 9-1pm

Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm

Catholic schools in our parish

McCarthy Catholic College
(02) 6761 0800

Principal: Mr Michael Whitton
Students currently enrolled: 945

St Nicholas Primary School
(02) 6766 1500

Principal: Mr Peter Flynn
Students currently enrolled: 590

ENTRANCE: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

COMMUNION: We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

'THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS.' For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

Psalter Week 2
Monday 05/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6 Ps: 2:7-8, 10-11 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday 06/01 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 71:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday 07/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 71:1-2, 10-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday 08/01 St Mary's Mass 9am
1 Jn 4:19 – 5:4 Ps 71:1-2, 14-15, 17 Lk 4:14-22

Friday 09/01 St Nicholas' Mass 7am
1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

Saturday 10/01 St Nicholas' Mass 9am
1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6 Jn 3:22-30
Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 11/01 St Mary's 7.30am Mass
St Nicholas' 9.30am & 5.30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4pm – 5.30pm

BAPTISMS are held Saturdays at 11am & Sundays at 12 noon. If you wish to book a Baptism, please email or telephone the Parish Office on 67662228 for more information. Forms can also be submitted on our parish website.

Parish toilet is located in the Outdoor Function Area. Please ensure children are accompanied by an adult when leaving the Church during Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.

Parish Bulletin Deadline: Midday Wednesday – The Bulletin is printed on Thursday morning.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION on the readings is always included on this Bulletin, after the Communion Antiphon. You are encouraged to reflect on this every week.

A warm welcome to all new parishioners! To help you feel at home in our parish, we encourage you to introduce yourself to Father after Mass, or you might also consider exploring opportunities to get involved in parish life through various ministries and activities. If so, please see our Parish Notice Board or contact the Parish Office.

PARISH EVENTS – for the month ahead

06 Jan Tues	Petitions Rosary	12.15pm	St Nicholas'
07 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
11 Jan Sun	Baptism of the Lord		
14 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
18 Jan Sun	Birthday blessing		All Masses
21 Jan Wed	Silent Adoration	10.30-11.30am	St Nicholas'
26 Jan Mon	Australia Day Mass	9am	St Nicholas'

Followed by a 'cuppa' in the Outdoor Function Area

Please Pray for the Sick

The **sick list** will be cleared at the end of January – anyone wishing to have their loved one on the new list for 2025, please advise the parish office by email or phone – thank you.

Call for Parish Pastoral Council Nominations:

The Parish Pastoral Council plays a vital role in our parish, serving as a consultative body to the Parish Priest to help guide the spiritual life and future direction of our parish community. We are now calling for nominations for members to serve on the Council for an upcoming term.

Parishioners are invited to nominate a fellow parishioner or even yourself for consideration to the PPC. Forms to facilitate this, along with copies of the PPC Constitution, are available at the entrance to the church. The PPC must be a diverse team representing many different activities in the parish. Please give prayerful consideration as you reflect on this important duty.

Please return the form to Fr Chris, or email him on or before **Sunday 18 January 2026**. Thankyou!

School-Age Baptism is being offered for children in Kinder to Year 6 who have not yet been baptised.

Parent Information Session: Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 5.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

School-Age Baptisms: Saturday 21st March 2026 at 10am at St Nicholas' Church.

Forms are currently available at the entrance of St Nicholas' and St Mary's churches.

2026 Columban Art Calendars

are available
for sale at the entrance
to the church for
\$10 per calendar.

Roster – 03/04 January 2026

Counting Team: Pauline Skewes/Andrew Tighe

Altar Linen: Rosemary Kinsela

Sacristy Cleaning: Marie Rice, Gemma/Michael Moy

Candelabrum: Peter Virgen 04/01/26 – 10/01/26

THERE ARE NO FORMAL ROSTERS DURING JANUARY, except for money counters, altar linens, sacristy cleaners & candelabrum cleaners – their rosters will still appear each week.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help out at Masses as needed. Thankyou!

PLANNED GIVING: SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH

1st Collection (supports the clergy)

BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 023 584

A/C Name: St Nicholas Presbytery

2nd Collection (Planned Giving for Parish maintenance)

BSB: 082 105 A/C No: 001 003 255

A/C Name: St Nicholas Parish

Ref: Planned Giving Number/or your name. Thank you for your support.

COLLECTIONS:

Christmas Masses

\$ 2,262.35

28th December 2025

1st Collection \$ 1,271.15

Planned Giving \$ 1,828.00

Loose \$ 162.75

\$ 1,990.75

ANNIVERSARIES: January 2026

Sibile Anthony, Daphne Baker, Clifford Barber, Marie Barrett, Patricia Berman, Arnold Betts, Lucca Borzellega, Voltaire (Vic) Bower, John Buggy, Nancy Bussell, Kathleen Carey, Patricia Cassin, George Collins, Denis Costigan, Sidney (Ken) Coulton, James Cox, Michael Cuddigan, Marie Deans, Roger Diebold, Mark Doyle, Kevin Evans, Hammond Faddy, Troy Frazer, Elsie Frost, Betty Fyffe, Garry Gifford, Nathan Hall, Dawn Henderson, Yvonne Henshaw, Enid Herden, Lola Hughes, Leo Hunt, Jean Hutt, Marie Hynes, Kenneth Kellahan, Gwendoline Lehnert, Mary Lodge, Hilton Lynch, Kathleen Lynch, Mary Maher, Whyatt Mangan, Bede Matthews, Edith Mitchell, James (Jamie) Mitchell, Eileen Morris, Worwick Morris, Ruby O'Callaghan, Therese (Julianne) O'Connor, Josephine O'Neill, Neil (Noel) O'Rourke, Gwendoline Parkes, Nellie Prisk, Bernard Redden, Jane Redden, Audrey Renehan, Julian Rice, Thelma Roll, Peter Ryan, Dawn Salthouse, Joseph Shanahan, Robert Sharp, Daphne Speare, Lenore Steel, Robert Sweeney, Pauline Taylor, Catherine Temperley, Fran Thier, Mary Thompson, Sr Patricia Thompson, Gweneth Tufrey, John Tufrey, John Wall, Anthony Walmsley, Margaret Watson, Alan Welsh, Damien Wetherall, George Wilson, Patricia Woolaston.

May they rest in peace

Roster – 10/11 January 2026

Counting Team: Ted Heazlett/Bruce Stewart

Altar Linen: Vivienne Mundy

Sacristy Cleaning: Lynne & Peter Prisk

Candelabrum: Bruce Stewart 11/01/26 – 17/01/26

BAPTISMS: We pray for **Rorie Kelly** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. May God bless her and her family.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Donald Seymour

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Trish Thornberry, Ron Virgen** (Brisbane), **Sr Margaret Hill** (Camberwell), all recently deceased, and **Mounir Mouawad, Bakhos, Rosa & Joe Sleiman**. May God grant them eternal rest and peace.

PERPETUAL INTENTIONS: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Alec & Betty Fyffe** and **Cyril & Grace Cahill**, who will be long remembered in our parish.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK
AT THIS TIME**

Dan Daly, Brindley Cavallaro (Sydney), Rev. Fr Tony Castelli, Kath Donoghue, Colin Bryant, Darren Graham, Suzanne Perfment, Kay Tucker, Ken Michell, Julie Michell, Judy Murphy, Steve Tierney, Richard Noad, Pat & Tony Favell, Kay Mason, Doreen Eunson, Maureen White (Orange), Cormac Downes (Uralla), Michael Bryant, Sullivan Hurn (Singleton), Carmel Bennett (Gladstone), Bill Dennis, Maddy Anderson (Sydney), Sherree Haylock and Russell Smith.

"The only thing ever achieved in life without effort is failure. Do few things but do them well, simple joys are holy."

St Francis of Assisi

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

*During the year ahead,
may you find yourself
surrounded by moments that
remind you how loved you are.*