

LITURGY THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS TIME

MONDAY 05 JAN – Weekday of Christmas Time	
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass
TUESDAY 06 JAN – Weekday of Christmas Time	
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass
WEDNESDAY 07 JAN – Weekday of Christmas Time	
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass
THURSDAY 08 JAN – Weekday of Christmas Time	
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass
FRIDAY 09 DEC – Weekday of Christmas Time	
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass
05:30 PM	Cathedral Mass
SATURDAY 10 JAN – Weekday of Christmas Time	
09:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
06:00 PM	Cathedral Mass
SUNDAY 11 JAN – The BAPTISM of the LORD	
08:00 AM	Cathedral Mass
10:00 AM	Cathedral Mass <i>Pro populo</i>
11:00 AM	Solemn Mass with Choir (Latin parts) <i>Pro populo</i>
04:30 PM	Solemn Vespers & Benediction
05:30 PM	Cathedral Mass <i>Pro populo</i>
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Cathedral)	
MONDAY - THURSDAY	11:30 – 11:50 AM
FRIDAY	04:45 – 05:15 PM
SATURDAY	09:45 – 10:45 AM & 04:30 – 05:30 PM



Cathedral Parish Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding Statement

Commitment to Safety

Our parish is dedicated to creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.

Zero Tolerance for Abuse

We have a strict zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

Compliance with Safeguarding Standards

Our parish follows the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, Integrity in Our Common Mission, and adheres to the NSW Child Safe Standards to ensure our practices are aligned

Please ensure that your children are accompanied when leaving the Cathedral during Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gregory Gilbert, Colin Cox, Susan O'Brien (Inverell), Irene Bible, Gervasio Miking
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Jill Egan, Warwick Ruscoe, Tony Zagami
SICK: Vicki Caldwell, Kelemete Hefe, Tom Briggs, Brian Bible, Craig Elliott, Eric McLeod, Pauline Godschalk, Estela & Nelson Segovia, Joseph Hanna, Kristine Sevilla, James Righetti, Lisa Hallman, Elizabeth Williams, Cristina Arellano, Billy Steller, Jessie Hanson, Vanessa Hardy, Maria Grezl, Wili Suluma, Katrin Gödderz, Mary Peter, Sharyn Lucas, Carmen & John Gallagher, Bob Watson, Ferg Watson, Raymond Watson, Robert Watson, Maureen Campbell, Ann Haydon, Irene & Leigh Owen, Robyn Keogh, Robert Markeljc, Don Armatage, Molly Burke, Melissa Gamblen, Hannah Whitton, Tom Britt, Danny Jones, Michael Zhu, Aeron Ryan, Blake Ross, Gemma Milliken, Frederic Kelmeyer, Silvia & Ralph Bowles.

Due to privacy legislation, names of the sick can only be published with permission of the person himself or immediate family members.

SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH

1ST COLLECTION (cash or eft only)

(supports the clergy: food, housekeeping, annual retreat & monthly stipend)

Account Name: St Mary's Presbytery Account
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001023527

2ND COLLECTION (cash, eft or tap & go - credit card)

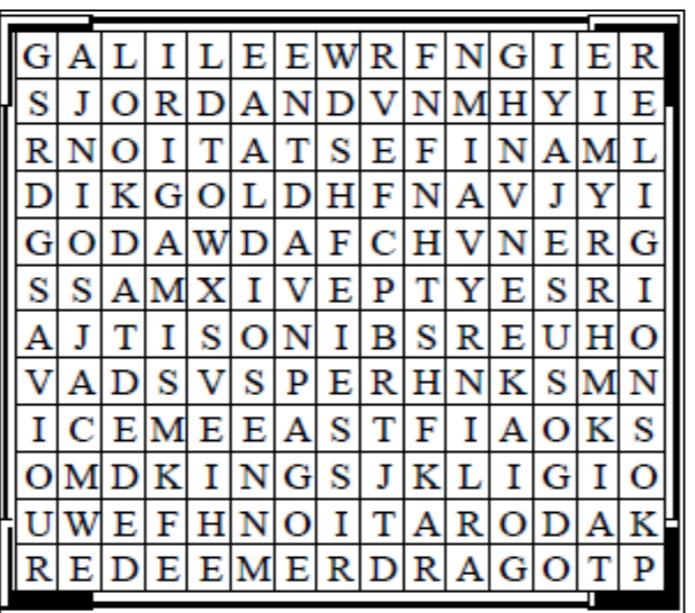
(supports the Cathedral Parish: insurance, employees' salary, repair & maintenance, office and church requisites, utilities, etc)

Account Name: St Mary's Cathedral Parish
BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001006225
(Ref: Planned Giving Number and/or your name)

Thank you for your support!

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection		\$2,114.00	
2nd Collection		\$6,350.00	



FIND THE WORD PUZZLE

Epiphany, Manifestation, Jesus, Saviour, Redeemer, Mass, East, Three, Galilee, Magi, Incense, Myrrh, Gold, Kings, Pagans, Adoration, Jordan, Reign, Religions

Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral Parish Armidale

Most Reverend Peter Mel Murphy Ph.D **Bishop of Armidale**

132 DANGAR St (PO Box 2025), ARMIDALE 2350, PH 6772 2218

E: armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au W: www.smjcathedral.org.au

Administrator: Fr Damien Locke | FrDLocke@armidale.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Elino (Eli) Comanda OSJ | frelino@armidale.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary Ms Tina Clarke | Office Hours: **Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm**

Principal, St Mary's Catholic Primary School: Mrs Belinda Burton

Principal, O'Connor Catholic College: Mr Philip Gibney

Interim Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Mr Michael Barry

Parish Finance Council Chair: Mrs Fiona Miron



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A/2) 4TH JANUARY 2026

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 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

R: 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 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:*

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

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 Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

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. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATECHISTS 2026

Would you like to join our Catechists team for 2026 and make a difference to the lives of children in our State Primary Schools? Are you called to be a disciple to spread the mission of God? Can you spare an hour a week as a Catechist or an Assistant? Please contact Kerry Steller or Tina Clarke at the Parish Office on 67722218 for further information.

CLEANING ROSTER FOR DECEMBER/ JANUARY

Volunteers are needed over the December/January period. There is a roster in the Cathedral foyer. Please add your name alongside the week/date that you are available to help. If you would further information, please contact the Parish Office 67722218.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

Marian devotion on the first Saturday of each month. Next gathering this **Saturday 7th February at 9.30am**, immediately after the 9am Mass in the Cathedral.

FISHERS OF MEN PRAYER GROUP | meets in the Parish Meeting Room, Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 pm. For enquiries contact Nirmal on 0430871064.

HOLY FACE DEVOTION | Tuesday's at 5:45 pm in the Parish Prayer Room (formerly Adoration Chapel).

CATHEDRAL PARISH ADORATION PROGRAM

The Parish Adoration Program will be take a break from: Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 24 December at 3pm through to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday 9 February at 8am.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UPDATE AND MORE HELPERS NEEDED

During 2025 we have been blessed to be able to run three groups of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) – two sessions for the 3-6 yr olds and one session for the 6-9 yr olds. Next year we hope to start an additional session for the 9-12 yr olds. If you would like your child to start attending CGS in 2026, please register your interest with Monica van Gend on 0431 385 524 (we have a waitlist for the 3-6 yr olds).

Also, we are in need of 2 more adult helpers for our sessions in 2026. All that is required is 1.5 hrs a week (or fortnight) and a WWCC, we will provide training. Please contact Janine Turner on 0416 767 866 if you are able to offer any help.



PARISH BLESSING OF CHALK

Introduction: *On this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we rejoice that the light of Christ has come into this world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year.*

Prayer of Blessing: *Let us pray. Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars at night. We praise you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, the Light of the World. May your blessing be upon us as we carry this chalk to our homes. May its mark on our door-posts be a sign of your protection and of the presence of the Light of Christ in our homes. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

CHALK MARK	WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME
	Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. Amen. <i>Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11</i> The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: <i>Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed the star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.</i> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
C M B	THE THREE WISE MEN CASPAR MELCHIOR BALTHASAR
20 26 + +	FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE AMONG US TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO, MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY AND REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
	Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PAPAL MASS

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS

Vatican Basilica

Monday, 6 January 2020

In the Gospel (*Mt 2:1-12*), we heard the Magi begin by stating the reason why they have come: “We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him” (v. 2). Worship is the end and goal of their journey. Indeed, when they arrived in Bethlehem, “they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him” (v. 11). Once we lose the sense of worship, we lose our direction in the Christian life, which is a journey towards the Lord, not towards ourselves. The Gospel warns us about this risk, for alongside the Magi it presents others who are incapable of worship.

First of all, there is King Herod, who uses the word worship, but only to deceive. He asks the Magi to tell him where the child is to be found, “so that I too may come and adore him” (v. 8). The fact is that Herod worshiped only himself; that is why he wanted to rid himself of the child through a lie. What does this teach us? That when we do not worship God, we end up worshiping ourselves. So too, the Christian life, when it fails to worship the Lord, can become a discreet way of affirming ourselves and our own abilities: Christians who do not know how to worship, who do not know how to pray by worshiping. This is a grave risk: we use God instead of serving him. How many times have we confused the interests of the Gospel with our own? How many times have we cloaked in religiosity the things we find convenient? How many times have we confused God’s power, which is for serving others, with power of this world, which is for serving ourselves!

In addition to Herod, other people in the Gospel are incapable of worship: they are the chief priests and the scribes. They tell Herod with great precision where the Messiah is to be born: in Bethlehem of Judea (cf. v. 5). They know the prophecies and can quote them exactly. They know where to go – they are great theologians, great! – but they do not go there. Here too we can draw a lesson. In the Christian life, it is not enough to be knowledgeable: unless we step out of ourselves, unless we encounter others and worship, we cannot know God. Theology and pastoral effectiveness mean little or nothing unless we bend the knee; unless we kneel down like the Magi, who were not only knowledgeable about planning a journey, but also capable of setting out and bowing down in worship. Once we worship, we come to realize that faith is not simply a set of fine doctrines, but a relationship with a living Person whom we are called to love. It is in encountering Jesus face to face that we come to see him as he is. Through worship, we discover that the Christian life is a love story with God, where what really matters is not our fine ideas but our ability to make him the centre of our lives, as lovers do with those whom they love. This is what the Church ought to be, a worshiper in love with Jesus her spouse.

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship. If we can fall on our knees before Jesus, we will overcome the temptation to set off on our own path. For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to *oneself*. Worship means putting the Lord at the centre, not ourselves. It means giving things their rightful place, and giving the first place to God. Worship means making God’s plan more important than our personal time, our entitlements and our spaces. It is to accept the teaching of Scripture: “You shall worship the Lord your God” (*Mt 4:10*). Your God: worship means realizing that you and God belong together to one another. It means being able to speak to him freely and intimately. It means bringing our lives to him and letting him enter into them. It means letting his consolation come down to earth. Worship means discovering that, in order to pray, it is enough to say: “My Lord and my God!”, and to let ourselves be pervaded by his tender love.

Worship means going to Jesus without a list of petitions, but with one request alone: to abide with him. It is about discovering that joy and peace increase with praise and thanksgiving. In worship, we allow Jesus to heal and change us. In worship, we make it possible for the Lord to transform us by his love, to kindle light amid our darkness, to grant us strength in weakness and courage amid trials. Worship means concentrating on what is essential: ridding ourselves of useless things and addictions that anaesthetize the heart and confound the mind. In worship, we learn to reject what should not be worshiped: the god of money, the god of consumerism, the god of pleasure, the god of success, the god of *self*. Worship means bending low before the Most High and to discover in his presence that life’s greatness does not consist in having, but in loving. Worship means recognizing that we are all brothers and sisters before the mystery of a love that bridges every distance: it is to encounter goodness at the source; it is to find in the God of closeness the courage to draw near to others. Worship means knowing how to be silent in the presence of the divine Word, and learning to use words that do not wound but console.

Worship is an act of love that changes our lives. It is to do what the Magi did. To bring gold to the Lord and to tell him that nothing is more precious than he is. To offer him incense and to tell him that only in union with him can our lives rise up to heaven. To present him with myrrh, balm for the bruised and wounded, and to promise him that we will aid our marginalized and suffering neighbours, in whom he himself is present. We usually know how to pray – we ask the Lord, we thank him – but the Church must move forward in her prayer of worship; we must grow in worshiping. This is wisdom that we must learn each day. Praying by worshiping: the prayer of worship.

Dear brothers and sisters, today each one of us can ask: “Am I a Christian who worships?” Many Christians pray but they do not worship. Let us ask ourselves this question: Do we find time for worship in our daily schedules and do we make room for worship in our communities? It is up to us, as a Church, to put into practice the words we prayed in today’s Psalm: “All the peoples on earth will worship you, O Lord”. In worshiping, we too will discover, like the Magi, the meaning of our journey. And like the Magi, we too will experience “a great joy” (*Mt 2:10*).