

# BULLETIN

## St Pius X Church

### The Epiphany of the Lord - Year A

8 January 2023



Christ our Anchor

## Manning Parish

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

23 Paterson Street, Manning WA 6152

Parish Telephone: 9313 3251

Parish Email: manning@perthcatholic.org.au

Parish Website: manningparish.org.au

### New Testament Commentary Mary Coloe PBVM



There are many key images in today's Gospel that have their background in the Scriptures. Bethlehem is the small village in which David, the great king of Israel was born, and later anointed by the Prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16). For this reason Matthew quotes the prophet Micah who speaks of a new leader, a shepherd like David to be born in Bethlehem.

The images of the star and Magi look back to the time of Moses. When the people of Israel escaped from Egypt they wandered in the Sinai wilderness before moving up into the region now known as Jordan. This is on the east bank of the Jordan River. In order to travel into the land of Canaan, they had to pass through the region of Moab and the king of Moab did not want this large group to travel through his land. The king called on his seer (magus) to place a curse on the Israelites, but the seer instead pronounced a blessing. This magus from the eastern land of Moab proclaimed, 'I see him but not now; I behold him but not near; a star shall come out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel' (Numbers 24:17). In this episode we have the symbols used by Matthew – a magus in the East, seeing a star, the symbol of kingship. By use of these images Matthew continues to show the links between his new Christian community and the more ancient religion of Israel. Like much of the Gospel narrative, we are challenged to move from reading literally

to reading these narratives seeking their theology rather than history.

Once again I suggest you make the distinction between the joy-filled narrative of Luke, and the threatening atmosphere of Matthew so that the community recognise two different, symbolic narratives. Children in school could even bring Christmas cards and separate the cards that depict Matthew's gospel, from those depicting Luke's story, and those that have mixed them up. This sort of exercise can help even young children learn to look beyond a literal reading.

In the eastern churches this Feast is celebrated as Christmas, for in today's feast Christ is revealed to the Gentiles, the non-Jews. By having foreigners come to the nativity and honour the child, Matthew looks ahead to the later Christian church which by the 80s, when Matthew is writing, has expanded beyond Judaism into the gentile lands. This is our festival, for as non-Jews, we have been brought into the blessing promised to Abraham and extended through the people of Israel to us. This is the message we find in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. God's gracious love has come to the gentiles (the pagans). Paul calls this a mystery – something that reveals the power of God at work – God has come to all people.

The Gospel contrasts wisdom and power. The Magi from the east are called wise and they come searching for Jesus in order to offer homage. It takes wisdom to acknowledge the truth of who we are before the mystery of God's ways. In humility they kneel before a child, seeing here a sign of God's presence. Herod acts with power. He commands and expects obedience. He is the King in Judea and will not tolerate another called 'king of the Jews'. Even the words of the Magi and the prophecies from the Scriptures fail to change his grasp on power. Herod's hands cling to his rule while the hands of the Magi open with gifts for the child.

Grant me this wisdom God, to live with open hands and a heart that seeks your presence.

### Fr Patrick Lim

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### Vinita Rai

Parish Secretary

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### Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 9am to 12 noon

## SCHEDULES

### Confession

Saturday 5.00 to 5.30pm

Or anytime by appointment

### Normal Weekend Masses

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 7.30am, 9.00am Mass

& 11.00am Chinese Mass

### Normal Weekday Masses

Monday 8.00am Communion Service

Tuesday to Saturday 8.00am Mass

(Check Parish Calendar for Variations)

### Sacrament of Baptism

Saturdays at 10.30am

**No Baptism during Lent  
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### Sacrament of Marriage

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### SPX Safeguarding Officers

To ensure the safety of children, young people and the vulnerable in the Catholic Church

6pm Vigil Mass - Ryan Gonsalves 0423 708 777

7:30am Mass - Marie Chaperon- 9313 4585

9am Mass - Tina Fernandes 0411 821 065

11am Chinese Mass

Gregory Lo 0435 383 417, Andrew Tai 0435 950 532 ,

Juliana Tseng 0438 864 689

Email: [safeguarding@manningparish.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@manningparish.org.au)



### St Pius X Primary School

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### Melissa Vranjes

Principal

### Our Motto

At St Pius X Catholic Primary School, the values lived by Jesus Christ are the foundation for everything we do.

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**ROSTER**

**Weekend 7/8 Jan**

**Weekend 14/15 Jan**

<b>Readers</b>	Sat 6.00pm	Edwin Carvalho	Krystyna Henderson
	Sun 7.30am	Les Price	David Jenaway
	Sun 9.00am	Shirley Whitfield	Vincent Whyte
<b>Counters</b>		M Prentice, H & F Tay	Kas Luczak, G Shankar

**Parish Calendar**

Jan Mon 9	8.00am	No Communion Service
Tue 10	8.00am	Mass (Week 1 in Ordinary time) Church
Wed 11	8.00am	Mass (Week 1 in Ordinary time) Church
Thu 12	8.00am	Mass (Week 1 in Ordinary time) Church
Fri 13	8.00am	Mass (Week 1 in Ordinary time) Church
Sat 14	8.00am	No Mass
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (Week 2 in Ordinary time - Year A) Church
Sun 15	7.30am	Mass (Week 2 in Ordinary time - Year A) Church
	9.00am	Mass (Week 2 in Ordinary time - Year A) Church
	11.00am	Chinese Mass (Week 2 in Ordinary time - Year A) Church



The Knights of the Southern Cross wishes to invite exemplary youth leaders in our Parish to apply for the Knights Catholic Leadership Academy for 2023.

The Knights Catholic Leadership Academy is an accessible training program that develops and builds the leadership skills of young Catholics. The Academy is now in its 6th year and over 45 graduates have completed the program, many of whom are active leaders in parishes today.

In partnership with Acts 2 College of Mission and Evangelisation, the Academy will provide students with mentoring and personal formation to witness to and evangelise their peers in a theologically sound and sustainable manner.

The total time commitment for students includes 3 single-day workshops between April and December (during school holidays), plus a youth conference in January.

The Academy is for actively practicing Catholics who will be studying in Years 10, 11, or 12, and who demonstrate leadership aspirations. As such, they are reaching out to you to nominate a suitable candidate from our Parish.

For more information and registration, please visit [www.knightsyouth.com](http://www.knightsyouth.com). Registration closes on 27/02/2023.

**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



Some Wise Men came from the East to worship the newly born king. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Draw yourself offering a special gift to Jesus.



**Schedule for January 2023**

Please take note that as of 31 December 2022 to end of January 2023 Monday Communion service and Saturday 8.00am Morning Mass is cancelled due to Fr Patrick taking a break from the parish. They will resume again in February 2023

**Schedule for 2023**

All activities below are having a break now

**Line Dancing recommencement date**  
Wednesday 23 January

**Tai Chi recommencement date**  
To be advised

**Osteo Exercise recommencement date**  
To be advised

## 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.

## 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

*Epiphany 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 Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

## 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.

## Reflection for Young People

By Lisa-Marie Calderone Stewart

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

Have you ever 'followed a star'? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

Gold is a symbol of wealth and fidelity.

Frankincense is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God.

Myrrh is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn't enjoy a rub-down?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?

What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? Explain the symbolism.

## Next Sunday Readings

15 January 2023 -

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34



## Manning Parish Youth

Quest Youth Ministry

Guiding our youth on a Quest to know, love and serve the Lord. The youth ministry for the parish is open to youth aged in High School or University, and meet every second Saturday after mass.

Get in touch with us by finding us online at <https://www.facebook.com/youth.manningparish/>