



# Sacred Heart Parish

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## The Epiphany of the Lord - 07th January 2024

### *In search of happiness and fulfilment...*

#### **Parish Priest:**

Fr Remy Son-Lam Bui

#### **Assistant Priest:**

Fr Roberto Keryakos

#### **Parish office hours:**

**Tuesday-Friday**

9.00am to 4.30pm

#### **Parish Secretary:**

Quyen Le Phan

#### **Accountant:**

Mary Pankiw (Fridays)

#### **Weekday Mass Times:**

##### **English:**

**7.00am**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

**6.30pm** Wed

**9.00am** Sat

##### **Vietnamese:**

**6.30pm** Tues & Thurs

**7.00am** Wed

#### **Weekend Masses**

##### **English:**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

**Sunday: 8.30am; 10.00am;**

**6.00pm**

**Polish: Sun 11.30am**

##### **Vietnamese:**

**Saturday Vigil:**

**7.30pm: (Chaplain)**

**Sunday:**

**7.00am; 7.30 pm**

**4.00pm (Chaplain)**

#### **Exposition:**

**Saturdays: 8.00am**

#### **Reconciliation:**

**Wed: 6.00pm**

**Sat: 8.10am - 8.50am**

**5.30pm - 5.50pm**

#### **Convent/Pastoral Care**

**Sisters of Our Lady  
of the Southern Cross  
Phone: 9723-3704**

#### **S.V.D.P**

**Phone: 9823-1222**

#### **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**

**Principal: David Parawa**

**Phone: 9724 1560**

#### **Baptism/Wedding**

**Please contact parish office**

We have welcomed the New Year with hopes and dreams, conveying our wish of peace and happiness; success and prosperity for one another. Talks and writings on the topic of happiness seems to be more timely and appealing these days though "not everyone has a similar point of interest from which they derive happiness"

Some years ago, Ross Gittins, a journalist, offered us certain clues to achieve happiness and satisfaction in life: "First, focus on the human, not the material. This is the most basic mistake we've been making in our preoccupation with economic efficiency and ever-increasing production and consumption of goods and services... Second, work on making other people happy, not yourself. That's the trick.... Third, seek benefits that are intrinsic, not instrumental. Do things for their own sake, not because of the income or status you hope they will bring you..."

Human hearts are in a constant search of happiness. This search is embodied and in a way, epitomised in the story of the Magi in today's Gospel (Mt 2:1-12) on this feast of Epiphany. It is enlightening that the Magi or wise men from the East (traditionally also called "the Three Kings", and named, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) did search and reach the very source and essential end of all happiness, namely God, the newly-born Saviour. Their encounter with Baby Jesus greatly enriched them as they shared with him their own riches.

There are quite a few worth noting applications: First, the Magi were excited at the sight of "the star" but they had to be "on road", following 'the star' even without knowing where it led to! Particularly, they would have faced a long and challenging period between the moments when they first saw the star "as it rose" and when it reappeared near Bethlehem. Their searching journey apparently involved moments of darkness and anxiety; doubts and difficulties. It would have required of them a great deal of perseverance and commitment; hope and courage; human guidance and Scriptures. Faith is like that. It's a journey of searching, trust and commitment. We do not always feel the closeness and clarity of God; neither can we make sense of all things around, do we? However, if we are perseverant, faithful and open enough, 'the star' will reappear and go ahead of us as it did for the wise men.

Second, the search of the Magi led them to neither a mountaintop, nor ivory palaces but rather to a tiny village of poor, lowly and simple people; to the core of human vulnerability and brokenness. They found the Messiah there – where human wisdom would least expect or find it. It's ironic that those "noble people" of Jesus' homeland like King Herod, Scribes and Pharisees who were allegedly most familiar with the Law and prophetic traditions ended up being ignorant to the arrival of the long-awaited Saviour! Obviously to find Christ we also need to come to where he has truly made his home.

This brings us to the core of the mystery of Epiphany ("divine manifestation") we're celebrating: It is God who through Jesus, The Word-made-flesh, has radically sought to meet us where we are and to embrace us even we are still homeless physically or spiritually – as sinners (cf. John 1:14; Exod 40:34-38; Gen 3:8-10). It is God who, by that way, has best revealed himself, his identity, glory and honour to all peoples, Jews and pagans alike -those outsider or from afar represented by the Magi. Lasting happiness or Salvation is a hope for all, not a privilege for some! (cf. Second Reading, Eph 3:2-3,5-6) Ultimately, it is God who initiates our own search, sustains it and brings it to fulfilment. Only as far as we deeply encounter him and enter into a bond of love and life with him, are our true riches discovered and developed. Without him, all other attempts and searches will end up being shallow and short-lived indeed.

What may be for you, like "the star" – an event, ideal or hope - that initially beckons you to start out on your road to God? In what ways have you been opened up to your own goodness and shared your "gifts" with others as a result of finding and loving Christ?

**Fr. Remy Son Lam Bui**

## For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church



### January Intention

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

## WHAT'S ON AT OUR PARISH

### Farewell Fr Roberto/Welcome Fr John Pham

Fr Roberto's last Mass will be at **7:00am on Tuesday 9th January**.

Fr John Pham will be arriving on **Saturday, 13th January**. If you see him around, please say hello and make him welcome.

A farewell for Fr Roberto and a welcome for Fr John is scheduled on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10am Mass**, followed by refreshments.



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

### Thank you

A big thank you for your donations and support for our annual Christmas appeal. The donations from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Mary MacKillop Catholic College and the parish enabled us to deliver 35 substantial Christmas hampers to people in need. Also, a big thank you to Sr Khanh and her team of young people who coordinated and packed the hampers and the volunteers who delivered the hampers.

St Vincent de Paul conference Cabramatta

### Church Pews Restoration in the process

The church pews have been gradually taken away to their designate workshop and the work is well underway. We apologise for any inconveniences. Please keep in your prayers all those who are diligently working this project of restoration.

Our deep appreciation is extended to all those who have generously contributed to the funding of our Church Pews Project.

So far, we received \$18,750 towards the total cost of over \$150,000. The Appeal is still going on for those who are able to help.

Please contact the Parish Office, especially if you prefer on-line transactions and tax deduction for your donation.

### Safeguarding News Updated

The Safeguarding Office has recently reviewed the Fact Sheet and in collaboration with the Office of the Children's Guardian agreed that they will no longer require readers and collectors to obtain a WWCC.

We thank for your co-operation and patience in the past.

### Mass Intentions

**Recently Deceased:** Giuse,

**R.I.P & Anniversaries:** Ivan Puskas, Theresa Mara, Cosimo, Maria (17), Joseph (2), Anna (3), Anre (2) Departed relatives (17), Maria Oanh Bui (2), Dominic, Maria Dinh Hoang Mai, Maria Nguyen Thi Thom, GioanKim Nguyen Van Thuc, Doreen Wheeler, Louis Nguyen Dong Kien, Bernard and Clare Vilath-Gamuwa, Franco Fornasier, Matta, Mathew Nguyen Hue, Anna Tran Thi Xuyen, Phaolo Cao Van Tri, Maria Le Thi Oai, Lucia Cao Thi Anh Tuyet, All Souls (19), John, Giuse Bui Huong Giang, Phero, orphan souls (3), Phaolo (2), Luca Tran Anh Son (2), Daminh Nguyen Huu Khue, Micae, Giuse Le Van Giap, Mary Duong Thi Phung, Maria My, Phero An, Teresa, Giuse (13), Matha, Phero (2), Maria Ma dalena (3), Maria My, Phero An, Giuse Lawrence Nguyen, Lucia, Vencente, Anton, forbear departed relatives, Julio Ho Tan Luat, Maria Le Thi Men, Phero Nguyen Si Dang, Teresa Ho thi Xuan, Phaolo Ho Quang Thay, Teresa Nguyen Thi Hoang Oanh, Phero Phaolo Nguyen Van Dung, Phero Phaolo Nguyen Minh Tan, Maria tran Thi Hue, Simon Tran Thanh Son, Catarina, Isave, Gioan, Anton, Peter, Mary Magdalene, James, Philip & Joseph, Agnes, Anton Mai The Yen, unborn babies (2), Gioan Baotixita, Teresa, Maria Ha Thi Chanh, Teresa, Tran Thi Thanh Thuy, Phanxico, Daminh,

**Other Intentions:** Teresa, Charlie and Clara Vella and all family, Tom and Mary Vassalla and all family, John Galea, thanksgiving to God, Mary & St Joseph (15), good health, peace in a family(16), personal intention (7), for the sick (3), conversion of hearts (2), victims of earthquake in Japan, thanksgiving to God (8), peace for new year (11), thanksgiving to Holy Family, gift of faith, for a safe trip, thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity, thanksgiving to Phanxico Diep, thanksgiving to St Joseph for his safekeeping my career, thanksgiving & prayers for peace and well-being, for our children's healing of spectrum illness, consecration our family to the Holy Family,



## 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.

### 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: 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

*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.

## LỄ HIỂN LINH -Năm B

### Bài đọc 1: Is 60, 1-6

*Trích sách Tiên tri Isaia.*

Hãy đứng lên, hãy tỏa sáng ra, hỡi Giêrusalem! Vì sự sáng của người đã tới, vì vinh quang của Chúa đã bừng dậy trên mình người.



Kìa tối tăm đang bao bọc địa cầu, vì u minh phủ kín các dân, nhưng trên mình người Chúa đang đứng dậy, vì vinh quang của Ngài xuất hiện trên mình người. Chư dân sẽ lần bước tìm về sự sáng của người, và các vua hướng về ánh bình minh của người.

Hãy ngược mắt lên chung quanh, và hãy nhìn coi: tất cả những người đó đang tập hợp, đang tìm đến với người; các con trai của người tự dâng xa đi tới, và các con gái người đứng dậy từ khắp bên hông.

Bây giờ người sẽ nhìn coi, và người trở nên rực rỡ, tim người sẽ rạo rực và sẽ phồng lên. Bởi vì những kho tàng bề khơi tuôn đến với người, nguồn phú túc của chư dân sẽ tới tay người. Những con lạc đà tràn ngập vây phủ lấy người, những lạc đà một bướu tự xứ Mađian và Ephra; tất cả những ai từ Saba đi tới, đem theo vàng và nhũ hương, và họ sẽ tuyên rao lời ca ngợi Chúa.

**Đáp ca: Tv 71, 2. 7-8. 10-11a. 12-13**

*Đáp: Lạy Chúa, mọi dân tộc trên địa cầu đều thờ lạy Chúa (x. c. 11b)*

**Bài đọc 2: Ep 3, 2-3a. 5-6**

*Trích thư Thánh Phaolô Tông đồ gửi tín hữu Êphêxô.*

Anh em thân mến, (chắc) anh em đã nghe biết rằng: Thiên Chúa đã ban cho tôi việc phân phát ân sủng cho anh em, là theo ơn mặc khải cho tôi biết, tôi đã được thấu hiểu mầu nhiệm mà con cái loài người các thế hệ khác không được biết, nhưng nay đã mặc khải cho các thánh Tông đồ của Người, và cho các vị Tiên tri, nhờ Thánh Thần. Và nhờ Tin Mừng, các dân ngoại được nên đồng thừa tự, đồng một thân thể và đồng thông phần với lời hứa của Người trong Chúa Giêsu Kitô.

**ALLELUIA: Mt 2, 2**

Alleluia, alleluia! - Chúng tôi đã nhận thấy ngôi sao của Người ở Đông phương, và chúng tôi đã đến để triều bái Người. - Alleluia.

**BÀI PHÚC ÂM: Mt 2, 1-12**

*Tin Mừng Chúa Giêsu Kitô theo Thánh Matthêu.*

Khi Chúa Giêsu sinh hạ tại Bêlem thuộc xứ Giuđa, trong đời vua Hêrôđê, có mấy nhà đạo sĩ từ Đông phương tìm đến Giê-rusalem. Các ông nói: "Vua người Do-thái mới sinh ra hiện đang ở đâu? Chúng tôi đã nhận thấy ngôi sao của Người ở Đông phương, và chúng tôi đến để triều bái Người". Nghe nói thế, vua Hêrôđê bối rối, và tất cả Giêrusalem cùng với nhà vua. Vua đã triệu tập tất cả các đại giáo trưởng và luật sĩ trong dân, và hỏi họ cho biết nơi mà Đức Kitô sinh hạ. Họ tâu nhà vua rằng: "Tại Bêlem thuộc xứ Giuđa, vì đó là lời do Đấng Tiên tri đã chép: Cả người nữa, hỡi Bêlem, đất Giuđa, không lẽ gì người bé nhỏ hơn hết trong các thành trì của Giuđa, vì tự nơi người sẽ xuất hiện một thủ lãnh, Người đó sẽ chăn nuôi Israel dân tộc của Ta".

Bây giờ Hêrôđê ngầm triệu tập mấy nhà đạo sĩ tới, căn hỏi han họ về thời giờ ngôi sao đã hiện ra.

Rồi vua đã phái họ đi Bêlem và dặn rằng: "Các khanh hãy đi điều tra cẩn thận về Hải Nhi, rồi khi đã gặp thấy, hãy báo tin lại cho Trẫm, để cả Trẫm cũng đến triều bái Người". Nghe nhà vua nói, họ lên đường. Và kìa ngôi sao họ xem thấy ở Đông phương, lại đi trước họ, mãi cho tới nơi và đậu lại trên chỗ Hải Nhi ở. Lúc nhìn thấy ngôi sao, họ hết sức vui mừng. Và khi tiến vào nhà, họ đã gặp thấy Hải Nhi và Bà Maria Mẹ Người, và họ đã quỳ gối xuống súp lạy Người.

Rồi, mở kho tàng ra, họ đã dâng tiến Người lễ vật: vàng, nhũ hương và mộc dược. Và khi nhận được lời mộng báo đừng trở lại với Hêrôđê, họ đã qua đường khác trở về xứ sở mình.

## REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Bishop Charles Gauci*

In the scriptures, we are told that two lots of people came to see the newborn child Jesus.

The shepherds, who were Jewish, and members of the poorer strata of society.

Then the wise men from the East also arrived.

They were not Jews. Judging from their gifts they were also not poor.



Jesus came for all people, Jewish or otherwise. Poor and rich alike.

The gifts that these wise men brought are highly symbolic.

Gold symbolising Royalty, this is the King.

Frankincense, this child is Divine.

Myrrh, used for burials.

This child is not your typical King!

He is Divine. However, he came to serve and not to be served.

He is the King who dies on the cross for the ones He loves, for all.

We as disciples of Jesus are called to manifest Christ to all.

We do it by who we are, by the way, we live.

Like Jesus we are not about self-interest, rather we are about service.

We are called to keep choosing what is right and not what is easy. We are called to move beyond our comfort zones in the service of others.

We are called to LOVE.