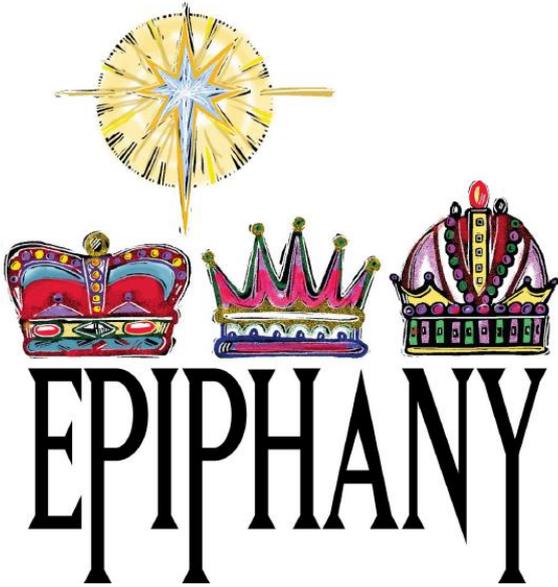




St Mark's Parish

www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

- The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B -
- 3 January 2021 -



The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

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Chalking the Door:

An Epiphany House Blessing 2021

Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our works and play, our joys and sorrows.

One way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 21.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2021 is the year.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk write 20 + C + M + B + 21 on the lintel of your front door (front porch step or convenient location) while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. It is a reminder to let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.

Blessing the Chalk 2021

Priest: Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Priest: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: From this time forth for evermore.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Epiphany of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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

1. O God give your judgement to the king and your justice to the king's son.
2. That he may govern your people with justice, and your poor ones in right judgement.
3. He shall judge the poor of the people, and he shall save the children of the poor.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

First Reading

Is 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.

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.)

Are you a visitor to St Mark's?

If you are visiting our parish, welcome to our community if you wish to make a donation to our parish please do on the 2nd collection, using our tap machines at our Church entrance.

thank you

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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.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

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.

In memory at Christmas:

As the holidays approach, we remember the loved ones who will not be with us this year, our parishioners and family members who have past. They are in our hearts as we come together to celebrate the birth of the Jesus. Even though they are not with us physically, we know that they are held in the loving mercy of God. Because of our faith we know they are celebrating with all the angels and saints in heaven.

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The Epiphany of the Lord

The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I
look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of
the world to come.
Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: As the Magi came to place gifts before Jesus in his
Bethlehem home, we present our prayers with joyful hope
before our loving Father.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis and all the bishops, that
they may be granted the wisdom they need to lead others to
Christ as did the Magi. *(pause)*
In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the leaders in Australia and those in
neighbouring countries, that will be supportive of one
another as the pandemic continues and find just ways of
serving their people in the recession. *(pause)*
In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that cultural and ethnic diversity be
appreciated as a source of strength and harmony. *(pause)*
In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who are experiencing a time of
darkness through sickness, isolation, suffering or loneliness.
May the light of Christ bring salvation to all who seek him
and may they be restored to their communities. *(pause)*
In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the Christian churches in the Middle
East. May the wounds of the past be healed by the
celebration of Christ's birth and may peace reign in the land
once more. *(pause)*

In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who are dying will find the Lord
when their pilgrimage of life ended and those who have died
will embrace the light of eternal life. *(pause)*

In faith we pray.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, we know that you hear our needs and
answer our prayers. Grant them through the power of the
Spirit and in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Offertory Antiphon

Ps 71: 10-11

**The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer
presents, the kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall
bring gifts.**

1. O God give to the king your judgement and to the king's
son your justice.

2. That he may govern your people with justice and your
poor in right judgement.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Mt 2:2

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

1. Light is risen for the just one, and joy for the upright of
heart.

2. Exalt the Lord our God and adore at his holy mountain,
for the Lord our God is holy.

Changes to January Masses!

Changes for the month of January.

From Sunday 3 January 2021 (inclusive)
there will be **NO 10:30am Sunday Mass.**

From Wednesday 6 January 2021 (inclusive) there will be
NO 6:00pm Wednesday Mass.

St Mark's Parish Office Closure.

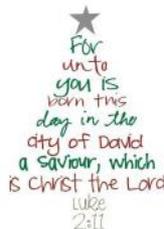


The Parish Office will be closed
from Friday 25 December 2020

and reopen

Monday 11 January 2021

For emergencies call (02) 9181 1795 and leave a
message for us to contact you as soon as we can.



Fr Michael, Fr Denis and Fr John and the
parish staff say Thank you all for the lovely
cards and gifts we have received during this
festive season.

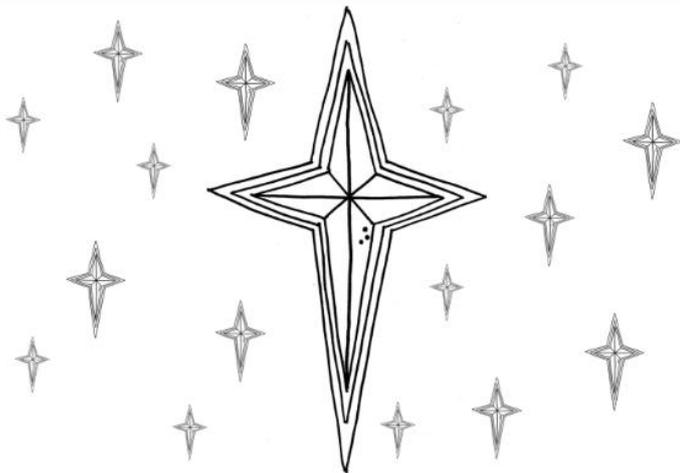
thank you

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Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP
Assistant Priest: Fr John Pham
Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR
Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng
School Principal: Ms Rachel Bourke

Please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your mobile phone. Thank you

Epiphany Home Blessing



20 + C + M + B + 21



Epiphany Home Blessing

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage"

~Matthew 2.2

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east. They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th.

On Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter.

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+21. The 20 and 21 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house." Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

Your family can join in this tradition using the prayer ideas on the next page.

Pray Together

- Make the Sign of the Cross.
- Read an Epiphany Scripture passage.
- Pray:
"Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."
- Chalk the door, door frame, or plaque with 20+C+M+B+21 (or current year)
- Pray the Our Father
- Sing an Epiphany Song
- Make the Sign of the Cross.

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A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.