



# HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY



UNDER THE CARE OF THE AUSTRALIAN JESUIT PROVINCE

254 Luxford Road, Emerton, N.S.W. 2770 - Phone: 9628 7272 - Fax: 9628 6139 - Email: [enquiry@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:enquiry@holyfamily.org.au)  
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We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was built.

**Parish Priest**  
**Assistant Priest**  
**Pastoral Associate**  
**Site Manager**  
**Secretary**  
**Music Director**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson**

Fr Greg Jacobs SJ  
Fr Patrick Mullins, SJ  
Sr Carlene Allen RSM  
Ray Donaldson  
Malia Lolesio  
Eddie Paunga Lolesio  
Marissa Logronio

[gregory@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:gregory@holyfamily.org.au)  
[hfcpat70@gmail.com](mailto:hfcpat70@gmail.com)  
[carlene@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:carlene@holyfamily.org.au)  
[ray@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:ray@holyfamily.org.au)  
[enquiry@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:enquiry@holyfamily.org.au)  
[kosilio\\_lole@hotmail.com](mailto:kosilio_lole@hotmail.com)  
[logroniom23@gmail.com](mailto:logroniom23@gmail.com)

## MASS TIMES - HOLY FAMILY CHURCH - EMERTON

Saturday Vigil Mass : 5.30 pm Sunday: 9.00 am and 10.30 am

### JOHN TERRY CHAPEL (DAY CHAPEL)

Monday 8.30am Mass  
Tuesday 6.00pm Mass  
Wednesday 6.00pm Mass  
Thursday 8.30am Mass  
Friday 9.00am Mass  
Saturday 9.00am Mass

Please note: The Parish office is currently closed, and will reopen on Monday 10th January 2022.

### MASS AT WILLMOT CHURCH

Sunday 7.30am  
Cnr Pelsart & Carteret Ave Willmot

### RECONCILIATION AND HOLY HOUR—EMERTON

Saturday from 9.30 am to 10.00 am

## COVID-SAFE PROCEDURES



\*Register your details upon entering the church.  
\*Face masks are encouraged to be worn.

\*Please do not enter the church if you are unwell and/or experiencing flu-like symptoms.

### REFLECTION FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

## The Epiphany of the Lord

This year we will mostly be concentrating on the gospel of Luke, where he includes more of the outcast and forgotten people of Israel (such as the shepherds in the infancy narrative). However, today we have Matthew telling us about the wise men who come on pilgrimage to honour a foreign king. Jesus is not just a King of the Jews, but a king for all nations.

These astrologers have been attentive to the marvels of the universe, and have read the signs in the heavens. They represent all who search for truth in the wonders of creation and in the wisdom of their own cultures of origin – where God can still call them. It is no ordinary light that these wise men follow. This is a light that guides us on pilgrimage; it is a light that radiates the presence of God; it is a light that, in Jesus, will be a way out of darkness and fear and evil itself. And it is a light that radiates well beyond the confines of Israel, and well beyond the time of Jesus' birth.

Then of course there are the famous gifts that are brought – gold and frankincense (mirroring what the Queen of Sheba brought to Solomon, signs of royalty and wealth), and myrrh (used for burial). But in actual fact the real gift was before them – the saviour of the world, lying in a manger. They had come to witness the birth of a new hope for all humanity.

Matthew is really calling us to look beyond our view of the God of Israel. Jesus really is a king, but a king of more than we can ever imagine. God will keep challenging us to stretch our boundaries, to see more than we are used to seeing of his majesty. But we must never forget that God is also intimately connected with our suffering and pain, and in fact finds his home most naturally there – especially in death.



Fr Gregory



## SCRIPTURE READINGS—YEAR C

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD



### FIRST READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. R.

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. R.

For he delivers the needy one who calls, the poor and the one who has no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. R.

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are*

#### READINGS FOR SUNDAY 9th JANUARY 2022 — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD in YEAR C

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22



## WISE WOMEN

### ALSO CAME:

[A Christmas Reflection reminding us of the women who would have tended to Mary during the birth of Jesus]

Wise women also came.

The fire burned in their wombs long before they saw the flaming star in the sky.

They walked in shadows, trusting the path would open under the light of the moon.



Wise women also come, seeking no directions, no permission from any king.

They came by their own authority, their own desire, their own longing.

They came in quiet, spreading no rumours, sparking no fears to lead to innocents' slaughter, to their sister Rachel's inconsolable lamentations.

Wise women also came, and they brought useful gifts: water for labor's washing, fire for warm illumination, a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came, at least three of them, holding Mary in the labor, crying out with her in the birth pangs, breathing ancient blessings into her ear.

Wise women also came, and they went, as wise women always do, home a different way.

(By Jan Richard-

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

*We have come from the East to worship the King.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the Prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 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. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The earliest Christmas feast, originating in the East in the third century and passing to the West in the fourth century, celebrates the divine 'manifestation' or coming. In the East it commemorates the baptism of the Lord and in the West the visit of the Magi.

The mystery of the incarnation is now revealed to everyone in the world represented by these wise men from foreign lands.



*Jesus, receiver of the wise men and their gifts,  
help us to follow the light in the midst  
of our dark world.*

*Fix our eyes and hearts on your light,  
so that we might be bearers of that light*