



# Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT and 220 Victoria St, Hall ACT  
Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd,  
Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College

4-5 January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord | Year C



## Holy Spirit Amaroo

### Monday

Office closed

### Tuesday

9:15am Mass

### Wednesday

9:15am Mass

6:00pm Holy Hour

### Thursday

9:15am Mass

### Friday

7:00am Mass

### Saturday

4:15pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass

6:00pm Rosary after Mass

### Sunday

8:00am Mass

9:00am Reconciliation

9:30am Mass

5:00pm Mass

## Gospel Reflection

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.

## Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

## Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

## Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.—Greg Sunter Liturgy Help © 2024



## St Francis Xavier Hall Saturdays 5:00pm

# Parish News and Events

## Music at mass in January



As several members of our music ministry teams are away throughout the holidays, we will **ONLY** have music at the **9:30am Sunday mass** throughout January. If you would like to help out the team during this time or join music ministry on an ongoing basis, please reach out to the parish office or have a chat with the musicians and singers at mass.

## Children's Sacramental Program 2025

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

For children in Year 3 and above who are baptised Catholic wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2025.

Parent Information sessions will be held on

**Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 1:00pm and 6:00pm** at the church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in March 2025.

For more details please contact:

**Parish Program:** <https://forms.gle/yo1ka7doV4wY4aEC9> Or  
[theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Catholic Schools:** [mel.unwin@cq.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mel.unwin@cq.catholic.edu.au)

## An Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into the presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of Nations, the Saviour of mankind; to whom be glory for ever.

- Frank Colquhoun



## The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions | January

### For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

## Pastoral Visits to the Sick and Housebound

Fr Troy and Fr Eden are keen to know of people in the Gungahlin area who are sick and/or housebound and who may like to receive a home visit and/or Holy Communion.

Please let us know if we can help you, or pass this information onto family, friends or neighbours and encourage them to contact the Parish Office on 6242 9622 or [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)



Please keep the following individuals in prayer.....



**For those who are sick**  
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell  
Kwang Hui Lim  
Adriano Cesar Junior  
Maria Teresa Meireles  
Theresa and Joseph Tan  
Jaya Raghwan  
Paul Johnston  
Mark Bush  
Jim Banks  
Barbara Kirk  
Vesna Ljubičić  
Alonso  
Sharni Laffan  
Marc Darlington  
Nancy Phillips  
Ashley  
Ana Al-Adhami  
Linda Dwyer  
Wigglesworth Family  
Alan Demascus  
Jeffrey Gonzalez  
Mary Gardner  
Marie Lincoln  
Wongduean Sawasditas  
Nook Sawasditas  
Daranee Teapthong  
Judeth Barrett  
Bill Honess  
Mark and Debbie  
Sue Aston  
Cory Gregorio  
Liberato Nolasco  
Dee Pennay  
Miriam Clancy  
Frances Miley  
Baby Logan Spence  
Tom Nunan  
Skye Leon  
Tim Mulcahy

### Anniversaries

Fred Selems  
Brian Ware  
Rade Krile  
Anica Brusic

### Recently Deceased

Socorro Ricabo  
Elbert Tesalona  
Judith Santos de Olivera  
Travis Salamat

We include those who are members of our Parish or relatives. Please email the parish office or click here to request prayers.

[Prayer Requests](#)

## Readings for the Epiphany of the Lord Year C

### Entrance Antiphon | Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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

### 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 | 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 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.

### Communion Antiphon | Cf Matthew 2:2

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

Source: Liturgy Help © 2024



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

May God's love light your way and lead you into a new year that shines with  
His special joy. Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed year ahead!



# SAVE THE DATE!

## Music and Liturgy Workshop

**EVENING FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Liturgy Workshop: Forming a vibrant worship community**

An exploration of hospitality, liturgical ministry, the Eucharistic celebration and prayerful participation

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Liturgical Music Workshop: Making the most of your music ministry**

More information on the workshop and registration details to follow.

## Faith Formation Opportunities 2025

(Lenten Reflection Groups, Bible Study and more)

If you are interested in more faith formation opportunities in the parish, please let us know by completing this online form

<https://forms.gle/Y6VknKRkdc1Br1A>



## WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**First Collection** (Supporting all priests of the Archdiocese)

1. BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00029248 Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund Ref: Gungahlin and Surname
2. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!

**Second Collection** (For the upkeep of our parish, staff salaries, parish loans, liturgical needs etc)

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Direct Credit: BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish
3. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!



## CONNECT WITH US

**Parish Priest:** Fr Troy Bobbin  
E: troy.bobbin@cg.org.au

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Eden Langlands  
E: eden.langlands@cg.org.au

**Parish Office and Presbytery**  
93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622  
Website: [www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Manager:** Theivani Evers  
E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au  
P: 0472 921 518

**Parish Secretary:** Jovina John Britto  
E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

**Office Support:** Chris Konik-Rose  
E: officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

**Finance Officer/ Planned Giving:** Tony Rose  
E: gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Alison Weeks  
E: alisonmweeks@bigpond.com

## Parish Groups

**Craft Group** | Beth Forshaw  
Mondays 1:00pm Parish Office

**St Vincent de Paul** | Drazen Roginic President  
P: 0401 669 301 | E: Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au

**Call to Connect** | Maureen Hilton | M: 0431 123 465

**Holy Spirit Prayer Group** | Kathy Torcasio 0401 920 028  
Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church

**Social Justice Group** | Peter Peterson  
E: socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com

**Legion of Mary** | Marie Lazaro 0415 302 319

**Focolare Families Group** | Anna 0416 668 985  
E: focolareamaroo@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry** | E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

**Care Group** | Vacant—please contact Parish Office

**Community Garden Group** | Parish Office  
E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

**St Francis Xavier Social Group**  
Greg Farrugia 0412 299 549 gjvita@gmail.com  
Gabrielle O'Kane 0417 464 216 okane.hall@gmail.com

Download our parish app: [Pocket Parish from App Store or Google Play.](#)