

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona



James 2:18

Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:00pm

Address: 20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona 2640 PO Box 110, Lavington 2641

Email: thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com **Web:** www.thurgoonacatholicparish.com

Ph: 02 6043 2222 **Admin:** Fr Beltrame 0409 982 915 **Acolyte:** Denis Golden

MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) - 6pm

Sunday 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday 8am

Tuesday 10am

2nd Tues of month: Anointing of the sick

Wednesday 8:00am

Thursday 7 pm Mass and Novena - IHM

Friday 8am

1st Saturday of Month 8am Mass

Reconciliation

Sat 5:30 to 5:50pm before Vigil

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage By appointment

Working Bee - Sat 9am to 11am

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Register:

This register will assist Fr Dunne to get to know his new parish. Please email your details, phone, address etc to thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com.

Fatima Calendars: A beautiful and practical spiritual resource. \$8.00 ea.

Library: Educational & Inspirational DVDs available in the Church foyer, free to borrow and return. *See Denis Golden*

Financial Report Cheques payable to IHM Parish Account

Direct Debit: BSB640000: Acc. No.111270902 Include name on transfers.

1st Coll: \$419.65 **2nd Coll:** \$142.40 **Env:** \$130.00 **Dir Debit:** \$440.00

Christmas Collection: \$135.00

Readers: Sat: 6.00pm

Sun: 9.30am

Next week: Sat: 6.00pm Barb McDermott Sun: 9.30am Jorgete Hudson

Cleaning Roster: Sat 8th Jan Vera Galvin



DIOCESAN COVID 19 PROTOCOLS 24/12/2021

- Registration still required - QR Code registration preferred.
- Masks are required in indoor settings, subject to exemptions.
- Those who prefer to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to approach the communion line after those who have received on the hand.



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**Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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 Jesus Christ, 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. *universalis.com*

Prayers of the Faithfull:

For our sick, Elizabeth Ryan, John Corby, Mathew Dix, Katerie Byrnes, Wendy Mills, Elise Stevens, Carmel Baker, & Laurie Evans.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

For our recently departed, Gary Smith, Fr Jim Esler, Marjorie Ptasiuk and those who's anniversaries occur at this time inc. Shirley Bevan, Terry Barsby, Patricia McFarland & Terrance Benson .

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Mt 2: 2

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

universalis.com

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than,



“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod” The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel. We know little about the Magi.

They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation.

We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the

dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

loyolapress.com

A KING TO BEHOLD: SCOTT HAHN



An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise, one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth". Those promises of Israel's king ruling the nations resound also in today's Psalm. The psalm celebrates David's son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch "to the ends of the earth," and the world's kings will pay him homage. That's the scene too in today's First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing "gold and frankincense" for Israel's king.

The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob. Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the "kings of the earth". Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon. One greater than Solomon is here. He has come to reveal that all peoples are "coheirs" of the royal family of Israel, as today's Epistle teaches. His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

stpaulcenter.com

**The world promises you comfort, but you were not
made for comfort.**

You were made for greatness.

Pope Benedict XVI

