



HOLY CROSS PARISH ✦ HELENSBURGH

Parish Administrator – Fr. Patrick Vaughan
Parochial Vicar – Fr Paul Clark

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♣ 7 January 2024 ♣ The Epiphany of the Lord/B



WEEKEND MASS

HOLY CROSS
HELENSBURGH

Sunday 8:30am

RECONCILIATION

Sunday 8-8:20am



Of service and witness to Christ since

Parish Secretary: Kerrie Halloran

Office Hours: Tue Wed,
Thurs

9am to 4pm

Parish Office ☎: (02) 4294 1009

Parish School ☎: (02) 4294 1588



Holy Cross Parish Community acknowledges the **Dharawal Nation** as the traditional custodians of the land on which this church & school are built.

Gospel Reflection

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.



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.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

Dianne Bergant CSA & Greg Sunter



**Please Note...The
Parish Office will be
closed until Tuesday,
23 January.**

Profession of Faith (Credo) The Nicene 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 all and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

Bow your head for the following words:

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary and became man.**

Then continue:

**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.**

WEEKDAY MASSES

**WEDNESDAY
ROSARY & MASS – 9AM**

**THURSDAY
MASS – 9AM**

**FRIDAY
MASS – 9AM**

ALL WELCOME



ROSTERS...

ACOLYTE

Jan 14 David Astill

GREETERS

Jan 14 Sue Clark

READERS

Jan 14 Sue Clark & Kerry White

CLEANERS

Jan 13 Wallace Family

ROSARY STATUE

Jan Trisha Dalton

MORNING TEA

Jan 14 Warren & Teri Shearer &
Greg & Sue Greening



Please pray for the sick:

Bishop Peter Ingham, Pat Brown, Jan
Burn, John Green, Hilton King & Luis Veas.

For those who have died:

Marie & Jack Higgins (2023), Linda Lucke (2018),
Elizabeth Sharp (1991), Gwendoline Rodgers (2011) &
Alice Wood (2009).