

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72.

RESPONSE:

All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

- 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**
- In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R**
- The kings of Tarshish and the islands 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**
- For he shall save the needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. **R**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 5 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

You don't have to be a king to bring a gift to Jesus. What could we bring that he would really love? What he wants most is some act of love: to encourage; to welcome; to forgive; to share joy.

Tue 6 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72; Mark 6:34-44

"Love is not only what we do; it's how we do it. When we stand in the state of love that Jesus offers, we live inside of a different energy." – Fr Richard Rohr OFM

Wed 7 Jan (St Raymond of Penyafort, Pr)

1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72; Mark 6:45-52

"Adoration is an opportunity to dialogue personally with Christ, to get to know and love him more intimately, to make reparation for our sins and those of mankind..." – St Raymond, on prayer.

Thu 8 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72; Luke 4:14-22

This Christmas season let us ask the Holy Spirit to continue enriching our understanding and relationship with the Father and the Son. May the Trinity's communion of love be incarnated in our service to God and neighbour.

Fri 9 Jan (St Adrian of Canterbury, Ab)

1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147; Luke 5:12-16

Adrian's commitment to teaching reminds us that our gifts are meant to serve others. If you have a particular skill, use it to help someone else. Generosity with your abilities can transform someone else's future.

Sat 10 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149; John 3:22-30

When something goes wrong, we are often tempted to pray, "Lord, please fix it!" Better prayers might be, "Help me bring good out of this", or "Please open me to whatever good you can lead me to through this, Lord."

Sun 11 Jan BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29; Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus received an amazing compliment at his Baptism – "Beloved". How many of us believe we are cherished in this way by God? Today, let us pause to hear God whisper our name: "beloved".

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr= Priest; Ab= Abbot

Catholic Link

EPIPHANY

Epiphany of the Lord • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 4 January 2026

Epiphany

Let's begin with a thought experiment, observing the well-known image of St Peter in charge of letting people into heaven. The Magi, or wise men from the East arrive. Peter: Your gifts were great, but sorry, I can't let you in. You were not baptised and you're not Catholics.

Do we sufficiently appreciate the significance of the Epiphany? It reveals a God who wills all people to be saved. The Magi, who were not of Israel, were led to Jesus by their study of astrology: "We saw his star..." By virtue of the Incarnation, God's plan of salvation has opened out beyond Israel to include all humanity. Simeon, a prophet of hope, holding the child Jesus understood this when he exclaimed: "For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people" (Luke 2:30-32).

What this means to the Church in practice has been a source of confusion, theological exploration, and changing attitudes throughout the centuries. From a period when some taught that "outside the Church there is no salvation" to some modern trends of relativism which give equal status to any religion, it's clear there needs to be ongoing debate. The tension between Christ's uniqueness and God's universal salvific will (i.e. God wills all people to be saved) continues to shape the Church's mission in the pluralistic and inter-religious world in which we live. This tension is captured in the respective messages of Christmas and Epiphany. Christmas focuses our eyes on the *uniqueness* of Jesus as sav-

iour, while Epiphany highlights the *catholicity* (universality) of this good news.

One theologian who grappled with this was Karl Rahner SJ. Holding to the uniqueness of Christ as saviour, he pondered on the salvation of those who were not followers of Christ. There are many who live by their consciences and who sacrifice themselves in service of others. What becomes of them? Rahner proposed the interesting concept of "anonymous Christians", that is, people saved by Christ without knowing it. This is not far-fetched. The final judgement in Matthew 25 speaks of those who fed and clothed, who visited and cared for Christ without knowing it. "As long as you did this to the least, you did it to me."

The Second Vatican Council, in its teaching on the Church, while affirming the Catholic Church as guardian of all truth, recognises truth in other denominations, other faiths, and even in people of no faith. It calls on Catholics to respect the consciences of others. Indeed, those who honestly follow their consciences are in good company. Their models are the Three Wise Men who see a star, recognise it as different and pursue its light. It is for us who claim to know the One to whom it points, to be carriers of that light to others.

Let us pray with St Columbanus: "I hope that God will set me on fire with the flame of his divine love, the flame that burns above the stars, so that I am filled with desire for his love and his fire burns always within me! I hope that my little lamp should burn and shine on all."

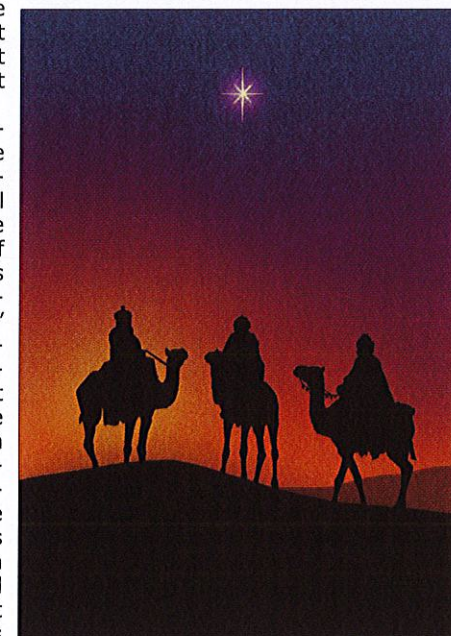
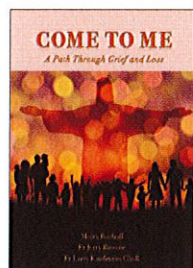


Image by Sebastiano Iervolino from Pixabay

Taken from Jesus' words, "Come to me all who labour and are burdened...", this book echoes the intimate and encouraging invitation of Jesus to go to him with our burdens.

Moiria Boshoff, from her years of experience in care ministry, helps us to name our pains, and Father Jerry Browne's reflections bring us closer to the Jesus who stretches out his hand of invitation.



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| Mass Times | Tues 09h30 | Wed No mass | Thurs No Mass | Fri 08h00 | Sat 08h00 17h00 | Sun 07h30 10h00 | Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30 |
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: **"St Patrick's Catholic Church"** Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our **"Society of St Vincent de Paul"** helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

The Johnson Crane Marathon for runners comes through Benoni city early on Sunday morning 25 January. **The 07h30 mass is therefore cancelled.** Catechism is also cancelled. The 10h00 mass will be said as usual as the runners will have gone.

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be said every Friday at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Catechism 2026

Young people's catechism **REGISTRATION** takes place in the big hall on Sunday 18 January from 08h00. Catechism classes begin on Sunday 1 February at 8.15am.

Adult instruction **REGISTRATION** (for Catholics requiring First Communion and Confirmation, and for adults wanting to become Catholic) is on Sunday 18 January in the Boardroom from 8.30. This class is not for school pupils. Classes begin on Sunday 1 February at 08h30. Come to the parish office.

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday Missal page 69 Weekday Missal page 146

The Magi were searching for Christ. When they found him, they worshipped him and offered him gifts. Since then millions of people have followed in the footsteps of the Magi and come to Christ. We count ourselves among those fortunate millions. Let us open our hearts and minds to encounter Christ today in this mass and offer ourselves as gifts to him.



Rise up in splendour! (Isaiah 60:1)

Today we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, Gentiles from the East who came seeking the King of the Jews. Their arrival in Bethlehem is the fulfilment of today's first reading, in which the glory of God draws people of every nation to Jerusalem.

But look closely, and you'll find something surprising: "Your light has come," the reading says, and "the glory of the Lord shines upon you." It's Jerusalem itself, symbol of God's chosen people, that is attracting the Gentiles, not a sudden blaze of glory coming from the heavens. It's the shining witness of a people who have bound themselves to the Lord and to each other. That's where the nations will find the glory of God.

Imagine that! We ourselves-the people of God working and praying together, loving, and forgiving one another-we can be the manifestation of God's glory to the world.

If you light one candle on a darkened, moonless night, you may be able to see it from a few feet away. But if you bring hundreds of people together and give each of them a lighted candle, you might see their brightness from a mile away. Bring enough people together, and you'd see the light from outer space! That's God's vision for us. He wants us to put aside selfish, sinful, or prideful attitudes so that we can love each other and serve each other--and so be his light. He wants us to follow him, not just because it's good for us, but because he knows that a life of discipleship brings us closer together and makes us shine out to the world even more brightly.

So join the Magi and bow before the infant Christ today. But as you do, pray for the Church. Pray for your parish. Pray for the domestic church that is your family. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep purifying you, and all of God's people, so that together we can shine more brightly and draw more people to him.

"Jesus, teach us to love each other so that we can fill the world with your glory!"