

One tradition for the Christmas Season (Germany, Poland and Scandinavia) is that of the children's festival between January 1-6 (Three Kings Day). After a Mass the children go from house to house to gather offerings for the poor. They are dressed as the three kings and carry sticks with stars on the top. At the homes they sing songs and recite messages of Christmas. At each house they paint a series of letters and numbers of blessing over the door frame that remain until the next year. **The blessing is as follows;** All gather outside at the main entrance to the home.

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who live here.

Leader: Bless, O Lord,
this household and family,
and allow all of us who live in this home
to find in it a shelter of peace and health.
Inspire each of us to develop
our individual talents
and to contribute wisdom and good works
for the benefit of the whole family.
Make our house a haven for us all,
and a place of warmth and caring
for all our friends who come to visit us.
Enlighten us with the brilliance of
your Epiphany star so that, as we go into the world, we might



clearly see our way to You
and discover You in our work and play.
All: For yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory now and forever, Amen.

EPIPHANY GIFTS

1. gold - Kingship on Earth
2. frankincense - Priesthood
3. myrrh - Death

Bless the house with the sign of the cross and holy water. After the blessing, the initials of the following Latin blessing are written over the main doorway in chalk (any colour you like); **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** 'Christ bless this house' (The Initials also correspond to the traditional names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) The Finished blessing inscription would look like this: **20 + C + M + B + 14**.

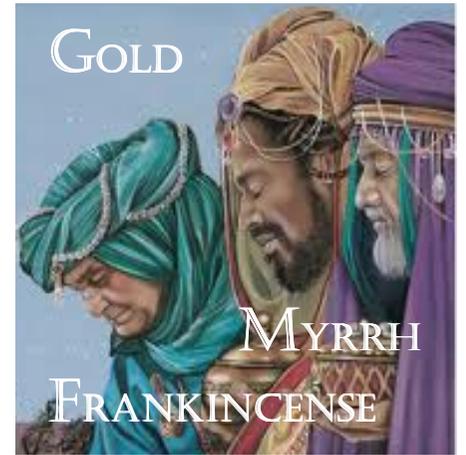
Blessing for year 2014

May the road rise up to meet you,
the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the
palm of His hand.

--old irish blessing--

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5th Jan 2014 (A) EPIPHANY

1ST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you.

2ND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am
Wed: 6pm
Fri: 9:15am
Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Apts)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm
Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS:

By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by
contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat Vigil: Family & Friends **Mon 7:30am:** †Les & May Ellsmore
Sun 8am: †Keith Cook **Tue 7:30am:** †Jean Macauley
Sun 5pm: Pro Populo

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo, John Heaney and John Spora...

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

Happy Birthday to: Fr Anthony Simari (10th).

We welcome **Lukasz Wincenty Stewart** and his family to his Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

Message from John Heaney: John sends his grateful thanks to all who visited him in St George Private Hospital and for all your prayers and concern. He is now relocated to a Rehab. Hospital in Petersham.



Australia Day: Sunday 26th Jan

All are invited to the Presbytery from **11:30am** to celebrate:
• Australia Day • Fr Anthony Simari's birthday and January/February birthdays. *Please bring a plate to share.*



Prayer for Australia: Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever. Amen.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggart (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) F Doherty, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) P Tjugito, A Burke (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) C Findlay (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counters:** J De Andrade, M Wells

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggart (A) R Williams, V Hage (R) G Hage, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) M Alimario, G Gates(C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, D Tjahjadi (R) M Tjokrowidjaja(C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

What is Epiphany? Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and for some denominations signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. Though many different cultural and denominational customs are practiced, in general, the feast celebrates the manifestation of God in the form of human flesh through Jesus Christ, his Son. The word *epiphany* means "manifestation" or "revelation" and is commonly linked in Western Christianity with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. Through the Magi, Christ revealed himself to the gentiles. In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John, with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son. Likewise, on Epiphany some denominations commemorate Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine, signifying the manifestation of Christ's divinity as well.

**Happy and Holy New Year 2014
May God bless us all**

What were the names of the three wise men?

...Tradition has it that the wise men who came to honour the infant Jesus were named Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.



Shrine of Magi containing the Relics of the 3 Kings

The wise men, also known as magi, were men belonging to various educated classes. They were of noble birth, educated, wealthy, and influential. They were philosophers, the counsellors of rulers, learned in all the wisdom of the ancient East. The wise men who came seeking the Christ child were not idolaters; they were upright men of integrity.

They had apparently studied the Hebrew Scriptures and found there a clear transcript of truth. In particular, the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament must have claimed their attention, and among these they found the words of Balaam: "A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17, NKJV). They certainly were acquainted with the prophecy of Micah: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2, NKJV; see also Matthew 2:5, 6). They probably also knew and understood the time prophecy of Daniel regarding the appearance of the Messiah (see Daniel 9:25, 26) and came to the conclusion that His coming was near...

