

Liturgy of the Word



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or hymn) Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING **IS 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 **EPH 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 **MT 2:2**

Alleluia, alleluia!
 We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL **MT 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 (or a hymn) We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

FOLLOWING THE MISSAL...
 Preface of The Epiphany of The Lord; Eucharistic Prayer II
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A)
 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17



Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville
 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St Patrick's, Macksville
 Christ the King, Taylors Arm

The Epiphany of Our Lord
 Year A
 8th January 2023

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Gumbaynggirr People, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Shelwin Fernandez

PARISH SECRETARY: Zofie White

PARISH OFFICE:

Postal Address: PO Box 38, Macksville 2447
 Street Address: 78 Wallace Street, Macksville
 Phone: 02 6568 1107
 Email: nvparish@lismore.catholic.org.au

Website: www.nvparish.org.au

Urgent Matters: 0481 277 532

OFFICE HOURS:

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: 8.30am to 2.00pm

NAMBUCCA PRESBYTERY:

Telephone: 02 6568 6642

PARISH SCHOOLS:

St Patrick's Primary School—Macksville

32 Macksville Heights Drive, Macksville

Phone: 02 6568 1397

Website: www.macvplism.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School —Bowraville

4 Carbin Street, Bowraville

Phone: 02 65647369

Website: www.bwvplism.catholic.edu.au

The Prince and the Pauper

Most of us have no doubt sung more than once this popular Christmas carol, "We Three Kings"; and all our churches were probably adorned by "cribs" boasting statues of three exotic looking men dressed in royal finery, wearing crowns and riding on bejewelled camels. Their names — Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.

Based upon Matthew's claim that they came from the east (Mt 2:1) and saw the star rise in the east (Mt 2.2), it has often been assumed in Christian tradition that these men came from Persia to find the Christ. Other interpreters have thought that the wise men might have come from Arabia — hence the popular presentation of the "kings" as exotic worthies with princely accoutrements and camel transport. Such imagery and information, however, derive more from the popular imagination than it does from Matthew's Gospel.

Called by Matthew "Magi" (Mt 2:1), these colourful characters are not presented as kings, but rather as astrologers or wise men. They are not named; and there are no camels in sight. The text says nothing about there being three of them. The tradition that there were but three wise men arose from the fact that there were three gifts (Mt 2:11).

The term Magi reflects the Greek magos, which refers to a magician, sorcerer, or one wise in interpreting the stars and dreams. In ancient Media and Persia these Magi were associated with the priestly caste. Matthew presents these men as scholars who are "wise" not only in dream interpretation and stargazing, but in Jewish traditions as well.

Matthew indicates that these wise men had studied the Hebrew Scriptures, where they found and correctly interpreted the messianic prophecies that told that "there shall come a star out of Jacob" (Nm 24:17; cf. Mt 2:2). Similarly, the chief priests whom Herod consults at the behest of the Magi find in Micah (5:2), a more specific reference to the Messiah's birth at Bethlehem (Mt 2:4-6).

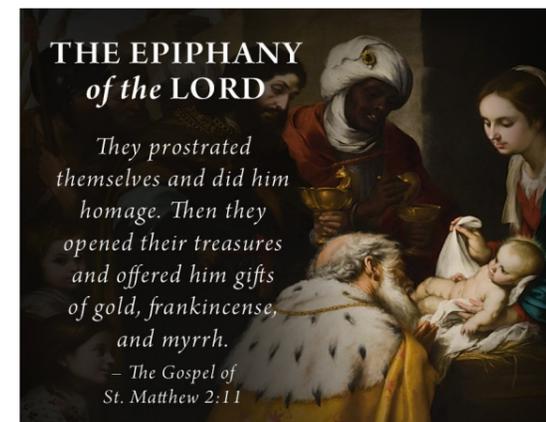
This story draws on and reminds us of another "foreign" seer in the Old Testament, Balaam, who foresaw the future triumph of Israel over its enemies (Nm 24:17). Even Herod was Idumean and the representative of a foreign power; a king whose heritage and authority had the whiff of illegitimacy.

So, in Matthew's story, prophets, priests, and foreigners bring their collective wisdom to bear on the Scriptures to confirm the legitimacy of Jesus' later claim to messianic status. There is an obvious irony here, if not also a bit of folk wisdom. One should not judge by appearances; nor should one underestimate God.

The true prince appears in the world as a pauper, while the present king quakes in fear in his princely palace. God assumes human being not amidst the elites of society, but amidst the poor. Jesus' regnal status is recognised, not by his future subjects, but by those on the margins and those "on the nose", foreign astrologers and Idumean pretenders to the throne.

Ian J Elmer

© Majellan Media 2023



THE EPIPHANY of the LORD

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

— The Gospel of St. Matthew 2:11

	
Tuesday 10TH JAN	5:00 pm Reconciliation 5:30 pm Mass, Macksville ST JOHN THE GOOD
Wednesday 11TH JAN	9:30 am Mass, Bowraville ST SALVIUS
Thursday 12TH JAN	9:00 am Adoration before Mass 9:30 am Mass, Macksville ST ANTHONY PUCCI
Friday 13TH JAN	8:30 am Adoration before Mass 9:00 am Mass, Nambucca Heads ST HILARY
Saturday 14TH JAN	9:30 am Mass, Macksville 5:30 pm Reconciliation, Nambucca Heads 6:00 pm Vigil Mass, Nambucca Heads ST MACRINA THE ELDER
Sunday 15TH JAN	8:00 am Mass, Macksville 9:30 am Mass, Bowraville 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

 **You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts**

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad. Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home
Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas
Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567

 **Tribunal of the Catholic Church**

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on **66217 288** or email tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

 **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE**

Church in Australia mourns death of Pope Benedict XVI
Media Release, 31st December 2022

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican's most influential departments, for more than two decades.

Pope Benedict died in Rome, where he had lived since his papal retirement, on Saturday evening, Australian time.

"From his time as an expert adviser – or peritus – at the Second Vatican Council onwards, there was no question that Joseph Ratzinger was a major figure within the Church around the world," said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

"His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series *Jesus of Nazareth*, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse."

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the bishop who oversaw World Youth Day in 2008, said Pope Benedict had been a key influence and someone with whom he became close.

"I had the great privilege of spending some private moments with Pope Benedict, away from the spotlight," Archbishop Fisher said.

"They were moments I will forever cherish. He had a great intellect, which he shared through his work as a professor, a Church leader and ultimately as Pope.

"He did not seek nor enjoy the spotlight, but he produced some magnificent works that have shaped and will continue to shape Catholic thought and Catholic life."

Archbishop Fisher said he was very grateful to spend some time with Pope Benedict during his visits to Rome.

"Reminiscing about his time in Australia and learning from this gentle father figure was a real joy," he said.

Archbishop Costelloe said parishes around the country will hold special memorial Masses for Pope Benedict in the coming days, encouraging those wishing to attend to visit local church and cathedral websites for more information.

"These Masses will be a chance to celebrate the life and faith of Pope Benedict, but also to pray for the repose of his soul – just as we do for anyone who has died," he said.

A biography of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is available on the Vatican website at <https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography.index.html>

His papal coat of arms was:



Ministry Roster - 14th & 15th January 2023

	Nambucca Heads 6:00pm, Saturday	Macksville 8:00am, Sunday	Bowraville 9:30am, Sunday	Taylors Arm 11:00am, Sunday
Commentator	M Harris	N Allan	N Slingsby	
Reader	M Tait	H Murphy	S McNally	NO MASS
Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M Dallas B Goswell	J Hasson S Allan		
Procession of Gifts	Volunteers please	B & J Costa	Volunteers please	
Altar Servers	Theresa N, A Smith	E Costa	T & I Leece	
Sacristan	J Ingold	S Nebauer		
Counters	J & M Harris			

 **ST ANTHONY PUCCI**

Eustace Pucci was born on 16 April 1819 to a poor sacristan as the second of seven children.

He felt called to life in a religious order in his childhood but his father opposed this despite his own career as a church worker. Overcoming this opposition later allowed him to enter the Servite Order in 1837 (at Santissima Annunziata) at which time he was given the religious name of "Antonio Maria". He was ordained to the priesthood in 1843 after having made his profession into the order a few months prior.

In 1843 he was assigned to serve in Viareggio at the parish church of Sant'Andrea and was later made its pastor in 1846. He went on to serve in this post for the next four decades until his death. He became known as il Curatino (the Little Parish Priest) and took care of the poor and the sick as well as the old; this was augmented during two epidemics. In 1853 he founded an institution for the education of children and initiated the first seaside hostel for sick and poor children in Viareggio. He also helped found the Holy Childhood Society in 1853 for educational purposes.

Pucci died on 12 January 1892 due to pneumonia. He celebrated Mass on 6 January and that night, he went in a storm to render assistance to an ill person when he contracted pneumonia and grew worse until his death.[3] His remains were later relocated to the church of Sant'Andrea on 18 April 1920.

He was proclaimed a Servant of God on 13 April 1932 under Pope Pius XI with the introduction of his sainthood cause and he was later made Venerable on 18 January 1948 upon the confirmation of his life of heroic virtue. Pope Pius XII beatified him on 12 June 1952 while Pope John XXIII canonized him on 9 December 1962.

WE PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

*Lord we ask healing for those who are sick.
We thank you for those who have recovered.
We pray for all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.*



Mass intention envelopes are located at the back of the church

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Eva Smith, Susan Ang, Danny Martinelli, Jodie Bowron, Wendy Tuck, Roy Gore, Rayleen Keaton, Leonie McLachlan, Shaun Forrester, Karen Hasson, David Grimes, Malou Atayde, Therese & Terry Parkhouse, Monica Dunbar, Tui Smith, Ern Thorne, Neville Stewart, Kath Mitchell, Eloise Spear, Eileen Barbellar, Fr Anthony Lemon, Jim Garland, Michael Foley, Lorraine Freeman, Elizabeth Armer, Lynn Tonkin, Jacob Ingold, Peter Finlay, Jerry Barber, Neville Ennis, Gloria Connors, Julieanne McIntyre, Adam Connolly

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Fr Thomas Patrick Cusack, Peter Owens, Frank Walsh, Rita McLeod, Marie McPherson, Len Smith, Noel Scrivener, Pam Cross

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Pope Benedict XVI, Claudette Parkinson, Rosemary Laws
If you wish us to visit any family members who are in hospital or infirm, please notify the parish office so the Pastoral Care team or Father can arrange a visit and administer the sacrament for the sick.

MUSICAL VOLUNTEER NEEDED – ORGAN SUPPLIED

Do you play the piano (and interested in learning the organ) or organ and would be open to playing at our Macksville or Bowraville Masses?

Joye Thorne (former organist at Macksville Church) has an organ in good working order available **FREE** for pickup from her Macksville home. Joye has kindly offered to help someone ease into playing for our masses—she has sheet music, experience and willingness to help pass on the baton (so to speak).

So don't be shy, step up lets help our other musicians to share the music and celebration of our masses. Please call Joye 6568 2500 or the parish office 6568 1107 if interested.

