



Sacred Heart Parish (Canonically Erected 1868) Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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Holy Trinity School Ph 6722 4066

Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - 4 JANUARY 2026



"On entering into the little shed these holy pilgrims feel a joy which they had never felt before; they feel their hearts chained to the dear little infant Whom they behold ... The infant looks upon them with a joyful countenance and this is the mark of affection, with which He accepts them amongst the first-fruits of His Redemption." - St Alphonsus Liguori

Entrance Antiphon (Vigil): Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East, and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Entrance Antiphon (Day): Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

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 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Vigil): The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Mon, 5 January & Fri, 9 January - 8am to 1pm

Tues, 6 January - 8am to 12pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

Thank you to all who contribute each week to the collections, either electronically or in person.

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference. If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of Natalie Gott (recently deceased) and all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased: Justin O'Brien, Sue O'Brien.

the sick: Jennifer Wheeler, Francis McPhee, Christina O'Brien, Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the Parish Office to add or remove names to/ from the Sick List.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Paul: Sun 4 Jan 2026, 10am

Welcome Morning Tea for Fr Juv: Sun 11 Jan 2026, 10am

Liturgy Committee: Sat 17 Jan 2026, 9.00am

Pastoral Council: Wed TBA, 5.00pm

Finance Committee: Wed TBA, 5.00pm

Altar Society Roster For January: Ann Tubb & Rhonda McGregor

Reflection: This Sunday's reflection may be read on the parish website (Resources>Parish News) or on the parish Facebook page on Sunday morning.

Weekday Liturgy Schedule (including Confession times): This can be found at the noticeboard in the church, on the parish website, and is also emailed out with the parish bulletin. **If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to the parish office with your request.**

Farewell to Fr Paul Chandler

This weekend we say farewell to Fr Paul who has been with us since February 2023 and our Administrator since April 2023. We thank Fr Paul for all he has done to help our parish develop a deeper love and devotion to our faith. Goodbye Fr Paul, you will be greatly missed.

Blessing of Epiphany Chalk

Chalk will be blessed at Mass this weekend. Parishioners are welcome to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door. Instructions are as follows:

20 C + M + B 26

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names of the Three Wise Men who came seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode).

Words to be said at home:

Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. Amen.

Read aloud Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising and have come to pay Him homage. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they knelt down and paid Him homage.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then continue with these words, whilst making the chalk marks at the names of the wise men and the year:

The Three Wise Men, Caspar (C) Melchior (M) Balthasar (B) followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Son of God, Who came to live among us Two Thousand (20) and Twenty-six (26) years ago. (+) May Christ bless our home today and (+) remain with us throughout the year.

Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From Fr Paul Chandler

As I leave you today for Armidale, my heart is full of gratitude to you all for your companionship, the support and understanding that you have given to me over the last three years. I have sadness to say goodbye but trust in God's graces that He will give me all that I need so that I may serve Him and His Church well in Armidale. Let us continue to pray for each other. The first Holy Mass I offer on Monday, Jan 5th in the Cathedral will be offered for all my parishioners in Inverell, Tingha, Ashford, Bundarra and Yetman. May our Blessed Mother and St Joseph watch over you all. God bless you and thank you.

Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:

* Proper of Mass, Pg 175

* Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord, Pg 30

* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61

Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses: (Mon) Pg 103/127; (Tues) Pg 105/130; (Wed) Pg 106/132 or 1535; (Thurs) Pg 108/134; (Fri) Pg 109/136; (Sat) Pg 110/138