

Corpus Christi Parish Mittagong/Bowral

The Epiphany of the Lord – Year C



Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet Isaiah compared the coming of the Messiah to the rising of the sun. The Messiah's great light will make all heaven and earth into one dazzling universe. All people will be bound together by the radiance of Christ the Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

The high calling of the Apostle Paul was so spread the good news that had remained a secret until Christ's coming. God is not the exclusive property of a particular race, people, or religion. God will be the Shepherd of all who seek God and of all who serve God.

Matthew 2:1-12

From the beginning, the Christian faith has been a world religion. Foreigners from a different land and religion paid homage to the new-born child who was destined to become the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The same outsiders who were welcome at his manger are welcome in his kingdom.

Mass Intentions

Please remember in your Prayers

Recently deceased: David Moule, Leo Lowe

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| Saturday | 1 January | Beverley O'Neill |
| Saturday | 1 January | Frances Tanner |
| Sunday | 2 January | Emma Kowalski |
| Sunday | 2 January | Charles Dunlop |
| Tuesday | 4 January | James Watkin Roebuck |
| Wednesday | 5 January | June Rose Roebuck |
| Thursday | 6 January | Marie Mon Roebuck |
| Friday | 7 January | Ann Thomson |

Pastoral Insight 2nd January 2022

A Jesuit priest, Father A. E. Orobator SJ, from Madagascar, has written a book entitled: 'The Pope and the Pandemic, ~ Lessons in leadership in a Time of Crisis'.

The author notes how in 2020 a crisis of unprecedented proportion erupted and changed the world abruptly, unexpectedly, and irreversibly. The crisis evolved into an enormous challenge, generating a complex set of problems and exacerbated existing and precarious societal conditions. The coronavirus

Universal Prayers

- 1 May differences in racial and ethnic origins cease to matter, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.
- 2 May differences in class cease to divide us, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.
- 3 May differences in gender cease to trouble us, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.
- 4 May differences in politics cease to polarise us, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.
- 5 May differences in creeds cease to separate us, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.
- 6 May differences in temperament cease to alienate us, since we have oneness in God. Let us pray to the Lord.

disease of 2019 rattled the entire global population and inflicted incalculable damage on lives and livelihoods (p. xiii-xiv).

The author cites one of many responses from Pope Francis:

'In a gesture reminiscent of the practice of some political leaders, Francis made a surprise call-in to a live Italian TV show on Good Friday, 2020.

The host, Lorena Bianchetti, was visibly startled by the unexpected papal call. The Pope did not call to dispute an ideological point or pitch a political agenda. In a soothing and calming voice, Pope Francis shared his thought and preoccupation during the coronavirus pandemic with the program's audience.

In the context of a liturgical season commemorating the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth, Francis revealed that foremost in this thought were the many crucified people in history and those of today.

They included, said the Pope, the front-line health care workers in this pandemic, people 'who die for love' and for the victims of Covid-19.

Pope Francis professed his closeness to all those offering their lives to help others. 'I am close to the people of God.....close to the pain of the world. I am close, I am close to you all'.

The call lasted a few brief minutes, but it moved the show's host to tears.' (p. xxiv).

The Epiphany Blessing – Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C + M + B 22

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

Parish Blessing of the Chalk

Introduction: *On this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year.*

Prayer of Blessing: *Let us pray. Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, the Light of the World. May your blessing be upon us as we carry this chalk to our homes. May its mark on our doorposts be a sign of your protection and of the presence of the Light of Christ in our homes. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

| Chalk Mark | Words to be Said at Home |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Peace be upon this house and with all of us who life here. Amen.</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 The wise men from the East come to Jerusalem asking: <i>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.</i></p> <p>THE THREE WISE MEN</p> <p>C CASPAR M MELCHIOR B BALTHASAR</p> <p>FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE AMONG US</p> <p>20 TWO THOUSAND 22 AND TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO. + MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY AND + REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.</p> <p>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.</p> |  |

Christmas Greetings

Thank you to all parishioners for their generous Christmas wishes and gifts. I am very blessed. You are all very 'practical' in your thoughtfulness.

I am looking forward to being back 'full-time' in the Parish from 1 January, with the prayer that we may enjoy a safe and healthy 2022. **Fr Sean**

Weekday Liturgical Schedule

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| Tuesday | 8.00 am Mass | Bowral |
| Wednesday | 8.00 am Mass | Bowral |
| Thursday | 8.00 am Mass | Bowral |
| Friday | 8.00 am Mass | Bowral |
| Adoration - Wednesday 19 January, 2022 @ 8.30 a.m. | | |