

**'Sarcophagus' of the Magi** The famous "sarcophagus" of the Magi is a masterpiece of Medieval goldsmithery. Nicholas of Verdun and several assistants in his workshop produced the *Shrine of the Three Magi*, a work of art of immense value and importance to the history of Medieval art, to contain the relics (1181-1230). Otto IV immortalized himself on this casket as the fourth king (1198 king — 1209 emperor), a striking example of the political exploitation of religious sentiment. The famous altarpiece in Cologne Cathedral by Stephan Lochner (1410-1451) showing the "Adoration of the Magi", despite the many local figures among the Kings' numerous escorts, later contributed further to the veneration of the Wise Men from the East. Lochner painted it as an "educational" account: the Mother of God with the Child imparting a blessing, the three Wise Men of different ages, who are offering him their gifts in a balanced composition with a wealth of detail. Both these works gave rise to a style that spread far beyond Cologne and Germany. The key significance of all these artworks is, with different accents, the human quest and request for God. The Magi who came from the East, important figures, were men of their time who asked critical questions and sought meaning for life. They asked seriously, they sought tenaciously, and they set out readily. According to religious thinking of the time, they were among the lowliest: pagans, non-believers, those who were far from God. By asking and seeking, the Wise Men discovered and encountered the Lord. They felt "great joy". From atheism or minimal faith they were led to conversion and finally, on a different route, went home.

**Seeking and adoring God** They had two experiences, of distance and closeness: 1) God is the One who is quite different, who cannot be reached by men and women; 2) God has become a Father to men and women, calling each one by name. The "great joy" is the peace that God has bestowed upon us through the Incarnation of the Son. The Wise Men of the East came to the encounter with Jesus: they fell down on their knees, prayed and offered their gifts. Adoring God thus means giving oneself totally to him and professing him. Through his Incarnation, his death and his Resurrection, Jesus revealed to all humanity the total gift of himself. The following is a fundamental part of the Epiphany message: the figurative depictions of the "Three Kings" have some common features that display its central concepts: seeking God, finding him, worshipping him. Thus, also the representation and patronage of the "Adoration of the Magi" in the chapel of the "Magi Kings", decorated by Francesco Borromini (1599-1667), in the building of the Propaganda Fide, which is the headquarters of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in Rome, contains this specific meaning: the search for God and his proclamation. The Magi are examples. They were the first to come from far away, determined to adore Christ, in stark contrast to Herod and, with him, the whole of Jerusalem. Only the simple shepherds from the region surrounding Bethlehem were closer and swifter.

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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### 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 Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

### RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15–5:45p: Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;

Sun 4:00–4:30pm

### BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

### BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

### ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

### APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER (SAT. &

SUN): 4:00 to 4:25pm

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

### FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2016 (C)

## Epiphany of the Lord

(Sunday Masses Reading)

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2<sup>ND</sup> 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: St Matthew 2:1-12

### **To follow on the internet :**

"Zenit News"; "Catholic on Line";  
"Liturgical Year Calendar", "Spirit Daily",  
Children's web: Google, EWTNKIDS. "Tim  
Staples; Catholic Sacraments, videos";  
"Catholic Answers", "Catholica"  
[www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)  
Godgossip; American Thinker; tarsus.ie.



## MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 2/01/16 to Fri 8/01/16)

**Sat Vigil:** †Les & May Ellsmore

**Sun 8am:** Pro Populo

**Sun 9:30am:** †Fr. Bendich

**Sun 5pm:** Archinal, McShane & Osboldstone Families

**OUR SICK:** *Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Pat De La Motte, Richard Swords, Barry Dunn and Southern Cross residents...*

**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to John Spora (3<sup>rd</sup> Jan); Happy Birthday to Fr. Anthony Simari (10<sup>th</sup>)**

**Fr. Jerzy's final Mass will be on Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Jan at 5pm followed by a get-together in the hall. Please bring a plate of savouries to share.**



**The Parish Office will be closed from Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan to Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and will reopen on Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016.**



**This weekend:** **Vigil:** Volunteer(A) Volunteer, R Williams (R) M Alimario, G Hage(C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab, J Hoang (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, G Pulella(C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** Anu V, Magdi Z(A) I Lie, J Lie (R) C Goncalves, L Tjoe (C) A Burton (M)  
**5.00pm:** Volunteer (A) Volunteer (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** M Wells

**Next weekend:** **Vigil:** Volunteer (A) P Tjugito, J Spora (R) F & G Hogan(C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab, J Hoang (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) O Sarmiento, P Chen (C) G Guerrero (M)  
**9.30am:** Anu V, Magdi Z (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) N Cook, K Wong(C) T Chin (M)  
**5.00pm:** Volunteer (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

## Home Blessing for the Feast of the Epiphany



*The ceremony of the blessing of the home and inscriptions of the initials of the three Magi above each door can be performed either by a priest or the head of the family.*

**Leader:** Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all who dwell herein.

**All:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**Leader:** Our Father. . . And lead us not into temptation

**All:** But deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** All they from Shaba shall come

**All:** Bringing gold and frankincense.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**All:** And let my cry come to You.

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star did on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

**All:** And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendour of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfilment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*After the prayers of the blessing are recited, each room of the home is sprinkled with Epiphany water and incensed. The initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors with the blessed chalk. (The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house".)*

*Example: 20 C + M + B 16*

**Blessed chalk is now available in the church foyer for you to take home.**

20 C+M+B 16