

"Why did the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus?" Mt 2 tells us that the magi, or wise men, travelled from the East in search of the Christ child. They inquired of King Herod where they might find Him, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (Mt 2:2). Upon finding the baby Jesus, "they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh" (Mt 2:11). Gold is a precious metal and as such was a very valuable commodity. Its value could very well have financed Joseph and Mary's trip to Egypt. The Bible does not tell us any other significance to these three gifts; however, tradition has it that there is a deeper meaning for each of the three. Gold is a symbol of divinity and is mentioned throughout the Bible. Pagan idols were often made from gold and the Ark of the Covenant was overlaid with gold (Ex 25:10-17). The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity—God in flesh. Frankincense is a white resin or gum. It is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark and allowing the gum to flow out. It is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God (Ex 30:34). Frankincense is a symbol of holiness and righteousness. The gift of frankincense to the Christ child was symbolic of His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering. Myrrh was also a product of Arabia, and was obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense. It was a spice and was used in embalming. It was also sometimes mingled with wine to form an article of drink. Such a drink was given to our Saviour when He was about to be crucified, as a stupefying potion (Mk 15:23). Mt 27:34 refers to it as "gall." Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and would pay the ultimate price when He gave His life on the cross for all who would believe in Him.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU WHILE ON HOLIDAYS



O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth! I will sing of your majesty above the heavens... When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place...  
O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth!



## St Michael's Catholic Church

29 Banks Ave, Daceyville, NSW 2032  
Parish Priest Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz  
Mob: 0411 125 357 [jerzy1junior@hotmail.com](mailto:jerzy1junior@hotmail.com)  
Visiting Retried Priest: Fr. Anthony Simari  
Tel: 93491292 Fax: 93140760  
Email: [angelsville@bigpond.com](mailto:angelsville@bigpond.com)  
Website: [www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au](http://www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au)  
Mrs. Allana Vedder, School Principal  
[www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au)  
CHILDREN's web: Google, EWTNKIDS  
Deepen your faith-find answers on  
Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.  
[www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)

4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2015 (B)

## Epiphany of the Lord

**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

Please buy  
The Catholic  
Weekly and help  
WYD 2016  
pilgrims with 30  
cents of each \$2.



### **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 – 5:45pm  
Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

### **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.

### **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:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera **Tue:** Sheila & Sean (for good health)  
**Sun 8am:** Pro Populo **Wed:** John Flitercroft (sick)  
**Sun 9:30am:** †Keith Cook **Thu:** †Domingo Mallion & Family  
**Mon:** †Ellsmore Family **Fri:** †Archinal, McShane & Osboldstone Families

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttil, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant and Minerva Alimario...

**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – accommodation is available now! For futher details please call the Manager Joe de Andrade on 0438696396 or Parish Office on 93491292.**

**Happy Birthdays to: John Spora (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Fr Anthony Simari (10<sup>th</sup>)**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** Your kind gifts will go to the Central Fund that attends to the needs of the priests and bishops of the Archdiocese.  
 We are grateful for your generosity.

**Our deepest sympathies to Maria Nunes and her family on the passing of her dearly beloved husband, Luis, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.**



**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) Volunteer, F De Andrade (R) A Burke, M Wells (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) A Burke, G Guerrero (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) N Jenner, L Jenner (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Haggar, M Wells

## Epiphany blessing



The Christmas season, especially the feast of the Epiphany, is a traditional time to bless homes. The *Book of Blessings* has an official rite which may be used by a priest, deacon, or a short simple rite that may be led by a family member. An interesting rubric in the *Book of Blessings* says that “a home should not be blessed unless those who live in it are present” (#1599). Often related to these blessings is a ritual of “chalking” the front door of the home with the numbers of the year separated by the initials, CMB. The letters traditionally refer to the legendary names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (Scripture neither names them nor says there were three of them). Another tradition refers to it as the abbreviation of the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, translated as “May Christ bless this house.” On the door of the house, one would write in chalk above the front door (or any where on the posts of the doors): **20 + C + M + B 15**. This rituals is meant to remind the household to gladly welcome everyone who comes to your door and to eagerly seek out Christ every time you leave home.

## Home blessing

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,**  
**for through your goodness**  
**you have given us shelter from the cold**  
**and the light of your Word to brighten the darkness of night.**  
**We come to you bearing no gifts**  
**for everything we have is a gift from you.**  
**All we can offer is our love for each other**  
**and our faith in your Son**  
**Transform, then, these humble gifts into an epiphany,**  
**a revelation of your divine presence,**  
**and bless this house and all who come to it.**  
**May this home and this family be a light**  
**for all who are lost and afraid,**  
**a place of peace and hospitality for those in need,**  
**and a sign that you are indeed God with us.**  
**And when our long journey has ended,**  
**lead us all by the star of your mercy**  
**that we may come home to you to the dwelling place you have**  
**prepared for us in heaven.**

**Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.** *All may sign themselves with holy water. If desired, those present may go to various rooms of the home to sprinkle them with holy water.*

## Concluding Blessing

*The leader says the following, making the sign of the cross.*

May God bless us and keep us. (+) May his face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May God look upon us kindly and give us peace. **All: Amen.**

## prayer

