



# ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CRONULLA

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5.1.20

*Incorporating:* Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena & St John Fisher, Kurnell  
Website: [www.stalcron.org.au](http://www.stalcron.org.au) Tel: (02) 8522 0300. Email: [admin@stalcron.org.au](mailto:admin@stalcron.org.au)  
AS A COMMUNITY WE SERVE GOD



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR A

### Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 2

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

#### Gospel Acclamation:

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

#### Communion Antiphon:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

### Reflection from our Parish Priest

Today we celebrate Christmas again, but today is different from Christmas Day. On Christmas Day we visited Bethlehem with the shepherds. Today we make a second visit to Bethlehem, but this time we visit as foreigners and strangers as we visit Jesus as companions with the Wise Men and Magi.

In the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Traditions it is held that there were twelve kings who were the Magi, and they represented the twelve tribes of Israel, which was considered a symbolic representation of all the people of the world. In our Western and Latin Tradition, we often say that there were three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, because the Gospel tell us of three gifts. But the Gospel doesn't actually say how many magi or wise men actually came to Bethlehem. However it has always been understood that the wise men represent all the people of the world.



### Acknowledgement to Country

St Aloysius Catholic Parish acknowledges the Gweagal people of the Dharawal Nation as the traditional owners 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 in prayer and action to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

### DIRECTORY

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I think the visitors who came were not just three, but a whole caravan of people. These people left their homelands on a lengthy journey, presumably with their families, friends, advisors, livestock, farmers, merchants, wealth and items to trade, perhaps a small army and most likely anyone who was interested in taking the journey of their life. This group of travellers must have made a significant impact when they entered Jerusalem otherwise King Herod would not have agreed to meet them. The wise men brought gifts including gold, frankincense, myrrh, but they also brought the greatest gift, the gift of themselves.

A relationship with the Divine Son is not only for the wise men, but it is offered to every person. We should want to bring family, friends and everyone we know to Christ because it is only through Christ that we have a genuine future. If we are willing to become like the wise men, to leave our homes, routine and the security of everyday life in search of God, then Christ will take us places we never expected to go, perhaps even to humble places, maybe something like Bethlehem, where we will see and experience generosity, kindness and the love of God extended to all, not matter who they are.

Going on a journey to find Jesus is part of what it means to be a Christian. When we are on holidays, especially away from home, we are called to find Jesus in the place we are visiting. I encourage you to find and visit the Catholic Church when you are holidays and attend Mass in whatever place you visit, whether that is Fiji, parts of Europe, Africa, the US or anywhere. Attending Mass in another part of the world will give you both a religious and a cultural experience that money cannot buy. The Church is everywhere, and we are all called to come as Wise men to visit Jesus both in distant far-off places as well as when we are at home.

Our Gospel tells us that the wise men "fell to their knees and did homage" to the new-born child. This too should be our response to Jesus Christ. When we genuflect and kneel at the presence of God, we should spiritually lay ourselves down at the feet of the Lord. When people fall to their knees, they take on a posture that makes them vulnerable. When someone kneels in front of another, a person is motivated either by trust and love, through complete fear of the other, or through a passion to prove a point. The wise men freely chose to fall to their knees in trust and love, giving up their weapons, security and defences to worship the King of Kings, God-made-man.

Immediately before receiving communion, the Church asks each person to make a deliberate act of reverence at the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, like the Wise Men coming to do homage at Bethlehem. We genuflect or bow profoundly as this is God we are receiving. Let us demonstrate that we believe Jesus is present in the Eucharist, that we have seen his star, and we have come to do him homage!

Happy New Year. Let us make 2020 a year devoted to the worship and love of God.

Please be aware that all relevant Archdiocese Policy, Protocols and guidelines for safeguarding children, are public documents and are available on the Sydney Archdiocese website.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected." Pope Francis



**First reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 ::::**

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

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 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. **Thanks be to God.**

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

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. **R.**

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.**

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.**

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 ::::**

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

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 the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 ::::**

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

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. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Replacement of Upper Windows near Roof at Cronulla**

Works to replace broken and cracked windows in the upper central section of the Cronulla Church have begun this last week, and will continue over the next week. 68 panels of glass will be replaced in total, with all broken windows being replaced at the cost of the insurer. 22 unbroken but old unsafe glass panels windows will also be replaced at the same time with modern safety glass. The Parish contribution to the project is \$6,000, including the insurance excess on the claim.

**Liturgical Schedules (January Schedule)****Sunday (Cronulla):**

**Vigil Mass:** Saturday 5.00pm.

**Sunday Masses:** 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm

**Bundeena: Sunday Mass:** 9am

**Weekday Masses (Cronulla):** 8am (Tuesday to Saturday)

**Rosary:** After Weekday Mass.



We pray for **Sheryl Parreca, Kevin Burke, Patricia Wilcox, Paul Atkins** and **Daniel Castro** who died recently. We pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Let us also remember our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially Gordon O'Donnell, Luke O'Donnell, Mick McMahon, Thelma & Ron Stannard, Harold Newcombe, Joseph Anthony Casaceli, Jim Downes, Helen Forbes, Mary Mullins and her sisters Monica and Julia, Jean & Jim Quinn, Paul & Jean Givney, Allan & Laurel Howarth and Megan Howarth.

**MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE**

**Visit of Three Saints to Cronulla on Monday 3 February**

St Therese of the Child Jesus and her Parents St Louis and Zelig Martin will visit Cronulla 9.30 Mass followed by opportunity for silent prayer until 3.30pm