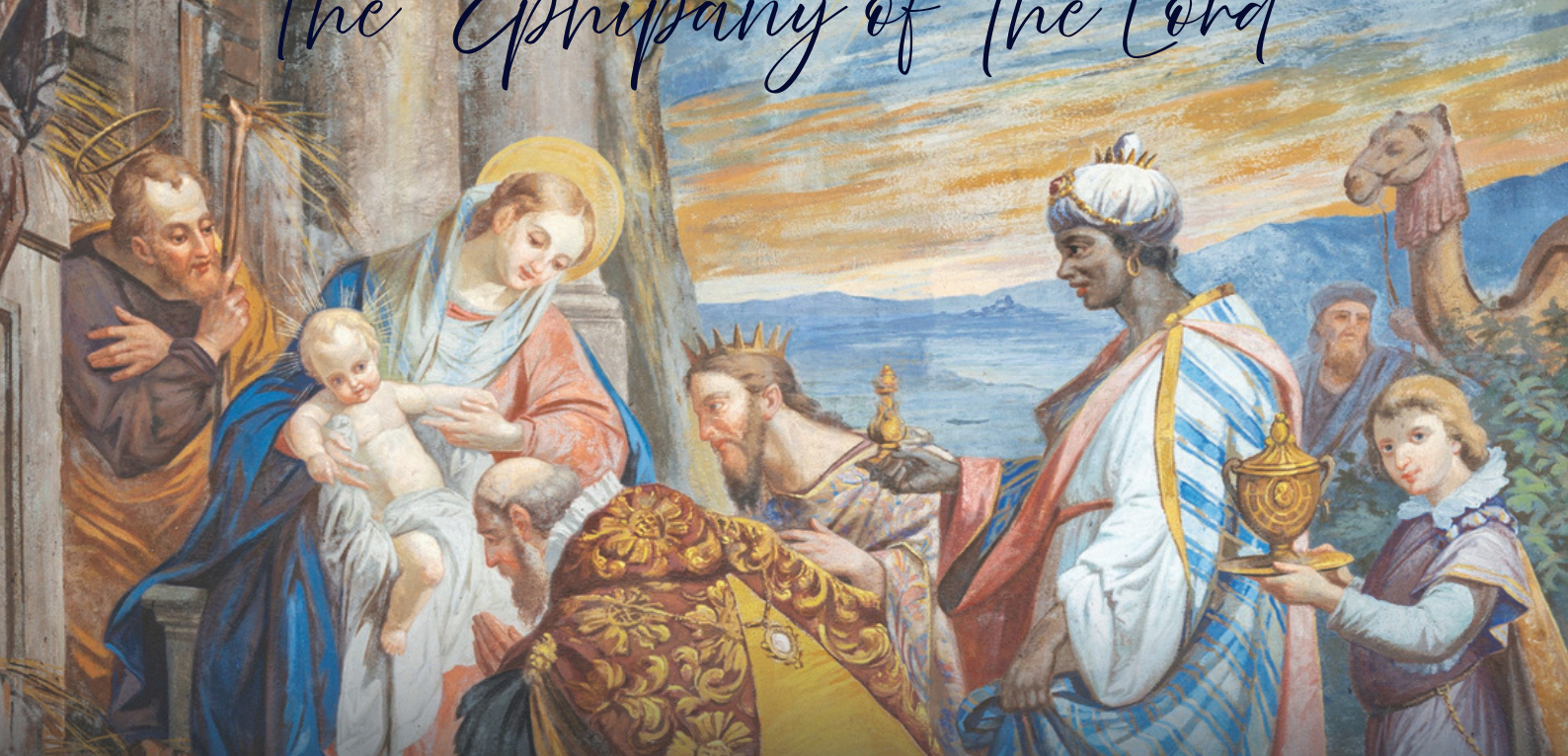




## The Epiphany of the Lord



## THE STARS WE FOLLOW

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

*Mini-reflection: Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice – that one deep within you – tell you to chase?*

**Point to it. And go forth.**

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak – to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking – really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

cont....

## Liturgies

### Monday 5 January 2026

9.00am St Patrick’s – Mass  
6.00pm Holy Rosary  
Penance & Adoration

### Tuesday 6 January 2026

8.30am St James’ – Penance  
9.00am St James’ – Mass  
5.30pm St Patrick’s – Mass

### Wednesday 7 January 2026

12.15pm Holy Rosary – Mass

### Thursday 8 January 2026

7.00am St Patrick’s – LWC

### Friday 9 January 2026

11.00am Holy Rosary – Exposition  
11.30am Holy Rosary – Penance  
12.15pm Holy Rosary – Mass

### Saturday 10 January 2026

7.30am St Patrick’s – Mass  
9.00am Holy Rosary – Penance  
6.00pm St Patrick’s – Mass

### Sunday 11 January 2026

The BAPTISM of the LORD  
7.00am – St James’ – Mass  
8.00am Holy Rosary – Mass  
9.00am St Patrick’s – Mass  
5.30pm Holy Rosary – Mass

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice – that one deep within you— tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

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## Parish News & Announcements

**BAFFLE CREEK MASS:** Has been cancelled for January.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Will reopen Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am. Correspondence sent while the office was closed will be attended to as soon as possible.

**FR DON'S VISIT TO VIETNAM:** Fr Don will head off tomorrow to interview Vietnamese Priests for our Diocese on behalf of Bishop Michael. We wish Fr Don safe travels.

**TERM 1 ROSTER:** The Roster for January–March has now commenced. If you have not received your new roster, please contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH BOOKSTORE:** Has a limited supply of God's Word 2026 and Columban Calendars.

### Recently Baptised

William Nguyen at St Patrick's Church.



### We Pray for our Deceased

#### Recently Deceased

Varghese Anthony (India), Arturo Caldito (Philippines), Barbara Waltho (Townsville), Janina Saffioti (Cronulla), Wend Anne Campbell, Jozefa Dul, Cathryn King, Maximus Gordon Barford, Keith Balchin, Mary Annett, Joanne Curti (Brisbane).

#### Mass Offered for Anniversaries

Mary Galea 24.12.1995, Gloria Mary Collins 26.12.2023, Terry Crawford 31.12.1979, Annunziata Crawford 15.12.1991, Marco Cafolla 1.12.2019, Aurelio Cafolla 1.12.1989, Claire Fitzgerald 14.12.1995, Giuseppe Marin 19.12.2004, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022.

#### Mass Offered by Request

Charles Galea, Ernie Woods, Sue Boisen, Leone Munckton, Marin Family, Dalla Rizza Family, Terence Cagney, Sheelah Cagney, Margaret Cagney, deceased members of the Cagney, Cross, Collins & Martin Families, Lawrence Galea, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Br Ted Magee, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.



Not with *Certainty*, but with *Hope*

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Encourage Deeper Understanding of

## Scripture

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— *Father John Muir*

The Parish Office will reopen on  
Monday, 5 January 2026

In case of emergency, please call 07 4151 6666  
and follow the prompts.

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg respectfully acknowledges the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the country in which we live. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.