

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

**BACKGROUND ON
THE GOSPEL READING**

Loyola Press

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.



Parish Bulletin

St Joseph's Catholic Church Tranmere Parish, 484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens, SA 5068
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The EPIPHANY of the LORD

3/4 January 2026

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

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS

For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today? We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 your 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

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

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Response:
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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

2. 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**

3. 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**

4. 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**

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.

ROSTERS 2026 & VOLUNTEERS UPDATES

A heartfelt thank you to all who continue to support our parish through your generous service.

Our Rosters 2026 have been posted at the main entrance of the church. They have also been distributed to the respective teams by email. **If you have not received that email, please contact the parish office to update your email address and contact details.**

For communication purposes, your contact details may be shared within your relevant volunteer groups. If you prefer not to have your details shared, please let us know. Your timely updates help us stay connected and organised.

Thank you!

MORNING TEA

Sunday
11 January 2026
after
Morning Mass

Please come and join us!

Parish Office Closure: Christmas & New Year

Please note that the **Parish Office will close at 12:30pm on Friday, 19 December 2025**, and will **reopen on Tuesday, 6 January 2026**.

During the closure of the office, **regular Masses on Saturdays, Sundays, and weekdays will continue as usual. (except on Thur 24th Dec, it will be no mass in the morn-**

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Tranmere Parish

Parish Priest
Fr Janeesh Jose Puthenpurackal CMI
parishpriest@stjosephsparish
tranmere.org.au

Assistant Priest
Fr Benny Lawrance SdM

Parish Secretary
Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Finance Officer
Christine Sullivan—Mon, Tue
finance@stjosephsparish
tranmere.org.au

Sacristan
Sundays: Terence Yeow
& Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours
Tue to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm
Ph: (08) 8431 6932
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Mass Times

Sunday 9:30 am
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

Confessions

Saturday 6:00 pm

Rosary

Tues to Fri 8:45am

Adoration of the Eucharist

Friday before Mass 8:30am

Novena to St. Joseph

Wednesday after Mass

St. Joseph's Primary School

Principal - Adrian Grbin
Ph: 8217 8300

Knights of the Southern Cross

Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair – Alan Tyson Ph: 0412 389 875

Parish Finance Council

Chair— Brendan Moran

Safeguarding Contact Person

Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

Vinnies Assistance Hotline

1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

**ROSTERS— 10/11 Jan 2026
The Baptism of the Lord**

Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Josh Page Michelle Page Chris Chua
9:30am	Sandy Mazzarolo Aloysius Achusiogu Ifeoma Achusiogu
Children's Liturgy	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Count team	Andrew Gaal Gail Gaal Sandra Librandi Shane Foley
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers
<i>All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass</i>	

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	20/21 Dec 2025	27/28 Dec 2025
Open Plate	\$432.50	\$361.20
Planned Giving	\$220.00	\$278.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$652.50	\$639.20
Contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund	\$630.30	\$556.55

Three Ways to make an Offering to our Church

You have probably noticed the 'Tap and Go' machines just inside the side doors of our church. They are one of the ways we can all contribute to the upkeep of St Joseph's Church Tranmere. There are three ways we can make an offering which helps to maintain the buildings of the Church and Presbytery, the grounds, the normal "household" expenses like rates and taxes, phones, electricity, plus the staffing we need to keep our Parish running. This is done through the **second** collection.

You can contribute to the second collection by

- Using the Planned Giving envelope programme in the second collection, or
- Placing cash in the green lined bowl also at the second collection, or
- By using your card or mobile at either of the Tap and go machines, to make a contribution, either as you enter or leave the church.

Knowing that many people no longer carry cash we hope that this third option will give a simple way to help support our Parish.

Sincere thanks for your ongoing generosity.

Let's pray together

Please remember in your prayers

We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

For the Repose of the Soul:

Death Anniversary:

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.

Sick:

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.

If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.



ARCHDIOCESE EVENTS

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends 2026

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a worldwide synodal Movement dedicated to the renewal of our Catholic Church through empowering couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships. Our Church today has the belief that Marriage and Holy Orders are Sacraments of relationship and that we are called as couples and priests to be a living sign of God's love to the world, and to love one another as Jesus loves us all. This takes hard work, and a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couples and priests the tools and support they need to live this sign in today's busy life.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has three weekends planned for 2026 – February 20-22, Lyndoch Motel; July 3-5 Royal Coach Motel; and a live-out weekend at Antonio School, November 7-8. More details are available on the website at <https://www.wvme.org.au/>. Please consider booking into a weekend to nurture and grow your relationship with your spouse.

New Online Adult Formation Program

Monica Brown, the renowned Australian liturgical composer, teacher, facilitator, storyteller and community animator, has recently worked with a team to produce of new online adult formation program, which they have called *Thresholds of Transformation for Seekers and Searchers (TTSS)*.

TTSS is a unique and timely integration of Laudato Si, the Universe Story, our Catholic/Christian Story and the Gospel values of Jesus. Its objective is to offer personal and communal spiritual enrichment and transformation. Gatherings commence: Tuesday, 24 February 2026, continuing on a Tuesday every 3 weeks until 15 December. For further information, please visit: <https://tts.thresholdsoftransformation.org>

Birthline Pregnancy Support - Volunteer Opportunities

Birthline is seeking a friendly retiree to join our team as an Office Support Companion. The role involves light tasks such as folding and sorting baby clothes, preparing baby bundles, or simple admin jobs like receiving and recording donations of baby goods and organising our baby cupboard. Volunteers always work in pairs, creating a safe, social and supportive environment. If you have a few hours to spare and would enjoy offering practical help to local families, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at birthline@birthline.org.au or 08 8331 1223 to register your interest. Thank you.

The Monastery 2026 Retreat Program and Retreat Mornings

Step away from the noise and into the quiet beauty of The Monastery. Our 2026 retreat program offers a restorative space for reflection, renewal and spiritual nourishment. Check out our flyers for full details on our different retreats and how you can register.

The Kids' Bulletin

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Epiphany

At the beginning of the new year we celebrate both Mary, the Mother of God and the Epiphany, which is when the wise men came from far away to worship baby Jesus.



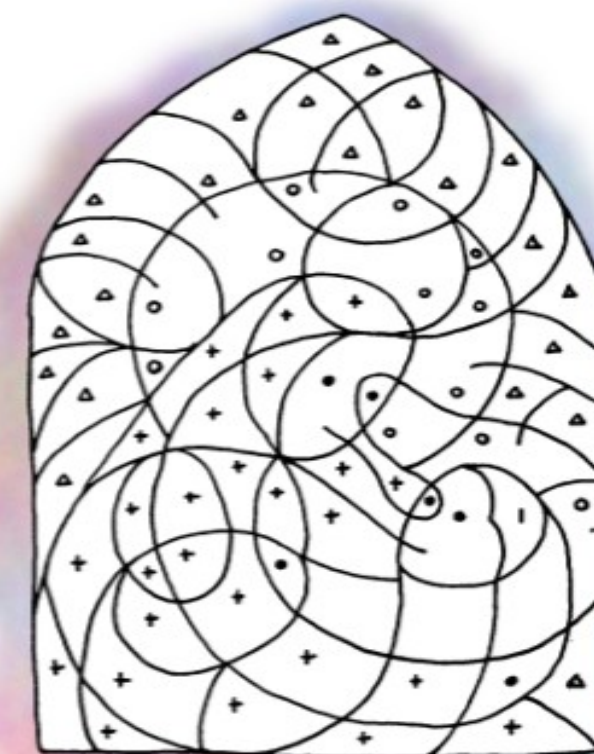
Imagine that you are living a long time ago in Bethlehem and your parents have invited a poor family to stay at your house: a mother, a father and a new baby.

One day something amazing happens: some rich men from a far away country come to see the baby and bring expensive treasures for him! Do you know who the family is now? Who is the baby?

The baby is Jesus, of course, and the mother is Mary. She holds Jesus on her lap so the wise men can bow down to Him and worship Him. Mary cooperated with God to bring Jesus into the world so that we could all see and love and worship Him.



Can you thank Mary today for bringing Jesus to us?



Whose feast is it on New Year's Day? Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:

- + Blue
- ▲ Pink
- Yellow
- ↓ Brown
- Skin colour