

The Parish Overview

Parish of St Mary & St Joseph
Orange

Parish of the Sacred Heart & St Lawrence
O'Toole Molong

St Mary's (Orange), St Joseph's (Orange), Sacred Heart & St Lawrence O'Toole (Molong), St Michael's (Manildra),
St Brendan's (Mullion Creek), St Patrick's (Cargo), St Columbanus' (Cudal)

The Epiphany of the Lord - 6th January 2019

PARISH CLERGY TEAM

Fr Greg Bellamy Parish Priest
Fr Pius Khaoya Assistant Priest

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Sr Helen Saunders rsj Pastoral Assistant Orange
Sr Frances McAleer rsj Resident in Molong
Ms Shannon Cain Sacramental Coordinator

PARISH ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Mr Michael O'Mara Business Manager
Ms Harriette Williams Executive Assistant
Ms Sandy Livermore Parish Secretary

PARISH SCHOOL TEAM

Mr Peter Meers James Sheahan Catholic High School
Mr Michael Croke Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School
Mrs Kerrie Basha & Mrs Kerry Maher St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Co-principal)
Mr Matthew French St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Molong
Ms Jacky Parmeter St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Manildra

PARISH OFFICE

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Office Hours: **Mon:** 11.30am - 4.30pm
Tues - Fri: 8.45am - 4.30pm
Closed - Lunch: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Today's Scripture

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Response to the Psalm

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul !

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Reflection

An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendourous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see **2 Samuel 2:5**), the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth" (see **Micah 5:1-3**).

Those promises of Israel's king ruling the nations resound also in today's Psalm. The psalm celebrates David's son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch "to the ends of the earth," and the world's kings will pay Him homage.

That's the scene too in today's First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing "gold and frankincense" for Israel's king.

The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob (see **Numbers 24:17**).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the "kings of the earth" (see **1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24**). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see **Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14**).

One greater than Solomon is here (see **Luke 11:31**). He has come to reveal that all peoples are "co-heirs" of the royal family of Israel, as today's Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

Next Week's Scripture

Is 40:1-5; 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

THE PARISH OVERVIEW



DAY BY DAY

Monday 7th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 5.00pm Exposition at St Mary's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Mary's

Tuesday 8th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 11.00 Requiem Mass for Thomas Sloane at St Joseph's
- **NO ST FRANCIS NURSING HOME MASS**

Wednesday 9th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 9.15am Mass at Molong
- 9.45am Reconciliation at Molong
- 5.00pm Exposition at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's

Thursday 10th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's
- **NO CALARE AGED CARE MASS**
- **NO 6.00PM HOLY HOUR**

Friday 11th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 5.00pm Reconciliation & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's

Saturday 12th January Weekday of Christmas Time

- 10.15am Baptisms at St Mary's
- 5.15pm Reconciliation at St Mary's
- 5.40pm Reconciliation at Manildra
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Manildra

Sunday 13th January The Baptism of the Lord

- 8.00am Mass at St Joseph's
- 8.00am Mass at Cudal
- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 9.30am Mass at Molong
- 11.15am Baptisms at St Joseph's
- 6.00pm Mass at St Joseph's

PLEASE NOTE:

No nursing home Masses or Thursday Holy Hour in January.



SR HELEN'S FAREWELL

Please claim the date: a parish farewell supper for Sr Helen will take place in Kenna Hall 7.30pm Wednesday 6th February 2019. Everyone is invited.

COMING UP

Australia Day (Saturday 26th January) Mass will be 8.30am at St Joseph's followed by morning tea.

Australia Day Public Holiday (Monday 28th January) Mass will be 8.30am at St Mary's.

Commissioning Mass for staff at our 5 Catholic Schools will be 9.30am Tuesday 29th January at St Mary's.

A FRANK QUOTE

Pope Francis started the New Year heaping praise not only on the Virgin Mary but on all mothers, saying their love is the foundation of humanity and the cure for a world often divided and filled with bitterness. He praised mothers for the "heroism" they show "in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness," saying they are people who know how to take their children by the hand and "lovingly introduce them to life."

At times children can take the wrong path and, believing they are strong and free, they become lost and enslaved, forgetting the love of their mother and living in anger and bitterness, he said, noting that while being "malicious" might at times seem to be a sign of strength, "it is nothing more than weakness."

"A world that looks to the future without a mother's gaze is shortsighted. It may well increase its profits, but it will no longer see others as children. It will make money, but not for everyone. We will all dwell in the same house, but not as brothers and sisters," the pope said. Humanity "is built upon mothers," he said, adding that "a world in which maternal tenderness is dismissed as mere sentiment may be rich materially, but poor where the future is concerned."

Francis, as he does every year, celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica marking the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.



OUR PRAYERS & MASSES

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY Evangelization – Young People

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

OUR PARISH INTENTIONS

For the spiritual and cultural renewal of our parish; that God will guide and bless the Plenary Council 2020; that God will give healing to all those who have been abused as children in Church institutions.

RECENTLY BAPTISED

Summer Ramsdale-Clarke, Logan Reynolds, Taynay Swain

RECENTLY MARRIED

Emily Marshall & Brian Dampney

RECENTLY DECEASED

Thomas Sloane

OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Adrian Berney, Mena Christopherson, William Crayford & William Crayford Snr, Damian d'Arbon, Des & Daphne Dawson, Chris Duff, Ray Fitzgerald, David Hanrahan, Mary Johnston, Bernie & Josie Livermore, Ian Livermore, Reg, Eric & Gerard Paul, Harry Taylor, Anton, Erich, Erika & Michael Twomey, John & Jean Walker, Santo LoFaro (Italy), Gaetano Torrisi, Salvatore & Venera Torrisi, Mario & Alfio Lizzio, Pietra Faro, Alfina Cosentino, Venera Maccarone, Santo & Alfia LoFaro (Orange). Deceased members of the Fardell, Lee, Paul families

THE SICK AND INFIRM

Doug & Tori Punch, Katherine Twomey, Pat Frecklington, James Burgess, Ruth Pope, Beth Moxham, Den Smith, Ray Dickson, Norma Wright, Ralph Harvey, Sheila Hegarty (Ireland), Patricia Crich, Celestina Vardanega, Noni McAneney, Johanna Scheepers