

# THE SAVING WORD

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD / A

4 JANUARY 2026

## FIRST READING

Isa 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*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.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2, 7-13 R.v.11

**R.** 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.**



## SECOND READING

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*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 Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

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





## The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

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Website: merredincatholicparish.org

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A/2

4 JANUARY 2026

#### Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday: 9.00 am Mass  
Tuesday: 9.00 am Mass  
Wednesday: 9.00 am Mass  
Thursday: 9.00 am Mass  
Friday: 9.00 am Mass  
Saturday: 6.30pm  
Sunday: 10.30am

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

**\*\*Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request\*\***

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

**Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary**  
6:00 to 6:30 pm

**Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday**

#### CHURCH ROSTER: 3/4 JANUARY 2026

#### 10/11 JANUARY 2026

	Saturday 6.30 pm	Sunday 10.30 am	Saturday 6:30 pm	Sunday 10:30 am
Readers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Collection:				
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:				
Sacristy				
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

**Special Ministers:** T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. Jefferys; D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.

### Eliza Vaughan

Eliza came from a strong Protestant family; in fact, it was one of the founders of the Rolls-Royce car company. Yet even during her childhood education in France, she was deeply impressed by the exemplary efforts of the Catholic Church toward the care of the poor.

After she married Colonel John Francis Vaughan in the summer of 1830, Eliza converted to the Catholic Faith, quite despite objection of her relatives. During the Catholic persecution in England under Queen Elizabeth I, Courtfield, the Vaughan's ancestral home became a place of refuge for priests, a place where the Holy Mass was often celebrated secretly.

This remarkable woman made a habit of praying for an hour each day before the Blessed Sacrament. She believed in the power of silent, faithful prayer. She prayed to God for a large family and for many religious vocations among her children. She bore 14 children and died shortly after the birth of her last child, John, in 1853.

Of the 13 children that lived, 6 of her 8 boys became priests, 2 priests in religious orders, one diocesan priest, a bishop, an archbishop and a cardinal. From 5 daughters, 4 became nuns in religious orders.

Today, Courtfield, the ancestral home is a retreat centre.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin  
from 2.30pm to 3.30pm

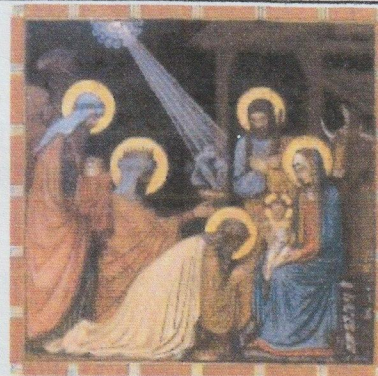


**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm  
or on request prior to Sunday mass  
**Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary**

## PARISH NOTICES

### Feast days for the week

Mon 5 St John Neumann  
Wed 7 St Raymond of Penyafort, St Andre Bessette, St Cnut  
Thu 8 St Nathalan, St Peter Thomas  
Fri 9 St Adrian of Canterbury, St Andrew Corsini,  
The Translation of the Black Nazarene



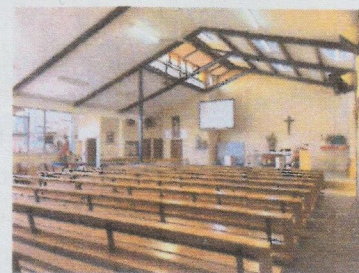
### CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who were involved in making this Christmas a joyous and holy celebration. So many people gave so much of their time and love. Thank you to those who prepared the church grounds, those who arranged the inside ambience of the church environment including the Christmas crib, those who cleaned the church, those who provided music and operated the overhead, readers, Communion ministers, and those who brought up the offertory gifts. Thank you too for bringing your relatives, friends and neighbours to our Christmas Masses. I would also like to thank all of you for your many gifts, well wishes and support. May the peace of God's Love be with us always.  
Sincerely, Fr Philip

## SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and St Mary's School  
will be combining to celebrate our  
Centenary  
Sunday 2 August 2026  
10.00 a.m. Mass  
12.00 Lunch  
More details to come in 2026



## TOGETHER in CHRIST! Combined Services 2025-2026



### Merredin Churches Fraternal

Sunday 11th January

Sunday 18th January

Sunday 25th January

St Mary's Catholic

Church of Christ

All Saints Anglican

10.30am

10.00am

TBC

Next weekend our parish will be hosting Christians from other Churches to our Mass. Please make them feel welcome. There will also be light refreshments after Mass. Please bring something to share and help set up and clean up. Please also stay and get to know our Christian brothers and sisters.

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS** are on sale in the foyer at \$11 each

**Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;**

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth

2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish

2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.



## GOSPEL

Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*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.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## A UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Matthew's Gospel addresses Jewish/Israelite followers of Jesus living in troubled and confusing times in the later part of the first century. The Temple, the centre of Jewish religious life, is destroyed; Matthew's audience seeks confidence and direction anew. All it has is the Torah (the Old Testament teaching from the first five books of the Bible). The evangelist offers the Torah, the Jewish Scriptures, refracted through the teaching of Jesus, as foundational to engage their future with confidence.

Matthew is also aware that the future of the Jesus movement will have to be open to other peoples and cultures—like the missionary thrust of the Church today. Today's Gospel of the Magi following a star and seeking the birthplace of the 'king of the Jews' anticipates the Gospel's future universal growth. The Magi, perhaps Syrian astronomers, come seeking what they astrologically read in the cosmos, the one who rules over everything. But to know the exact place they also need the help of the Scriptures, offered by Herod's priests. These two aspects, science and God's Word, collaborate to give meaning and direction to the Magi's quest.

The star leads them to a *house*. Here they come to the end of their search as they worship the child Jesus and offer gifts worthy of a king. This third element, the domestic and household setting of the child's birth, adds a final dimension to a theologically rich story. Within our own local and domestic lives, we embark on a search to discover Jesus anew, assisted by the science of our world and the Scriptures that we treasure, listen to each Sunday and upon which we meditate.

Fr Michael Trainor