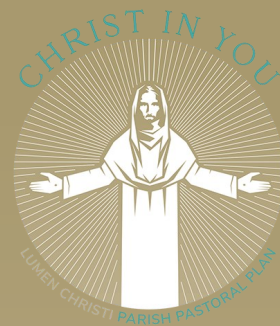


# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, B

7 JANUARY 2024

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR

The glory of the Lord shines upon you



## MASS TIMETABLE

### St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am
	Adoration: 11:30am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Saturday	Confessions: 11am—12pm
Sunday	Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

### St Brigid's, Gwynneville

Thursday	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday Vigil	Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 9am

### St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am (Italian)
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am
	Mass: 10am (Italian)
	Mass: 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

### Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie

Sunday	Mass: 10am
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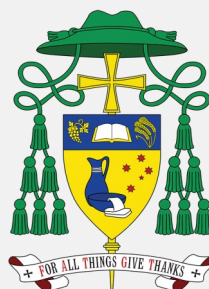
**LUMEN CHRISTI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

### MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

Noel Rouse, Maria Demaria, Margaret & Paul Gray, Amparo Pua.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...

Bishop Peter Ingham, Fr David Catterall, Nelson Salinas, Joan O'Dowd, Alan Curtis, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Pat Carr, John Parkinson, Joseph Scalia, Bill Sharpe, Therese Rouse, Mario Saverimuttu, Ron Cooper.



## PARISH CENTRE

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 8.30am —2.00pm  
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)  
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

## CONTACT US

**Phone:** 02 4211 0500  
wollongong@dow.org.au  
lumenchristi.org.au

## PARISH STAFF

**Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,**  
Diocesan Bishop & Parish Priest  
**Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,**  
Vicar General & Administrator  
**Reverend James Arblaster,**  
Assistant Priest & UoW Chaplain  
**Kevin Galea,**  
General Manager  
**Leanne Burlin,**  
Parish Secretary  
**Patricia Di Leva,**  
Administration Assistant

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

**Wollongong Hospital:** 0475 815 506

## PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS

**Lisa de Paiva,** Chair of the Pastoral Council  
**Vacant,** Chair of the Finance Council

## PARISH SCHOOLS

**Kathy Uroda,** Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville  
**Lisa Tyson,** Acting Principal, Good Samaritan Fairy Meadow

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We show our respect and acknowledge  
the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country,  
Elders past, present, and emerging,  
and extend that respect to all other  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

# In our parish & around the diocese

## PARISH CALENDAR: JAN—FEB 2024

**Mon, 8 Jan:** The Baptism of the Lord  
**Sun, 14 Jan:** Second Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A  
**Tue, 16 Jan:** Anniversary of Dedication of St Brigid's Church  
**Wed, 17 Jan:** Baptism Class, SFX 7pm  
**Thu, 25 Jan:** The Conversion of Saint Paul  
**Thu, 25 Jan:** Catechists Meeting, Rigney Room 10.30am  
**Fri, 26 Jan:** Australia Day Mass, SFX 8am  
**Thu, 1 Feb:** Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Gwynneville  
**Thu, 1 Feb:** Parish Lunch, Master Builders Club 12pm  
**Fri, 2 Feb:** Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, SFX 7am & 12.10pm  
**Sun, 4 Feb:** Hospitality weekend resumes  
**Tue, 6 Feb:** Mass of Anointing, SJV 9.30am  
**Fri, 9 Feb:** Our Lady of Lourdes  
**Sun, 11 Feb:** Caritas launch (Project Compassion 2024)  
**Wed, 14 Feb:** Ash Wednesday  
**Fri, 16 Feb:** Reconciliation & Stations of the Cross SFX 5.30pm  
**Sat, 24 Feb:** Mental Health, Xavier Centre 9.30am

## SACRAMENTS

- ♦ **Baptisms:** By appointment only. Baptism preparation session must be completed. Contact the parish office or book online [lumenchristi.org.au/baptism](https://lumenchristi.org.au/baptism)
- ♦ **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date (**No Sunday weddings in our parish**)
- ♦ For Pastoral and Sacramental needs, please contact the parish office during office hours

## HELPFUL LINKS

- ♦ **Mass for you at Home:** [youtube.com/massforyouathome](https://youtube.com/massforyouathome)
- ♦ **Mass/Prayer Intentions:** [lumenchristi.org.au/intentions](https://lumenchristi.org.au/intentions)
- ♦ **Light a Votive Candle:** [lumenchristi.org.au/votive](https://lumenchristi.org.au/votive)
- ♦ **Census Form:** [lumenchristi.org.au/census](https://lumenchristi.org.au/census)
- ♦ **Online Donations:** [lumenchristi.org.au/donate](https://lumenchristi.org.au/donate)
- ♦ **Join Planned Giving:** [lumenchristi.org.au/support](https://lumenchristi.org.au/support)
- ♦ **Columbarium:** [lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium](https://lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium)
- ♦ **Sacramental Programme:** [lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental](https://lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental)
- ♦ **Privacy Policy:** [privacy.lumenchristi.org.au](https://privacy.lumenchristi.org.au)
- ♦ **St Brigid's School:** [sbgdow.catholic.edu.au](https://sbgdow.catholic.edu.au)
- ♦ **Good Samaritan School:** [gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au](https://gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au)

## PARISH EFT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

### CHURCH ACCOUNT

(Donations & Planned Giving)

**BSB: 066 711 Account: 008056**

**Account Name:** Lumen Christi Parish

### PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT

(For the Clergy)

**BSB: 066 711 Account: 002286**

**Account Name:** Lumen Christi Parish Presbytery



## EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR YOUR HOME

The Epiphany is an ancient liturgical feast (circa 4th cent.) which celebrates the Magi coming from the East to do homage to the newborn King of the Jews. The Gospel of Matthew sees their visit to the Christ Child as God's salvation reaching out to the Gentiles through Jesus. The Epiphany is a joyful celebration of the beauty and light of God revealed in Jesus who is the Saviour of all the nations.

Please take a piece of blessed chalk as you leave the church today and pray the following blessing in your home. It is an opportunity to welcome the light of God's saving beauty, hospitality and joy into your homeplace.

*As you are writing the symbols 20 + C + M + B + 24 on the lintel over your front door the following prayer is said:*

In the year of our Lord, two thousand (*write the 20 at the front*) and twenty-four (*write the 24 at the end*), May (*write the C*) Christ (*write the M*) bless (*write the B*), this home, (in Latin: Christus Mansionem Benedicat). Through the intercession (*write the first +*) of Caspar (*write the second +*) Melchior (*write third cross*) and Balthasar (*write the fourth cross*). *Then the following is prayed:*

Sacred is this threshold of our home and holy is this door. This is the meeting place of friend, neighbour, and stranger. May it be a bridge for our comings and goings. Whenever we stand in its sacred circle, may our eyes be granted new vision, so that we can see in friend or stranger the God of ten thousand disguises. May this threshold be a sacred space where we come to celebrate the Sacrament of Hospitality. May the spirits of evil never cross this threshold, and may the Name of the All-Holy-One protect our home from harm. May God's angels stand guard at the right and the left of this opening to grace our comings and goings. May we who live in this home guard the sacredness of this doorway. May our hearts be always alert to the danger of falseness and pretense as we greet those who come to our door. Let our affection be graced with honesty and reverence, and may the oil of truth burn in the lamp of our eyes. Help us to remember that our ancestors were strangers and exiles in Egypt, that Joseph and Mary came knocking at a door like this, weary and in search of kindness. May we receive all at this door as Godly guests. May the blessing of God, and peace and grace of the All-Holy-One, surround this threshold and rest upon all who shall pass across it.

R. Amen.

*For more information on bequests please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/bequest](https://lumenchristi.org.au/bequest)*

# In our parish & around the diocese



## MY SABBATICAL IN IRELAND!

Join us for a captivating talk on Fr Bernard Gordon's sabbatical experience in Ireland. Fr Bernard will take us on a journey through the wild and wonderful landscapes, beautiful churches, and rich but sometimes troubled history of Ireland.

Hosted by the Diocesan Catholic Women's League Wollongong.

Come along for a stimulating and reflective experience about a truly significant and great people in the history of Europe. It's an event you won't want to miss!

**WHEN:** 11am on Tuesday 27th February 2024

**WHERE:** Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong

**RSVP:** Go to: [lumenchristi.org.au/rsvp](https://lumenchristi.org.au/rsvp)

## ORDINARY TIME

Tomorrow Monday 8 January we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord which brings Christmastide to conclusion and ushers in the first week of Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical calendar. The purpose of the Church's liturgical year is to celebrate Christ's saving work and unfold his entire mystery for us throughout the year. At various points of the year we focus on one aspect of Christ's mystery such as his Resurrection. In Ordinary Time we honour the whole mystery of Christ and its implications for our life. The colour for Ordinary Time is green which evokes the new growth and hope flowing to us from Christ's Life, Death and Resurrection. In 2024 we follow the Sunday lectionary readings from Year B in which we especially listen to the Gospel of Mark.

## PIETÀ – LENTEN PROGRAM

Pietà is the new Lenten Program for 2024. It contains short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) for individual devotional reading and includes reflections on the Sunday Scripture readings and prayers and questions that customarily form part of Lenten group gatherings.

To pre-order your copy of the Pietà Lenten Booklet or CD visit the parish online shop at: [lumenchristi.org.au/shop](https://lumenchristi.org.au/shop)

Lenten Books and CD's are \$4.50 each.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem. They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control this infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth. As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL—CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the Giving Tree and the Christmas Appeal. Your very generous contributions will allow the SVdP to provide ongoing help for those struggling on the edge of society. Thank you for your support!

Wollongong Conference	\$ 39,195.15
Gwynneville Conference	\$ 4,543.70
Fairy Meadow Conference	\$ 4,113.00

**Total raised: \$ 47,851.85**

## KNEELER APPEAL

As a parish we have contributed wonderfully to providing comfort for worshippers' knees at Gwynneville and Fairy Meadow. It would be great to finish this work for the parishioners of Mater Dolorosa as we move into the New Year. You can donate by:

- \* completing a pledge form online at: [www.lumenchristi.org.au/kneelers](https://www.lumenchristi.org.au/kneelers)
- \* **Direct Deposit**  
BSB: **066 711** Account #: **008056** Ref: **Your Name-SOK**  
Cheques Payable to: **Lumen Christi Parish**
- \* Or by collecting an envelope from the church door (mark it "**Kneelers Donation**") and place it inside the collection bag, collection boxes, or hand it in at the parish office.

**Mater Dolorosa — \$14,668 to Go!**

*For more information on our Columbarium please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium](https://lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium)*

### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12**

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

### First Reading

**Isaiah 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 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.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see 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

**Ephesians 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.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 2:2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Matthew 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.

### Communion Antiphon

**Cf Matthew 2:2**

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

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