



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

Beerwah | Caloundra | Currimundi | Kawana | Landsborough
Little Mountain | Maleny | Unity & Notre Dame Colleges

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The Epiphany of the Lord - 4/5 January 2025 - Year C

The Epiphany – An “aha” moment in faith

Throughout the year, the Gospel narrative is condensed into 52 weeks.

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and now, we arrive at the Feast of the Epiphany.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek “*epi*” (upon) and “*phainein*” (to show/appear/shine), giving it the modern meaning of a revelation, a grand discovery, or an “aha” moment.” Today’s feast celebrates Jesus’ revelation to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi – wise men from the East – who followed a star to find the newborn King.

While often called kings, the Magi’s true occupation is not specified in Matthew’s gospel. They were likely experts in astronomy, believing the heavens marked the birth of great leaders. Following the star, they arrived in Bethlehem and found the infant Jesus offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They then went home via a different route as they had been warned not to return to King Herod.

Their story is our story too. Like the Magi, we are pilgrims on a journey through life. The “star” guiding us might take many forms – sometimes shining brightly, other times appearing only in glimpses. Yet it always points us toward what is true, good, and beautiful, ultimately leading us to Jesus, whom God desires to reveal to all people.

Throughout life, we experience *epiphanies* – moments of realization that transform us. Perhaps we discover our own courage, confront unresolved struggles, or see beyond a narrow worldview which was seriously blocking our outlook on life. These moments change us, just as encountering Jesus changes us.

When we truly allow God into our lives – not just in difficult times but in every moment – we experience deeper revelations (aka epiphanies): the boundless love of God, His mercy that exceeds our greatest sins, or the beauty of prayer as a dialogue with Him.



Like the Magi, when we encounter Jesus, we are moved to offer gifts. Our very presence becomes our present. But we can’t return the same way we came because the *epiphany* transforms us. Our lives take a new path – one of greater purpose, love, and joy.

As we make our pilgrimage into 2025, may your journeys be meaningful, your epiphanies be great and your stars shine brightly!

Blessings, Fr Gerard

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the land on which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.

Some fun facts brought to you by Fr Gerard!

Interestingly, 7 Jan is when our Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate Christmas, due to their following of the Julian Calendar, which pre-dates our Gregorian Calendar (used throughout a majority of the Western world).

In 567, the Council of Tours declared the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season dedicated to celebrating the birth of Jesus. This proclamation emphasized the significance of the entire Christmas season (Christmastide), not just December 25th.

During parts of the Middle Ages, practicing Christianity openly was forbidden in some regions. As a result, the "12 Days of Christmas" became a catechetical tool, recited as a children's poem to discreetly teach the faith and recall its deeper truths (as illustrated in the adjacent figure).

The celebration of the Christmas season also influenced the arts. Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, written in 1602, was intended as entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. It was likely performed as part of the festive celebration during the period between Christmas and Epiphany, reflecting the joy and creativity inspired by this sacred time.



Partridge in the Pear Tree Jesus Christ
Two Turtle Doves Old Testament and New Testament
Three French Hens Faith, Hope and Love
Four Calling Birds The Four Gospels
Five Golden Rings The Pentateuch
Six Geese-a-laying The Days of Creation
Seven Swan-a-swimming The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight Maids-a-milking The Beatitudes
Nine Ladies Dancing Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten Lords-a-leaping The Commandments
Eleven Pipers Piping The Faithful Apostles
Twelve Drummers Drumming Doctrines in Apostle's Creed

Parish Diary

Monday 6 Jan

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

Tuesday 7 Jan

Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Wednesday 8 Jan

(Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 9 Jan

Mass (OLR) 9am
(Currimundi) 9:15am

Friday 10 Jan

Mass (OLR) 9am

Saturday 11 Jan

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses

The Baptism of the Lord

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 12 Jan

The Baptism of the Lord

Mass (OLR) 6.30am
Mass (Landsborough) 7am
Mass (Unity) 8am
Mass (Kawana) 8am
Mass (Maleny) 9am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
Mass (OLR) 9:30am
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am
Mass (Unity) 5pm

Happy New Year to you all!

Together

Unity should be a paramount concern in our Parish. We should be known, not for being right but for righteousness, for doing what is right in all things, including in God's love. Our parish should also be known for peace. Peace with God creates peace within others.

Ladies Lunch - Save the date!

The next ladies lunch will be on **Friday 17th January 2025 at 12 noon** at Brightwater Hotel, 15 Freshwater Street, Mountain Creek. *All ladies welcome.* Please RSVP Linda 0429380979 by 13th January

On the Journey

We congratulate *Sara & Elena Stefanelli & Thaliana Somera* who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.

We pray for *Maria Testa* whose funeral will be at OLR on Tuesday 7th January 10.30am.
We pray for all who have recently died and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners

Rest in Peace.

Our Parish's Mission is to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus.