

Please remember in your prayers

Recently deceased: George Flynn, Barbara Currie, Tana Amores, Dominador Cabato, Coleen Boyd, Jill Duke

Sick: Max Paul, Leone Brown, Ned O'Brien, Hillary Goldman, Danial Chisholm, Eileen Ford, Isabella Mauri, Michael Fenton, Peter Kinnear, Darcy Hetherington, Jan O'Brien, Leonie Owens, Connie de Dassel, Maria Moran, John McCain, Pauline Cahill, Gregory Shield, Georgio Franco, Judy Brooks, Val Browning

Baptisms: Anna Machatsch



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration
Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

Located at the Curran Centre
(ramp access available via Parish Office)

Opening hours:

8:30am - 4pm Monday to Friday

HELP NEEDED: Vacant hours

Tuesday 9am, 3pm,

Wednesday 8:30am, 12noon

Thursday 9am, Friday 2pm

Anyone who can help with any vacant hours on either a temporary or permanent basis, please contact Doreena 0481 764 164 or Maurice 0407 934 088

"O Jesus of the Eucharist! O consecrated Host! O envied Monstrance! O blessed Ciborium, beloved of my heart! The Tabernacle is my Treasure, and, far or near, my eyes never lose sight of it, for it contains the God of Love." - Concepcion Cabrera de Armida

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian based program that is delivered to prisoners in NSW as well as other states in Australia. Its volunteers must undergo intensive training before delivering the program (called Short Course). Training will be held at the Curran centre St Augustine's Church in Coffs Harbour from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd in January 2023. Organisers are looking for parishioners who might be interested in billeting the volunteers for those dates. We are expecting 5 men and 4 women. Please contact either Maurice Avellino 0407934088 or Pat Benefield 0432441068 for additional information or confirm your help.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Mass Times

Monday 9 January	9am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
Baptism of the Lord		
Tuesday 10 January	7:30am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
Wednesday 11 January	7:30am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
	9:30am	St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga
Thursday 12 January	5:30pm	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
Friday 13 January	9:15am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
Saturday 14 January	9am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
Vigil Saturday 14 January	5:30pm	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
Sunday 15 January	9am	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
	5:30pm	St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour
	9am	St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga
	10:30am	St Therese's, Coramba

Confession Times

SATURDAYS, St Augustine's Church, Coffs Harbour

after 9am Mass (9:30am—10:30am) and before 5:30pm Mass (4:45pm - 5:15pm)

SUNDAYS, St Francis Xavier Church, Woolgoolga

before 9am Mass (from 8:30am)

Confessions are also available at any time

by appointment by calling the Parish Office on 6651 0000

Renewal of baptismal vows

All the graces and dignities which we receive in baptism, God secures to us for the future, only on condition that we keep our baptismal vows. Every Christian in baptism makes a bond with God through the meditation of Christ who has sealed it with His blood. This bond consists, on man's part, in the promise to renounce forever the devil, all his works and all his pomps, that is, constantly to suppress the threefold lust of the eyes, the flesh and the pride of life, by which the devil leads us to sin, and to believe all that God has revealed, and all that His holy Church proposes to our belief, and diligently and properly to make use of all the means of salvation. On the part of God this bond consists in cleansing us from all sin, in bestowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in adopting us as His children, and in the assurance to the inheritance of heaven. This bond will never be broken by God who is infinitely true and faithful, but it is often violated by weak and fickle man. In compliance with the desire of the Church we should often reflect upon it, and from time to time renew it in the sight of God. This should be done particularly before receiving the holy sacrament of confirmation, before first Communion, on the vigils of Easter and Pentecost, at the blessing of baptismal water, on the anniversaries of our baptism and confirmation, before making any solemn vow, before entering into matrimony and when in danger of death.

This renewal of baptismal vows can be made in the following manner: Placing ourselves in the presence of God, we kneel down, fold our hands, and say with fervent devotion:

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born and suffered for us. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. I renounce the devil; all his works and all his pomps. Christ Jesus! With Thee I am united, to Thee alone I cling, Thee only will I follow, for Thee I desire to live and die. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."



Church in Australia mourns death of Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican's most influential departments, for more than two decades.

"His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series Jesus of Nazareth, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse." Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Monday 9 January

Mass time: 9am, St Augustine's Church

"Going, therefore, teach ye all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 28:19)



This Monday is the feast of the commemoration of the baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ which was administered by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

Image left: close up of Baptism of Christ by Pietro Perugino (1446-1523)

Baptism

For Catholics Baptism is one of three Sacraments of Initiation. The other two being Confirmation and Eucharist.

Following on from when Jesus was baptised by St John the Baptist in the River Jordan this ritual has been carried on through the ages in some form or other.

The symbols of a Catholic Baptism are water and oil. The water represents the washing away of the original sin passed on by our first parents to those who were born before and after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Thus the Sacrament of Baptism makes us a member of Christ's family and hopefully a light in the world.

Baptism is available to anyone who wishes to become a follower of Jesus. It is available to adults, adolescents, young children and babies and on offer at St Augustine's parish after a short period of instruction.

If you or a family member or friend would like to enquire about Baptism in our parish please contact me, Bill Van Ryswyk, Pastoral Associate on 0419 538330.

Covid Awareness: Communion can be distributed on the tongue. If you are receiving communion on the tongue please come forward at the end of the communion lines.

St Augustine's Roster

	14 January	15 January	15 January
	Sat 5.30pm Vigil	Sun 9am	Sun 5.30pm
Co-ordinator	G. McCann & D. Barrett	G. Luchetti & M. Lill	B. Van Ryswyk
Commentator	B. Bowers	E. Holmes	R. Durham
Reader1	P. Davies	A. Pius-Usiubaio	T. Baker
Reader 2	Vacant	J. Breach	M. Walsh
Extraordinary Minister	W. Murphy	S. Cing & N. Feltrin	K. Kachel
Screen Operator	J. Sercombe	A. O'Brien	G. Sroyphet
Gifts	D. Jackson & N. Jarrett	Vacant	S. Garvey
Altar Servers		Mikael, Regina, Jessie	
Morning Tea		Italian group & S De Losa	

Digital Donations to our parish

For those parishioners wishing to make donations to the First or Second Collections or for other Special Purpose Donations, using your mobile phones, you can now do so using the QR Code now displayed at the rear of the church as you enter. Just scan the QR code with your mobile camera and follow the three step instructions. For Special Purpose Donations you can type in on your mobile the purpose in the "Comments" box. You can specify any amount for any donation.



Why is the person being Baptised so often signed with the sign of the cross?

To signify that through the power of Christ's merits and of His death on the cross, baptism washes away original sin; that the person is to be henceforth a follower of Christ the Crucified, and as such must fight valiantly under the banner of the cross, against the enemies of his salvation, and must follow Christ on the way of the cross even unto death.

Why is the person anointed on the top of the head with chrism?

This anointing is, so to speak, the crown of the young Christian. As in the Old Law the kings were anointed, (I Kings 10:1) as Jesus is the Anointed One, and as the Apostle St. Peter calls the Christians a chosen race, a kingly priesthood, a holy people, (I Peter 2:9) so the baptized by means of this unction is embodied in Christ, the Anointed One, and participates in His priesthood and kingly dignity.

What does the white robe signify?

The holy Fathers teach that this represents the glory to which by baptism we are born again; the purity and beauty with which the soul, having been washed from sin in the sacrament of baptism, is adorned, and the innocence which the baptized should preserve through his whole life.



Why is a lighted candle placed in his or his Godparents hand?

It is an emblem of the Christian doctrine which preserves the baptised from the darkness of error, ignorance, and sin, illumines his understanding, and leads him safely in the way of virtue; it represents the flame of love for God and our neighbour which the baptized should henceforth continually carry, like the five prudent virgins, (Matt. 25:13) on the path to meet the Lord, that when his life is ended he may be admitted to the eternal wedding feast; it signifies also the light of good example which he should keep ever burning.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

Reading 1 Isaiah 60:1-6

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

RESPONSE (R): Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

READING 2 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

READINGS THIS WEEK

- Mon 9 Jan: Is42:1-4,6-7, Ps28:1-4,9-10,Mt3:13-17
- Tues 10 Jan: Heb2:5-12,Ps8:2,5-9, Mk1:21-28
- Wed 11 Jan: Heb2:14-18, Ps104:1-4,6-9, Mk1:29-39
- Thurs 12 Jan: Heb3:7-14,Ps94:6-11, Mk1:40-45
- Fri 13 Jan: Heb4:1-5,11, Ps77:3-4,6-8, Mk2:1-12
- Sat 14 Jan: Heb4:12-16, Ps18:8-10,15, Mk2:13-17
- Sunday 15 Jan: Is49:3,5-6, Ps39:2,4,7-10,1Cor1:1-3, Jn1:29-34

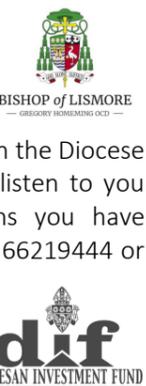
FROM LISMORE DIOCESE

Safeguarding Office

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact Safeguarding Office on 66219444 or safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

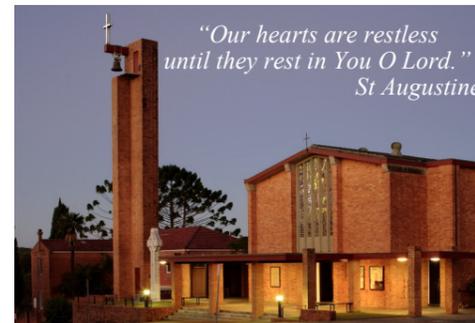
Diocesan Investment Fund

This Bulletin is sponsored by the **Diocesan Investment Fund**. Agents: Parish Office & Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse, Bailey Centre. Effective 1 January 2023, the interest rate on investments will be 2.60%. For information call 1800 802 516 or www.dif.org.au



St Augustine's Catholic Parish

Welcome



Parish Church:

St Augustine's, Gordon St, Coffs Harbour

Station Churches:

St Francis Xavier, Scarborough St, Woolgoolga

St Therese, Gale St, Coramba

Administrator: Fr Joe DSouza OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr Peter Rebello OCD

Parish Office

Phone: 6651 0000
parish@coffscatholic.com (parish enquiries)
coffsadmin@coffscatholic.com (administration)

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Pastoral Associate: Bill van Ryswyk
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Youth & Young Adults Leader: Amber Scanes
ascanes@coffscatholic.com

Website: www.coffscatholic.com

Catholic Schools Office

School fee enquiries: Phone: 6653 1655

 St John Paul College
Hogbin Drive, Coffs Harbour
Ph: 02 6653 3155
www.cofhslism.catholic.edu.au

 St Augustine's Primary School
Gordon Street, Coffs Harbour
Ph: 02 6652 1204
www.cofhplism.catholic.edu.au

 St Francis Xavier Primary School
Queen Street, Woolgoolga
Ph: 02 6654 1981
www.woolplism.catholic.edu.au

A warm *welcome* to visitors and parishioners (who are new or returning) to our church. If you would like to receive our Church bulletin via email on Friday afternoons please email: parish@coffscatholic.com

Lessons from the Magi

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek *epipháneia*, meaning manifestation, revelation or appearance. It celebrates the revelation that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. It commemorates principally this revelation to the gentiles (represented by the Magi), and also at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and at the wedding feast at Cana. Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to the newborn Christ.

From the journey of the Magi we can learn many valuable lessons that aid our spiritual growth. The Magi were not Jews, yet God manifests Himself to the gentiles first. This shows us that God's love is inclusive. Nobody is outside God's plan of salvation. Jesus came to mend all divisions between people (ref. Eph 2:11-21). Whenever we discriminate between people we are going against God's will. God wants us to love and accept all people as our brothers and sisters irrespective of our differences.

When the Magi came to know of the birth of Jesus, they left their homelands and went out in search of Him. The spiritual journey begins with a search or with a desire to encounter God personally. But first, before we undertake this quest, we need to let go of all that hinders us from starting off on the spiritual journey. Often our inordinate attachments to persons or things, our bad habits, our bitterness, unforgiveness etc, prevent us from approaching God. It is inconsequential whether these attachments are small or big. As Saint John of the Cross tells us, a bird will be unable to fly whether it is tied by a thin string or a thick cord.

The Catechism teaches us that the purpose of our life is to seek God, to know Him and to love Him with all our strength. More often than not, the aspect of 'seeking' God is brushed when we answer the question as to why God created us. Unless we seek God with all our hearts, we will not find Him (ref. Jer 29:13). And if we don't find Him, we will not be able to know Him and thus we fail to love Him. Overcoming all odds, the Magi persevered in their search and were rewarded for their persistence. When the going gets tough in the spiritual life, in moments of dryness and darkness and when our faith is put to the test, the tough get going. The Magi teach us not to give up. If we are faithful, God will not delay in rewarding us for our determination and perseverance.

It is believed, that the Magi were wise men of great learning. Although they were knowledgeable, they acknowledged their limitations and were docile to instruction. They followed the guidance of a star, the counsel of Herod and the directions given to them in a dream. In the spiritual life, one cannot grow unless one submits oneself to a spiritual guide. Openness to guidance and willingness to change play an important role in the process of discernment. It is easy to go astray and get deceived if one does not humble oneself to the counsel of one who is learned and holy. The Magi brought precious gifts for the Infant. During Christmas, we too received many gifts. But what gift have we given the Lord? What gift can we possibly give Him? Jesus wants the gift of your very self. Your heart is the most precious gift that you can give to the one who has given Himself and still gives Himself entirely to you. The Gospel tells us that the Magi prostrated themselves and paid Him homage. Just as their gifts are external symbols of the identity and mission of Jesus, their act of adoration is an interior symbol of the gift of their very self to the Lord.

As today marks the close of Christmas tide, we will be putting aside the star, the crib and the Christmas tree. As life resumes its normalcy, let us take care lest the spirit of Christmas manifested by the wise men be forgotten. Every day can be Christmas if only we strive to seek God, to know Him and to love Him with all our strength.