

The Epiphany of the Lord—4 January 2026

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

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

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

- 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.)**
- 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.)**
- 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.)**
- 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

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

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.



Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Moruya

Parish Priest: Fr. Joshua Scott PP VF
Parish Secretary: Vickie Moore

PARISH OFFICE

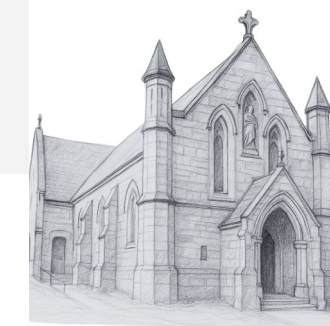
36 Queen Street Moruya NSW 2537

Parish Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday—9.00 am - 2.00 pm

Phone: (02) 4474 0889

Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Website: www.cg.org.au/moruya



Year A

The Epiphany of the Lord 4th January 2026

HOPE SHINES BRIGHT: WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

On this Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the Magi—wise travellers who followed a star across distant lands to find the newborn King. Their journey was not easy. They faced uncertainty, long roads, and the unknown. Yet their hearts were full of hope, and they trusted the light that guided them. Pope Benedict XVI in his book *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* reminds us that the Magi set out because of a deep longing for truth, justice, and love. Their journey was more than a physical path—it was a spiritual quest, a search for the one who would change their lives. Like them, each of us is called to follow the “star” God places before us: moments of grace, signs of His presence, and invitations to love and serve.

When the Magi entered the house and saw Jesus with Mary, they fell down and worshiped Him. Here is the heart of the story: God meets us where we are. He is present in our homes, our families, our parish, and in the quiet of our prayers. Encountering Him transforms us. Our expectations are challenged, and our hearts are renewed.

The Magi's outward journey ended when they found Jesus—but a new journey began within: an inner pilgrimage of faith, hope, and love. Their encounter with Christ changed everything. For us, too, following Him is never static. Each act of kindness, each prayer, each moment we choose love over fear, is a step along our own path toward Him.

Finally, the Gospel tells us the Magi returned home by another way. The star had led them to Christ, but now the light was within them. And so it is for us: the light of Christ shines in our hearts, calling us to share it with our families, our neighbours, and the world.

This Epiphany, may the star guide your steps, may the love of Christ fill your hearts, and may hope shine brightly in your lives. Let us go forth courageously, offering our gifts, our love, and our faith, trusting that God will continue to lead and transform us.

With every blessing,
Father Josh

Sunday Mass

Sacred Heart, Moruya

36 Queen Street, Moruya

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 10.00am

'The Pines', Tuross Head

36 Craddock Rd, Tuross Head

Sunday: 8.00am

St. Edmund's, Bodalla

162 Princes Hwy, Bodalla

4th Sunday: 12 noon

Weekday Mass

Sacred Heart, Moruya

Tuesday: 5.00pm

Wed, Thurs, Friday: 9.15am

St Edmund's, Bodalla

2nd Friday: 9.00am

Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Sacred Heart, Moruya

First Mondays: 6pm

Confessions

Sacred Heart, Moruya

Tuesday: After Mass.

Saturday: 4.30pm - 4:50pm

Adoration

Sacred Heart, Moruya

Fridays: 9:45am

(After 9.15 Mass)

Rosary

Daily: After Mass

NOTICES

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, MORUYA
 Johanna Wain
 Principal
 Ph: 02 4474 2817



CARROLL COLLEGE, BROULEE
 Andrew Kenneally
 Principal
 Ph: 02 4471 5600



PARISH GROUPS

St Vincent de Paul Conference
 37 Queen Street, Moruya
 Phone: 02 6234 7404

Caring Group
Tuross Head
 Mob: 0497 315 534

Moruya
 Please call the Parish Office

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 5th — *Weekday of Christmas*
 Tues 6th — *Weekday of Christmas*
 Wed 7th — *St. Raymond Penyafort*
 Thurs 8th — *Weekday of Christmas*
 Fri 9th — *Weekday of Christmas*
 Sat 10th — *Weekday of Christmas*
 Sun 11th — **Baptism of the Lord**

January
 is dedicated
 to the
 Holy Name of
 Jesus



EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS



The Epiphany House Blessing is a cherished Catholic tradition that invites Christ's blessing into our homes. On the Feast of the Epiphany—or in the days following—families use blessed holy water and chalk to pray for peace, love, and protection in their households.

The chalk is marked above the door with **20 + C + M + B + 25**, representing the *Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar*—and the Latin prayer "*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*" ("May Christ bless this house"). This simple ritual reminds us that our homes are domestic churches, where Christ is welcomed, faith is lived, and love grows throughout the year.

Parishioners are encouraged to bring a bottle to take holy water home, along with some chalk and to bless their homes for the year ahead.

BAPTISM: WELCOME TAJ MCDONALD!

This weekend we warmly welcome **Taj McDonald** as he is Baptised into our faith, and we ask for your prayers that he may grow in faith and live as an intentional disciple of Jesus.



WHEN DO YOU TAKE DOWN YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

The Christmas season doesn't end on Christmas Day—it continues through the joyful celebration of Epiphany and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on **11th January**. This is the traditional time to take down Christmas trees and decorations, marking the close of the festive season and the beginning of Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical calendar.

Recently Deceased: Barbara Kirk, Marykitty Joseph (Fr. Kos' mother), Geoffrey Scott, Murray Scott, Jean Calcutt, Caroline Nader, Robin Scobie, Diana Ebbelaar.

Those who are sick and housebound: For those in Aged care facilities and in Moruya Hospital, for our sick and housebound parishioners, Gerry Ebbelaar, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Jan Morris, Christopher Morris, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Sue and Rod McDonald, Han and Pauline de Grave, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Mark Wales, Jenny Hopkins, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Paul and Margaret Ryan, Rita and Doug Marion, Viola Collaran, Sylvia Heffernan, Rae and Peter Fishlock, Michael Irwin, Fr Greg Beath, Deacon Paul and Jo Rummery, John Heffernan, Mark Chatto, Norma and Graham Beer.

NOTICES

JOSEPH RATZINGER
 POPE
 BENEDICT
 XVI



THE INFANCY NARRATIVES
JESUS
 of NAZARETH



BOOK RECCOMENDATION—JESUS OF NAZARETH: INFANCY NARRATIVES

This final volume in Pope Benedict XVI's *Jesus of Nazareth* series warmly encourages the reader to encounter Christ anew through the tender and hope-filled stories of his infancy and childhood – stories that continue to speak powerfully speaking to our lives today. Though only 146 pages long, this book packs a surprising punch, offering rich spiritual nourishment that rewards slow, prayerful reading. First published in 2007, the book reflects Pope Benedict's desire "to make known the figure and message of Jesus." Turning his full attention to the Gospel accounts of Jesus' earliest years, the late Holy Father opens up the beauty of the Christmas season and draws the reader into the deep hope born at Bethlehem, as well as the quiet courage and loving surrender of Mary and Joseph, whose lives were shaped by trust, service, and faith. Through the longing journey of the Magi, the faithful patience of Simeon, and the humble mystery of the Incarnation, the reader is invited to reflect on the major scenes of the Christmas story through the lens of one of the twentieth century's most renowned theologians. These moments are not presented as distant or sentimental memories, but as living encounters with God that speak directly to the restlessness of the human heart. Accessible yet profound, this book reassures, challenges, and inspires. It is an ideal companion for the Christmas season—and beyond—offering insight, hope, and a renewed sense of joy for anyone seeking the truth that alone leads to lasting peace.

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Direct Debit and Tap N Go are available. Thank you for your generosity. If possible, consider donating to the 1st and 2nd collections via direct debit.

1ST COLLECTION – Supports Arch. Clergy

Direct Debit (include "Sacred Heart Parish"):

BSB: 062-786 | **Account:** 000029248 | **Reference:** Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya & Surname

2ND COLLECTION – Supports the Parish

Direct Debit / Bank Deposit:

BSB: 062-786 | **Account:** 000014984 | **Reference:** Planned Giving # & Surname (current givers) or "Donation" (new givers)

MORUYA ROSTERS

	Readers		Ministers of Holy Communion		Counters	
Mass	3rd/4th January	10th/11th January	3rd/4th January	10th/11th January	5th January	12th January
SAT 5pm	C. Cahill C. Palise	D. McCann D. Moore	T. Cahill	F. Levi	G. Campbell L. O'Connor	T. Monaghan C. Gandy
SUN 10.am	H. Browne I. Browne	B. Gillett P. Pollock	J. Morris	G. Campbell		

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: At Sacred Heart Parish, we're deeply committed to creating a safe, respectful, and caring environment for all children and vulnerable people. We believe everyone deserves to be heard, valued, and protected—and we work together with families to make sure their voices are always part of the conversation.

Communicating Concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns by contacting Father Josh or the Parish Office. For matters specifically related to safeguarding, please reach out to our Parish Safeguarding Officers—Pauline Parnell, Louise Strahlendorf, or Peter Hoban—via email at moruya.safeguarding@cg.org.au. Additionally, you may contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Archdiocesan Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or by phone on 02 6239 9806.