

St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford
Sunday 4th January – The Epiphany



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Sentence: They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt and worshipped him. Matthew 2:11

Collect: Jesus, light of the world, let your bright star stand over the place where the poor have to live; lead our sages to wisdom and our rulers to reverence. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Introit	204 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Gradual	343 As with gladness men of old
Offertory	361 See him lying on a bed of straw
Closing	376 Songs of thankfulness and praise

9.30am - NZPB 476

Readings for today Sunday 4th January

First Reading - Isaiah 60: 1-6

Epistle - Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel - Matthew 2: 1-12

Readers - Karen and Marion

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3: 1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God

in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Next Week

Tuesday 6th	Selwyn Centre at 9.30am. Our final meeting for 2025. We will resume Tuesday 3 rd February 2026.
Wednesday 7th	Mid - week 10.00am Holy Communion service. In recess. Resumes Wednesday 4 th February.
Thursday 8th	Mainly Music in recess. Will resume Thursday 12 th February 2026.
Sunday 11th	9.30am Holy Communion.

We remember in our prayers –Those people in our parish in need of prayer. We also remember residents and parishioners Trevone Place, Alma Road, Argyle Terrace, Brian Avenue, Cecil Road, Commodore Parry Road, Craig Road.

Readings for next Sunday 11th January

First Reading - Isaiah 42: 1-9

Epistle - Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel - Matthew 3: 13-17

Readers - Ulo and Liz