



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

235-241 Devonshire St (between Crown and Marlborough Streets),

Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948

Email: admin@stpeterssh.org.au

Website: www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au



Most Reverend Danny J Meagher: Bishop in Residence, Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region

Fr. John A Macdonald: Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP: Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

Feast Days for the week (Year A)

Mon 9 Jan	The Baptism of the Lord
Thu 12 Jan	Saint Benedict
Sat 14 Jan	The Infant Jesus of Prague

For the remaining Sundays in January, i.e. 8, 15, 22 and 29 Jan: there will be ONLY one Mass at St Peter's at 10:00am

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Catherine Murphy, Adi Soediarlo, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Camilla Pascoe, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay, Dan Southee.

Our deceased: Maria Helena Trujillo, Joachim Kerowa, Newton McMahon, Lydia Garrone (4/12 death anniversary, (Patrizia O'Brien's mother)), William Henry Lewis (26/11 death anniversary, (Florence's father)), Mackenzie Lamb, Henrietta Pham, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

Our house bound elderly: Bernadette Hailwood, Robert Pearce, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells.

Newlyweds: Finbar McCaughan and Rebecca Saleme on their marriage on Friday 6th January 2023 at Saint Peter's

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

*Pope Francis
Catechesis on the Mass 2018*

Mass to honour Servant of God Eileen O'Connor

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor invite you to an annual Mass to mark the anniversary of the death of Eileen O'Connor who is on the path to becoming Australia's next saint.

Date: Tuesday 10 January 2023

Time: 11am

Where: St Brigid's Church (Cnr Brook and Waltham Streets, Coogee)



“So noble, so kind”: Pope Francis thanks God for gift of Benedict XVI, Aleteia

Kathleen N. Hattrup - published on 12/31/22

“Only God knows the value and force of his intercession, of his sacrifices offered for the good of the Church.”

As scheduled, Pope Francis led Vespers and the praying of the Te Deum (the traditional prayer thanking and praising God) in St. Peter’s on the evening of December 31, just some hours after the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

In his homily, Pope Francis focused on kindness. “And speaking of kindness,” he said, “our thoughts go spontaneously to our most beloved **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, who left us this morning.”

With emotion, we recall him — **so noble, so kind**. And we feel so much gratitude in our hearts: Gratitude to God for having given him to the Church and to the world, gratitude to him, for all the good he has done, and above all for his testimony of faith and prayer, especially in these last



years of his life in recollection. Only God knows the value and power of his intercession, of his sacrifices offered for the good of the Church. A prayer was also said for Benedict XVI during the liturgy. After the liturgy, Pope Francis visited the Nativity Scene in St. Peter’s Square.



"I spent a lifetime looking for you." So begins Johnny Lee's country-western song, "Lookin' for Love." Country music, like folktales and the Gospel infancy narratives, philosophizes with homespun wisdom about the most basic human events and emotions. Might the Magi have enjoyed this song along their desert route?

Imaginative versions of the story of the pilgrims who sought the Christ child are generally fairly romantic and formulaic. Matthew's description of their gifts has solidified the idea that they were three wealthy fellows. Their identity morphed into royalty because people identified them with Isaiah's description of the nations who would seek Israel's wisdom and relationship with God.

Realistically, a desert-crossing caravan "from the east" surely included more than three people — not only servants, but different generations of pilgrims representing one or more clans. Perhaps it's because we know almost nothing about them that they can take hold of our imagination and become the carriers of our own search for meaning.

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2023

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

When we let the Magi camp out in our imagination, they appear as meaningful today as they did centuries ago. First of all, in line with what Pope Francis suggests in "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," they followed their star, seeing it as a natural gift from God, symbolizing the love that draws creation toward universal communion. The Magi's first discovery was that the leaders of the very people best prepared to have welcomed that love had gotten caught up in the rhythm of preserving petty power. When the pilgrims sought the wisdom of Israel, the religious leaders cited prophecies while remaining tragically incurious about their implications for their own time. Unlike the lackeys who theologized for Herod, the Magi were genuine religious pilgrims, people willing to cross physical and intellectual borders. Something we would call grace enticed them, leading them to believe that nature itself was communicating a message of earthshaking importance. Surely, the Magi were wealthy and therefore socially significant in their own right. Yet, like Abraham, they were willing to risk name and fame, to seek more than the comfort and power they knew at home. It takes a particular combination of courage and confidence to do what they did. In a very real sense, they were the precursors of the disciples who abandoned their occupations and even their reputations for the sake of the Gospel.

Today's feast day is called the Epiphany of the Lord. The Greek word epiphany is a synonym for apocalypse; both refer to a revelation. Merriam-Webster [tells us](#) that a revelation is an enlightening or astonishing disclosure. In the contrast between the Magi and Herod's theologians, today's Gospel depicts the difference between people who can receive a revelation and those who protect themselves from it. Theologian Silvano Fausti [describes](#) those open to revelation with the paradoxical statement: "The person who seeks is the person who knows."

What did the Magi know? They knew that their stores of wisdom, knowledge and certainties were smaller than the truth. They knew that growth requires displacement, the uncomfortable process of venturing into an unknown that stretches and questions assumptions, all for the sake of a greater depth of being.



Johnny Lee's song describes the wrong places he'd sought love. Most of us could write our own list of dead-end attempts at finding our heart's desire. Matthew's Magi tell us what Luke's Emmaus travellers learned: Life is a journey — always moving forward. Each step can open us to more. The Magi also warn us about what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called [cheap grace](#): the easy answers and religious facts that provide security rather than call us into growth.

In sum, the Magi had more faith in God than in their own ideas and understanding. They were willing to sing "I spent a lifetime looking for you" for the rest of their lives. We might look to them as the patron saints of evolution, reminders that no matter how much we accomplish, learn or love, God keeps offering more to those who are willing to seek and find it.

The feast of the Epiphany invites us to holy disquiet, a way of living that has nothing to do with grumbling or complaint. We can make holy disquiet a lifelong posture by nurturing it with wonder, gratitude and hope — all of which require humility. Holy disquiet leads us to appreciate the good of every moment not as something to be grasped, but as a promise of more.

Surely, we will sometimes end up in the wrong places, but, like the Magi who could leave Herod to his own devices, it's always possible to reorient ourselves. Our journey will not end on this Earth, but we cannot do better than spend our lifetime seeking.

Devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague spread through this prayer, *Philip Kosloski* - 01/14/22 (Feast day 14 Jan)

This prayer is reportedly the first prayer to the Infant Jesus of Prague and helped spread the devotion across Europe.



The statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague was, and still is in many places, one of the most popular devotional images among Catholics. It is a simple statue of the Infant Jesus, crowned as a king and often richly adorned with robes.

One of the main reasons why devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague was so popular is the **countless miracles** that have been recorded.

Many of these early devotees would pray a particular prayer, asking the Infant Jesus to have mercy on them and their plight.

According to the 19th-century book *The miraculous statue of the Infant Jesus at Prague*, Father Emmerich printed an early pamphlet in 1737 with “**the prayer of the first and most devout venerator of the Holy Infant.**”

Here is this prayer, which is often linked to many of the early miracles accomplished by the Infant Jesus.

To Thee O Jesus do I fly
And through Thy Mother beg of Thee
From this danger set me free;
For truly I believe
That Thou O God can't shelter me,
And confidently hope Thy grace to find.
With all my heart I love Thee,
And of my sins repent,
From which I pray Thee to deliver me.
My resolution is to amend
And never more offend Thee.
I give myself wholly To suffer patiently all for Thee
And serve Thee for eternity.
My neighbour as myself for Thee I'll love.
O Infant Jesus I implore Thee
From this danger set me free;
That with Mary and Joseph and the Holy Angels,
I may love Thee for eternity.
Amen. Amen. Amen.





**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you, my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in
peace with you. Amen**

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR FAMILY



*O dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant
Your special graces to our family.
May our home be the shrine of peace, purity,
love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus,
to protect and bless all of us, absent and
present, living and dead.*

*O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother,
pray to Jesus for our family, for all the
families of the world, to guard the cradle of
the newborn, the schools of the young and their
vocations.*

*Blessed Saint Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus
and Mary, assist us by your prayers
in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus
that special grace which He granted to you, to
watch over our home at the pillow of the sick
and the dying, so that with Mary and with you,
heaven may find our family unbroken in the
Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

Amen.