

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land of the Gweagal People of the Dharawal Nation.



Our COVID-19 Safety Plan (SP):

- 1) Those with flu symptoms must not enter the church;
- 2) Sanitising hands and registration are strict requirements in order to come inside the church;
- 3) Congregational singing prohibited;
- 4) Required sanitisation of the seats before and after each service;
- 5) Holy Communion on hand;
- 6) Social distancing 1.5m apart (**only 90 seats**);
- 7) No gatherings after the Mass in the foyer or outside the door of the church.

Daily Masses: 7.30am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Holy Hour, Confession and Mass); Tuesday 5.00pm: Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass

Weekend Mass times: Saturday: Vigil 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 9.30am.

First Fridays: Holy Hour and Mass 5pm

You Tube: stjosephcomo

Child sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police or contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

Our sick: Ida Melis, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Glennise Hall, Eliette Majdanzic; Barbara Eadie, Helen McGuirk, Dragica Furda, May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Jan Gurba, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Thea Van Gastel, Josephine Marinilli, Steven Marinilli and all homebound and dear friends from Mildred Symons House.

The lesson from the three Magi visiting the newly born Jesus is that a true religion must be true for everyone, not just for some people. Truth is not geographical or confined to borders. Truth by its nature conquers untruth. The Magi are the first non Jews to worship Christ. They tell us that the mission field is the whole world, not just the Holy Land. The Church is forever bound, then, to teach, preach, and sanctify the world over. The true God and His Church must light a fire in Chinese souls, Arab souls, African souls... This may take until the end of time, but Christianity has time on its side. The Magi give personal testimony to the universality of faith. The Epiphany is the start of the multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and faith united society. Christianity started multi-culturalism and diversity without sacrificing unity and truth.

The Magi's Gifts. The Bible doesn't tell us how many of these Magi came to see Jesus. Tradition has told us there were three, but this is an assumption based on the fact that they brought three gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Whether they realised the significance of these gifts is not clear. But in hindsight we see they contained tremendous prophetic meaning. **Gold is a gift** given to Kings. The wise men had come asking, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews..." The Magi recognised Christ as a King. Matthew had established Christ's right to the throne by tracing his lineage through David and Abraham. In fact, one of the objectives of Matthew's Gospel was to present Christ as King. This is probably a very substantial part of the reason Matthew mentions the magi when the other Gospel writers had not done so. The wise men acknowledged that Jesus was born "King of the Jews." He was *born* a king. He needed no earthly king to crown him. Heaven had crowned him already. **The second gift was frankincense.** Frankincense is an aromatic balm used to make incense. It was offered on altars before deities.

Long before any theologian had taught on the divinity of Christ, these wise men worshipped Him as divine. At this same time, Scripture tells us that Herod was seeking to destroy Him. Once again, we see the contrast that characterises the life of Christ. While some worship him, others are seeking his destruction. And this leads us to the third gift. **Myrrh** is an odd gift for a baby. It was another aromatic resin that was used to prepare bodies for burial. Perhaps this gift was an indication of the reason Christ had been born into the world. From the very beginning this was His purpose, "...To give His life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). In John 12:27, just before Jesus went to the cross he prayed, "Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." Jesus lived with an awareness of His purpose - He was born to die. The story of the Magi is a central part of the celebration of Christ's *birth*. But when the Magi presented baby Jesus myrrh, they gave him a gift that honoured his *death*. We celebrate Christ's birth because of His death. Were it not for his death, His birth would have little significance to us. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts probably originates from this story of the Magi bringing their gifts to Jesus. But ultimately, Christmas is not about the Magi's gifts to Jesus or our gifts to one another. Christmas is about a far more important and valuable gift – the gift God gave to humanity when He gave His Son. At this time of year, there is a tendency for the significance of what we are celebrating to be lost amid tired cliches. But I want to help you to see afresh how amazing it is that God gave His only Son. When God gave Jesus, He gave us everything that Heaven had to offer.



Frankincense

Gold



Myrrh

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person. Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely: "Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers" (1 Cor 4:15). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle: "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel". Paul likewise calls the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19). Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father.

Prayer to St. Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself as a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



Enjoy your holidays



3 ways to donate to the parish: 1) Scan the bar code on the left with your mobile phone camera and follow the instructions therein. 2) Visit our website: <https://www.stjosephscomo.org.au/> and click on the "DONATE NOW" button. 3) Copy following link to your web browser: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH>