



## **Father Paul writes 4th of January 2026 Epiphany**

Welcome to you as we start a new year.....a happy new year to you all.

We today conclude our Christmas season with the celebration of the arrival of the Wise Men or the Magi who came to visit Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They travelled from a far-away country, probably Persia following the star to Bethlehem. It is the way that God reveals Jesus to the whole world, hence the word Epiphany, meaning manifestation or revelation. The wise men are traditionally given three names: Kasper, Melchior and Balthasar. Journeying from the east, they would have received hospitality along the way. May today's feast of the Epiphany strengthens in us our resolve for God to use us to make Christ known in our communities today.

Over the next six weeks, we are being encouraged to have our houses blessed in the season of Epiphany. It has been a custom over the centuries during this season of Epiphany to have God bless our dwellings and use it as a celebration with your family and friends. If you or a friend would like their house blessed, please contact me so that I arrange a time for the blessing.

As we start a new year, I encourage you to think about what you can do as part of a new year's resolution to grow spiritually. We often make sure we are materialistically and physically OK but we often forget about our spiritual well-being and how we can grow in our relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. It can be assisted by coming to church regularly, not only on Sundays but to a mid-week service, in the daily morning prayer service found in the prayer book and using the lectionary bible readings which you'll find day by day in the week ahead in the pew sheet or using the EPRAY app on your phone which is easily downloaded. Also, as encouraged in the Christmas edition of the magazine, downloading the Lectio 365 app, which has great devotionals three times a day. There will also be Bible Studies, which will re-commence with the season of Lent on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. All these suggestions can assist in you growing spiritually this year.

Your friend and priest,

Paul