



Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker

Fr Anthony Coloma

Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi

Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

W: www.sacredhearthatilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)

Daloras Howes (*Administration*)

Elul Teclé (*Administration*)

Peter Davies (*Administration*)

Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments*)

Bereavement Team:

Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory,
Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard
(02) 4979 1252

Mercy Pastoral Team:

Sr Patricia Whitten rsm 0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding

Gail Lovell (02) 4979 1256

Anne Millard (02) 4979 1252



By both His appearing and the manner of His appearing (the Incarnation), the infant Jesus was the Epiphany, the revelation of the saving love of God for His people. The term 'Epiphany' literally means to reveal, manifest or show forth. We also need to be aware of the personal epiphanies, or signposts, that occur in each of our lives. If we can recognise these, they will help us to discover and fulfil the unique calling God has in store for each one of us.

Jenny Close

Sacred Heart Cathedral sits on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and their continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past, present and future, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Christmas Time, Year C/1

Monday 6 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
10:00am Funeral Mass for Maria Prete @ The Junction

Tuesday 7 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 8 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am Mass @ Mayfield

Thursday 9 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am Mass @ Stockton
10:00am Funeral Liturgy for Colleen Kearney @ The Cathedral

Friday 10 January

10:15am Mass @ The Junction
11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)
12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 11 January

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by Reconciliation

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 11 January

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral
5:30pm Mass @ The Junction
5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 12 January

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's
8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill
9:00am Mass @ Stockton
9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *
11:00am Mass @ The Junction (Italian)
11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)
5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral
6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West
(No Mass 12 Jan; Mass 19 Jan)

* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton and on the Diocesan website.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED:

James (Jim) Tynan, Maria Prete, Colleen Kearney

ANNIVERSARIES: Robert Allan, Boleslaw Wozniak, Bessie Maurer, Doris Pearson, Moira Young, Marie Babic, Kevin Smith, Rita Maloney, Ivy Wolfgang

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Carlo Rossi, John Woodward, Neil Thomas, Louise Hall, Tui Innes, Felicity Dawson, Sr Ann Daley rsj

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A second batch of stock has been sourced; available from the parish office \$10 each.



PARISH BULLETIN

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in January.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Colleen Bennett	Mgr Allan Hart
Maureen Burke	William Hart
Madeleine Cherry	Ken (Johnno) Johnson
Elaine Dodds	Margaret Jones
Lawrence (Jack) Drage	Maureen Narvo
Mary Drage	Frank (Fiore) Pati
Robert Driscoll	Thi Bich Van Pham
Bernard Duggan	Margery Presland
Nancy Gorman	John Scrogings
Harold (Harry) Hancock	Margaret Scrogings
Henry Charles Hardy	Henk Van Schyndel

At St Joseph's:

John Edward Carr	John O'Callaghan
Annie Stamp	Stephen Smith
Rita Schuck	Peg Sugden
Ray Callen	Kerrie Walters
Brendan Blakemore	Thea Ethel Bennis
Doug Carey	Christine Brain
Raymond Dent	Shirley Casey
Joyce Gleeson	Jack & Dinah Heaton
William Hartsorn	Milce Lettoof

Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Dear Parish Family,

They say there are few things more stressful than moving house. I think however it's the unpacking that creates the stress, and the decision where prized possessions should go. Each move I say I am going to downsize before the next one. No matter the planning it always feels rushed at the end and I say again I wish I had downsized.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you. I've been around the parish one way or another for a while. When I first came to the Diocese, ten years ago this weekend (5 January) I spent a few weeks on supply here at the Parish. I've also spent time with you during my time as the Diocesan Administrator. Our faces will be familiar to each other.

I am pleased to be starting my journey on the Feast of the Epiphany. It is hard to know which I like better - the Shepherds or the Kings. Each brings a unique colour and quality to the Infancy Narratives. I like the simplicity of the Shepherds and their sheep. Appeals to the St Francis of Assisi side of me. Recently I learnt that the shepherds were not quite as simple as the hymns and carols depict. These shepherds were slightly more educated potentially having charge of the unblemished lambs of the temple flock. These sheep used at Passover for the meal were looked after incredibly well.

Their arrival at the crib heralding the Lamb of Sacrifice that Jesus will be for us on the cross. The shepherds would have known their scripture. The early church would have noted the symbolism of their presence at the crib and the unblemished lambs they would have brought with them with the unblemished lamb of Jesus.

The Kings (or magi or wisemen) represent a different part of the journey to the cross. They brought with them the symbols of kingship. And the early church might well have heard what Pontius Pilate asks of Jesus at his trial in the gifts presented. I also like that we give names to the Kings and show them as standing for every race and nation. There is a relationship for us with them and their gifts become our gifts. When we use our gifts, we do him homage and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and King.

The Kings come from the East to acknowledge the birth of this king in the west. Many of you will be familiar with the Eastern Rites of our Catholic Church and still more will know that we often talk of the two, East and West, as the two lungs of the Church. We are at our best when we breathe together. The whole world does him homage. And it is complete in him.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Greg
PP

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

The Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica was opened by the Pope on 24 December 2024 to constitute the official beginning of the Holy Year. Let us all enter the Year of Jubilee with a spirit of Hope.

The occasion marks a time of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

The Diocese has a number of special events planned for the year and will share more information in the coming weeks and months.



The following Churches have been designated as sites of pilgrimage:

- ✘ Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- ✘ St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- ✘ St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- ✘ St Joseph's, East Maitland
- ✘ St Joseph's, Murrurundi
- ✘ Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- ✘ Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong

To learn more about the Jubilee Year, go to <https://tinyurl.com/JubileeYear2025> or scan this QR code.



DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm—5th January
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Christ the King, Mayfield West

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational - everyone welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

The session begins with guided relaxation exercises; then we have a reading from Fr John Main which leads into 20 minutes of silent meditation.



WEDNESDAY ROSARY

Pray the Rosary each Wednesday after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the following non-perishable items are welcome: UHT milk, cereal, spreads, tinned goods (veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat), pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. Thank you. Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523 or 4967 2998.



COMMUNITY KITCHENS

The Community Kitchens run by CatholicCare can be accessed by anyone who needs a warm meal or support. Five locations operate across the Hunter and Mid-North Coast, including:

Hamilton South: Every Wednesday, 12pm to 1pm at 29 Fowler Street, Hamilton South

Newcastle: Every Saturday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm (6.30pm to 7.30pm during Daylight Savings) at Civic Park, King Street, Newcastle

Toronto: Every Thursday, 5pm to 6.30pm at 97 The Boulevard, Toronto



STARS AND SEEKERS AFTER TRUTH

BY FR MICHAEL TATE

There is a fascination with stars: their beauty shining and sparkling in the dark canopy of the night; amazement and wonder at their number and extent.

And who amongst us hasn't stolen a furtive glance at the horoscopes, half humorously checking 'what the stars hold for me'?

The Magi, the wise men in today's gospel story, were not like the writers of our horoscope columns. They were astronomers – astrologers from ancient religions found to 'the East' of Bethlehem, perhaps modern day Iraq or Syria.

In particular, they would have thought that the birth of those destined to be great figures would be signalled by unusual constellations of events in the night sky. They really believed that stars greatly influenced and controlled the destiny of human beings.

But, *these* Magi were open to the insights of other religious traditions. And it was that combination of their own religion of astrology and their reading about Jewish expectations of a wonderful person who would inaugurate a new epoch of history, which led them to:

To what? To whom?

To Jesus, in a nondescript dwelling, in a nondescript town, hovered over by an exhausted Mary and a protective Joseph.

This would be a most unexpected culmination of their journey.

Yet, because they were genuine seekers after truth, they were open enough to see in this baby what their own religious teaching had prepared them for, even as they were led beyond that religious system.

They were the first non-Jewish people to kneel before that infant. They did homage to this baby. Why? I think it was because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant.

On the contrary: 'There is something in *this* baby which *caused* the night sky to respond. *This* baby is responsible for the movement of the stars!'

They were sufficiently filled with wonder that they preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, not reporting where they had found him.

And, then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

What does this Gospel passage hold for us today?

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

People may be trapped in the limiting language of their astrology or Buddhism, or an ideology such as atheism or whatever. Of course, those systems of thought cannot save anyone.

But, individually and personally, Buddhists and atheists and astrologers can be set on a journey towards 'the Love which moves the sun and all the stars' (Dante).

As a person responds to the (often anonymous) prompting of the Holy Spirit and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God.

This is where we differ drastically from some fundamentalists. The Catholic Church believes that the billions in China and India, who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved.

But, such persons, even leading humane lives, do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

That Truth which we have the privilege of understanding leads us to accept the claims made on us by the baby to whom the Astrologers paid homage:

We understand and accept

that *He* is the Body Language of God,

that *He* is 'God with us', Emmanuel,

that *He* is The Answer to all the seeking after truth and the yearning of the human heart.

O come, let us adore *Him*.

© Fr Michael Tate

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then.

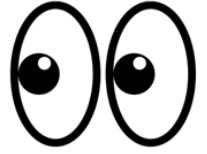


THANK YOU



Thanks for the generosity of so many people who contributed to the collection for Fr John. Grateful thanks to those who attended Chips and Sips and the morning tea to farewell him.

WATCH THIS SPACE...



Keep an eye out for news of the return of

- View, Chew, Chat and Lectio
- Book Club
- EPIC (Everything Possible in Christ) Youth Group

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities.

“FRANCIS’ FOCUS” BY NICK BRODIE



In reflecting on the Gospel reading for Epiphany, Pope Francis draws our attention to the Magi’s humility. It ‘seems a contradiction,’ he says, for these ‘wise, rich, educated’ men to lower themselves before a baby!

‘The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God,’ the Pope points out. ‘They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor.’

As the Pope says, this episode provides us with an important example. The Magi put aside their own ideas and expectations. They responded to the reality before them, rather than any preconceptions in their own minds. They knew they were looking for something meaningful and were open to finding it in an unexpected person and place.

The humility of the Magi, the Pope intimates, has much to teach the Church today. As it embarks on the next stages of its pilgrimage through time, it must be open to surprises.

In this light, the Pope asks us to reflect on how well we humble ourselves before Jesus today. ‘Do I know how to set aside my own perspective to embrace that of God and others?’ he asks. Do we let habit become pride?

© Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. He is currently studying Theology.



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Joseph’s Primary School

Karen McGinlay (*Principal*)

Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291

P:(02) 4961 2827

W:www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Primary School

Ann Jackson (*Principal*)

Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

P:(02) 4963 3009

W:www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au

St Columban’s Primary School

Penny Banister (*Principal*)

Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 3315

W:www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter’s Primary School

Michael Punch (*Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

P:(02) 4928 1861

W:www.stockton.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier’s College

Greg Ptolemy (*Principal*)

Parkway Avenue, Hamilton NSW 2303

P:(02) 4961 2863

W:www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

San Clemente High School

Bernard Burgess (*Principal*)

78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4014 7300

W:www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic’s Catholic College

Rachel Jones (*Principal*)

76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 1295

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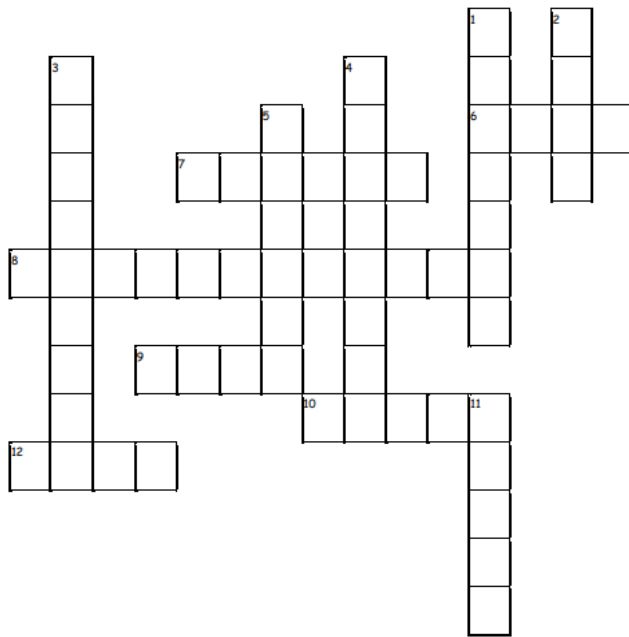
SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390, or email childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

CROSSWORD

We come to worship the king

Mt 2:1-12



Across

- 6: north, south, _____ and west
- 7: look
- 8: one of the gifts given to Jesus
- 9: a soft, yellow metal
- 10: another of the gifts given to Jesus
- 12: this showed the wise men where to find Jesus

Down

- 1: rested on your knees
- 2: one who has wisdom
- 3: significant
- 4: to do something without others knowing
- 5: alerted to danger
- 11: a type of building people live in

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

We come to worship the king

Mt 2:1-12

D D Q H Q A V K R U B E B E B B Z
 R W Y H R R Y M D W L S M X L F I
 I L L F T W M E L S E N V M V N J
 E X N I Y H F F O W H E D B V C I
 C M L K O Y R P G B R C T S O F I
 E A T S A P R U N V T N I H S B A
 S P P N Z I O G K W J I Z I C I E
 T L P E S H K X X L P K K K M S S
 A Q T Q S A K N Z R U N B P C E U
 R T S A E N E S I W K A O N D C O
 Y A U Y E O K O D E N R A W G R H
 M D C E C X W G W T T F L O V E K
 P A L S K R W W B A H P J D L T H
 Z E E M L E S D N N S I Z G L L I
 D J F H J C D T S E A R C H K Y G

Try to find these words:

- east
- frankincense
- gold
- house
- important
- kneeled
- myrrh
- search
- secretly
- star
- warned
- wise

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

The first reading opens with a twofold summons: 'Arise!' 'Shine!' Called out of darkness, the illumination into which Jerusalem emerges is not merely the light of a new day, a new era of peace and prosperity. It is the very light of God; it is the glory of the Lord.

Other nations will witness the glory of the Lord as it is revealed through the salvation of this people. The light they provide for others is really the radiance of God's glory. That glory is the manifestation of Jerusalem's deliverance. Jerusalem's redemption enables others to behold and to walk in God's light.

The psalmist asks God to bless the king with justice so that the king in turn can exercise justice over the people. This is no ordinary king; he has been placed over the covenanted people to rule them as God would, in justice and righteousness. The test of the character of the royal rule is the care given to the most vulnerable of the society, the poor. The psalmist prays that this rule will be steadfast in peace, including the entire world and all of the nations within it. The reading ends with a picture of righteousness in action.

The second reading insists that in Christ the Gentiles are co-heirs with the Jews. What qualifies one as an heir is life in the Spirit of Christ and not natural generation into a particular national group. All belong to the body of Christ, not the bloodline of Abraham. The promise at the heart of the gospel is the promise of universal salvation through Christ, not that of descendants and prosperity in a particular land. The Gentiles are co-heirs precisely as Gentiles and not as initiates who have come to Christ through the faith of Israel. The one thing necessary is to be 'in Christ'.

The Three Kings or Wise Men were astrologers who studied the heavens in search of the meaning of human life. The author of this account probably provided theological explanation of an actual astral phenomenon. Lest the astrological details lead us to believe that the birth was a myth, he then situates it squarely in time and place: the reign of Herod, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The anonymous men come out of obscurity and return to obscurity. All we know is that they were not Israelite, and this is the whole point of the story. The child draws Jew and Gentile alike.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family.

Chalk will be blessed at Masses this weekend and you are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

20 C + M + B 25

The letters C, M, and B stand for the traditional names for the three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode).

CHALK MARK



WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME

Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. **Amen**

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: *Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.* 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The three wise men

Caspar

C Melchior,

M Balthasar

B Followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the son of God, who came to live among us.

20 Two thousand

25 And twenty five years ago

+ May Christ bless our home today and remain with us throughout the year.

+ Let us pray,

God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome.

May Christ be our shelter when we are at home,

our companion when we are away,

and our welcome guest when we return, Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen