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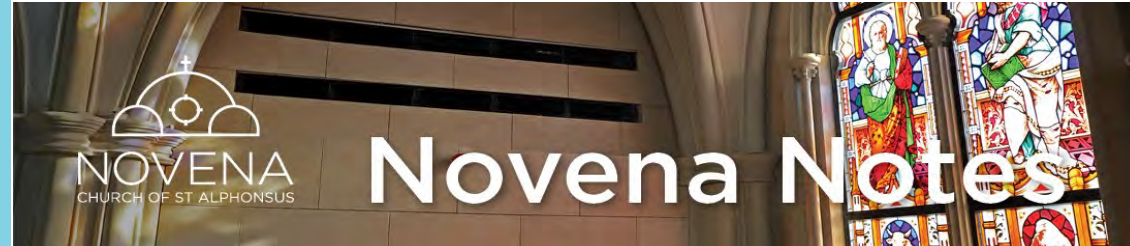
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## Where is the infant king of the Jews?

Like the Magi, all of us are following a star and seeking something. The Magi were seeking the infant king of the Jews to do him homage. Herod on the other hand, was seeking to consolidate his power. We follow different stars in search of happiness, fulfilment, or security in material possessions and a comfortable life. All of us are following our star, in the hope that we will find a lasting happiness.

Like the Magi, all of us are really searching for God. While we desire peace, joy and happiness, we realize that we cannot achieve it by ourselves and many look to God to provide for these. But what happens when we cannot obtain what we desire? Some lose faith in God, imagining that God does not care and is absent from our lives.

Paul tells us in the Letter to the Ephesians that, *'this mystery has now been revealed.'* Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany. The Greek word *epiphaneia* means – manifestation. God has been manifested to us. God who was invisible in his divine nature, has now become visible in our human nature. That is what the Magi were looking for. They were looking for God. But what they found was a poor family with a helpless child. Was this really the manifestation and revelation of God?

The prophet Isaiah foretold the time when God would be manifested to the people. He writes:

*Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,*

*The glory of the Lord is rising on you, Though night still covers the earth and darkness the people.*

Isaiah reminds us that God has always been present in our lives but is now manifested absolutely and definitively in Jesus Christ. It does not mean that we do not experience the darkness of night in our lives and in our world. There is still evil in every form. To those without faith, it appears as if God has abandoned us. Yet, Isaiah reminds the Israelites, *'the glory of the Lord is rising on you.'* He was reminding the Israelites that God is present in them and they were to be the light to the nations. God will be manifested to the world through them.

The story of the Epiphany and of the Magi is the story of our own search for God. Do we notice God's presence in the world? Where are we looking for God? Which star are we following? The story of the Epiphany reminds us that we find God among the poor, in the community of the Church and within ourselves. Now we must be the star that leads others to Christ.

**Reflection by Fr Gerard Louis CsSR**

## Readings & Responses for the week

### The Epiphany of the Lord Sunday 2026

Sunday, 4 January The Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Monday, 5 January St John N. Neumann CsSR	1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Jn 10:11-16 The Lord leads us on the path of peace.
Tuesday, 6 January	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Wednesday, 7 January St Raymond of Penafort	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Thursday, 8 January	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22 Your word, O Lord, stands forever.
Friday, 9 January	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Saturday, 10 January	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30 The Lord takes delight in his people.

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

### MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

### MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm  
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

### RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Public Holiday

### GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

## NOVENA CHILDREN CHOIR

**CALLING ALL SINGERS  
AND MUSICIANS**  
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## ST JOHN N. NEUMANN CSSR



JOHN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN PRACHATITZ IN BOHEMIA (Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology at the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and wanting to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support. He was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls. Since he wanted to live in a religious community that corresponded more closely to his missionary vocation, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, being professed on January 16, 1842. He was a tireless missionary, busying himself in particular with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh. He filled the role of vice-provincial of the Redemptorists from 1846 to 1849, after which he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of forty-two, he was named bishop of Philadelphia. He had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. In two years the number of students in the parochial schools went from 500 to 9000. He founded a new religious institute: the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. In the brief space of seven years he built eighty-nine churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages.

A worthy son of St. Alphonsus, like him, he made a vow never to lose a minute of time. As a bishop he was holy and tireless. Uninterruptedly he visited his vast diocese, on one occasion travelling more than twenty five miles of mountain roads by mule in order to confirm a young boy who was sick.

On January 5, 1860, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a street in Philadelphia. He was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of his canonization, Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint in these words: "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

## LET'S DANCE



AUNTIES & UNCLES

**LET'S  
DANCE!**

Calling all, especially senior citizens, to come and join us for some fun exercise and fellowship. Break a sweat, make a friend, and have a jolly & blessed time.



Time:	Venue:
7:30 - 9:00PM	Scala Canteen (B2)
Line Dance	
7 & 21 January, 11 & 25 February, 25 March, 8 & 22 April, 20 May, 17 June 2026	