



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]

72 Hillvue Road (PO Box 5002) South Tamworth NSW 2340

Parish Office Ph: 6765 9543 Hall Booking Ph: 6765 7259

Email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au (parish) | frpaul@armidale.catholic.org.au (pp)

Website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsouthtamworthmyFaith> - mobile app (available in Apple Store or Google Play)

Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon* Rev. Dr Raj Gorantla, asst. priest

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to those who helped in anyway with the organisation for Christmas. Christmas luncheon - Jeanette Frewin and Trish Tighe; Children's Pageant - Liz Hearne and Denise Sullivan; Liturgy Committee, musicians and choir; readers, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, altar servers, counters, etc. Thank you everyone.

2018 Bible Diary

Diaries have arrived, please pay and collect at the Piety Stall.

Working Bee

Volunteers needed to remove Christmas decors on the following dates

Monday 8 Jan after 7.00 am Mass

Tuesday 9 Jan after 9.30 am Mass

Wednesday 10 Jan after 9.30 am Mass

Christmas Bauble Appeal

St Edward's parishioners are very charitable when asked to help those in need and for this we thank you. \$905 donated to date. \$1931 was raised in 2016. For just \$5 per Christmas bauble you can decorate our Christmas Trees, and bring light to someone's life. Proceeds will go toward purchasing winter blankets for those in need in Tamworth and to rebuild the Iraq Christian community after the destruction by ISIS. Bubles will be on sale at all weekend Masses until the New Year.

Candlemas: Special Mass for Consecrated Men & Women

Friday, 2 Feb 2018 is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of the Virgin Mary. During this Mass, candles are blessed. It is a day of hope and light. A time to honour the Lord as the Light of the World and to remind us that we too have that light within us. Please bring your own candles for the blessing. Mass at 11.30am. Priests of the diocese, religious priests and sisters will be in attendance to celebrate this special day. Parishioners are invited to join in the Mass.

Lent & Easter Dates

Ash Wednesday 14 February (*day of fasting & abstinence*)

Palm Sunday 25 March

Good Friday 30 March (*day of fasting & abstinence*)

Easter Sunday 01 April

Divine Mercy Sunday 08 April

Mass Time and Liturgical Services

Weekends

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm

Sunday 9 am & 5.30 pm

Weekdays*

Monday 7.00 am

Tuesday - Friday 9.30 am

Anointing Mass

1st Wednesday of the

Month 9.30 am

Confession

Saturday 4.45 - 5.15 pm

Sunday 8.15 - 8.45 am

& 4.45 - 5.15 pm

or by appointment.

Baptism

Preparation Class, 2nd

Sunday of the Month 10 am

Baptism, 3rd Sunday of the

Month 10 am

or by appointment.

Wedding,

Sick Call & Funeral

by appointment

Collection

Envelopes \$ 805.00

Loose \$ 23.95

*In your charity,
please pray with us for*

Our sick

Mark Sarmiento

Noel Lane

Marie Gonsalves

Paul & Margaret Halloran

Helen Fife

Jack Dunn

Kylie Burgess

Fr Peter McGrath

Roslyn Smith

Rita Sutton

Bayly Turner

Liz Artis

Lorraine Parsons

Peter Dawson

Ignacio de Castro

Our deceased

Frances Sim

Gloria Lillicrap

Marlene Lockwood

Daniel O'Sullivan

Neville Galvin

Jim Hynes

Anniversaries

+ Erin & Paul Thomas

+ Ossie & Irene Whitten,

deceased family, relatives

and friends

+Val Constant & deceased

family members

+ Julianne O'Connor

Mass Intentions

For the intentions of:

Anne and Neville Herden

Low Gluten Hosts

are available for people with coeliac disease, please advise priest before Mass.

+++++

Gluten-free hosts are invalid matter and therefore cannot be consecrated at Mass.



Like Us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsouthtamworth>

Catholic Devotion: Blessing of Homes and Chalking of Door (next week)

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2018 — is simple: take chalk of any colour and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 18**. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "18" at the end mark the year. The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world, though it appears to be someone less well-known in Australia. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work or visit them there. The timing for the chalking of the doors varies somewhat in practice. In some places, it is done on New Year's Day. More commonly, it is performed January 6 - the traditional Feast of the Epiphany - the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Traditionally the blessing is done by either a priest or the head of the family. This blessing can be performed simply by just writing the inscription and offering a short prayer. The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "**May Christ bless the house.**" We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

Blessing the Chalk

✠ *Our help is the name of the Lord:*

✠ *Who made heaven and earth.*

✠ *The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:*

✠ *From this time forth for evermore.*

Let us pray

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 18 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and seventeen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen. Then offer the following prayer: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

LITURGY ROSTER

The Epiphany of the Lord/B 7th January

Vigil-5.30pm 9.00am 5.30pm

Acolyte T Ball P Manvell (B) J Mahony

Piety Stall J MacRae D Pawsey J Davy

Counters this week: G Smith & J Makepeace

next week: J MacRae & J Milne

Information for the bulletin to be emailed to southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or please drop a note to the Parish Office no later than Thursday afternoon