

Newsletter



The Epiphany of the Lord

8 January 2017

wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Michael Tate

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the



night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

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.

As a person responds to this prompting 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. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons 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.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

mtate@bigpond.com

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First Reading Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

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 peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

**(R.) Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Ephesians**

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

**Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew**

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some

The Week Ahead

email: reginaparish@gmail.com Ph: 95548155

Sun 8 Jan 2017	8.30am	Mass
	10.00am	Mass
Mon 9 Jan <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.15am	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion</i>
Tues 10 Jan	8.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.15am	Mass
Wed 11 Jan	7.00am	Mass
Thurs 12 Jan	9.15am	Mass
Fri 13 Jan	8.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.15am	Mass
Sat 14 Jan <i>BVM</i>	9.00am	Mass
	9.30am	Benediction & Reconciliation
	5.00pm	Mass
Sun 15 Jan <i>2nd Sunday in OT</i>	8.30am	Mass
	10.00am	Mass

Parish Mission 2017—A Parish Mission conducted by **Catholic Guy** will take place during Lent from 4 April to 7 April 2017. Details to follow in the next few weeks.

Rosary Statue

Mrs P Johnson
53 Pallmana Pde
Ph: 9150 8793

Mass Intentions

Saturday 07/01	9.00am	Stick of the Parish
	5.00pm	George Darrell-Edwards RIP
Sunday 08/01	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	Josephine Agtus RIP
Tuesday 10/01	9.15am	Pat Smith RIP
Wednesday 11/01	7.00am	June Roebuck
Thursday 12/01	9.15am	Mark Smith RIP
Friday 13/01	9.15am	Holy Souls
Saturday 14/01	9.00am	Holy Souls
	5.00pm	
Sunday 15/01	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	

* Fr Paul intention

The Epiphany Blessing

There is an ancient custom of marking the door of ones home with blessed chalk. This ancient rite is a beautiful way of incorporating the liturgical feast of Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family.

Chalk will be blessed at Mass this weekend. Anyone who wishes to use this special Epiphany blessing is invited to take some chalk and mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C + M + B 17

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Casper, Melchoir, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (*May Christ bless this Abode*). During the short rote someone holds the three wise men from the family Christmas crib.

The Epiphany Blessing Ritual

Leader: Peace be to this house and with all who live here. **Amen**

From the Gospel of Matthew: 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 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.

Mark with chalk the following in brackets () above your front door so that in the end it looks like 20 C + M + B 17:

(C) – Caspar, (M)– Melchoir, (B) Balthasar followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Son of God who came to live among us (20) – Two thousand years (17)- and seventeen years ago.

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

Let us prayer.

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.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

In Loving Memory

Fr Bill Malone, Joseph Ovens, Carl John Sollazzo, Marc David Sollazzo, Josphine Agius, Sr Joan Purcell OP, Tim Mitchell, Peter Pezzutti, Carmelo Algozinno, Maria Addolorata Tesoriero, Nicolino Poreu, Madeddu Filomena Gonario, Sam Xerri, Sidney Falson, Valerie Zacka, Dea Mattiussi, George & Linda Darrell-Edwards, Maria Cristofaro, Dominico Cristofaro, Tim Mitchell, Alfia Laspina, Giuseppe Leotta, Giovanni Battiato, Giuseppe & Giuseppa Leotta, Fr Peter Phibbs, Donato Carnevale, Tom Fenwick, Brian Phibbs, Mary McGregor, Assya Dagher, Gloria Vieira, Manuel Vietra, Damia Dagher, Rose Cooney, Louis Goveia, Elizabeth Tesoriero, Maria Nguyen, Desmond Francis Connop, Donato Tozzi, Maria Mandich, Odette Sarah, Theresa May Cantwell, Lambert Glaudemans, Vicky Brown, Anna Maria Cicuto, John Brogan, Christina Salim, Agnes Arifin, Alexander Arifin, Paulina Elias, Buyung Elias, Frederika Streiff, Frank Meaney, Maria Serravalle, Loretto Davenport, Pat Smith, Roberto and Filomena Garfano, Judith Farrell, James Roebuck, Pasquale Raglini, Christopher Pezzutti, Dan Hall, Nancy Mitchell, Nim Greenwood, Reg Benson, Patricia Atkins, Joseph Lin Kee Choo, Graham Daniel, Mildred May Mitchell, Mark Byrne, Carl El-Khoury, Maria Mansour, Joseph Mealing, Maria Giuseppa Mascolo, Cono Reale, Stephen Xuereb, Bartolo Tesoriero, Peter Repole, Caterina Tesoriero, Leonardo Battiato, Imelda Garcia, Fulvia Maria Tonitto, Myriam Barbe, Maureen Whelan, Joseph & Anna Pham, Jelena Bevanda, Roy Vincent McGregor, Mildred Formosa, Harry Host, Joan Byrne, Norm Coleman, Hugh Sadler, Francesca, & Salvatore Cocilovo, Pio Gonano, Gail Moore, Alex Xuereb, Clarissa Susantio, Peter Johnson Snr., Rosa Ferlito, Ugo Buracchi, Rita Lillian Cole, Pauline Elias, Jim Campisi, Rosaria & Giovanni Franchella, Margherita Falsone, Louis Goveia,

Please note: if you would like the name of a deceased person to remain on this list please email the parish office. Fr Paul

Please remember those who are in ill health especially:

Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Nicolas Reale, (aged 4), Paul Camelotti, June Roebuck, Anne Thompson, Anne Maree Michels, Jeanette Cardoz, Chris Byrne, Dr Antonio Braga, Anne Courtney, Erifili Vorlas, Audrev English, David Shannon, Ann McDowell, Alice Nelson, Terry Wall, Paul Kensev, Marv Emerv, Micaela & Theresa Truillo, Aileen Host.