

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Catholic Community

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C

3 January 2016

#06.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am

LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sun 11:30 am

Reconciliation: Sat 11:00 – 11:30 am or by
appointment with the priests

PRAYER

Charismatic Prayer: Thursday 7:30pm

Maida: 0423 658 326 Rosary 7:00pm

Meditation [Library] Friday 7.30-8.15 pm

Morning Prayer: Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am

Stations of the Cross First Fri Monthly 5:30pm

Weekly Reflection:

Epiphany - Transformation

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people.

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Intriguing as their methods were, why did they bother? Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

*'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt,
I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different;
this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us,
like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here,
in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'*

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

Resources used: Richard Leonard SJ & Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.com.

ROSTERS

10 January Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Sharon Loiterton, Rob Caskie, Amanda Stewart, Margaret Conlon, Elaine Laycock
8:30 am	Brian Green, Fay Stephenson, Fay Hodgetts, Shane Murtagh, Margaret Stanford
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Pat Sheppard, Cathy Madsen, Shyni Jojo, Francesca Deklin
6:00 pm	Henri Clementine, Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck Andrew Webster, Barbara Gardiner

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Tom Halloran
8:30 am	Mariana Rollgejser, Lyn Duck
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Libby Kain
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan
8:30 am	Joe Pisciotta, Pauline O'Gorman
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Marie Flint
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin

Other Rosters

- 4 Jan **Altar Society** Margaret Ferguson
- 4 Jan **Church Cleaning:** Meg Millband, Carmel Martin, Sabina Van Rooy
- 9 Jan **Presbytery Cleaning:** Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
- 10 Jan **Counting Roster:** Margaret Sheehan, Denis Donoghue, Margaret Stanford
- 9 Jan **Grounds:** Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Breen

School of Religion: – 9.15 am-10.00 am
Sundays Parish Centre (School Term Only)
For children not attending a Catholic School



Hearing Loop: - We have a hearing loop in the body of the church. To access it turn your hearing aid to the T-Switch setting.

On A Lighter Note:

Bar sign: if you want credit, go to Helen Waite. If you don't agree with Ms. Waite's decision, you can talk with her boss Mr. Vail. Yes, you can appeal for credit to Noah Vail.

☞ Let us pray for those who are sick.
We remember them in our Masses. ☞

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Charles Taylor, Kathryn Jones, Therese Markham, Ken Lorroway, Pauline Burt, Cooper McDonald, Jamie Bourke, Mary Gorey, John Burt, Edna Lydon, Terence Martin, Ann Grannall, Caterina Fallace, Phyllis Morrion, Frederick Felsing, Alexander Beggs, Shaun MacKey, Bradley Kennan, Josephine McLaren, Josephine Fox

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Mt. 2:1-12

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne. The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp