

3rd January 2021 (Year B)

## NEWSLETTER

◆ KEVIN SMITH parish priest ◆ GERRY CROOKS pastoral associate ◆ HELEN PRICE and HELEN COLE parish secretaries ◆ DAMIEN SULLIVAN acting school principal ◆

# Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

History books are full of epic journeys of discovery, some of them westward-leading like the one we celebrate today. Geography studies in the 1970s included detailed timelines and maps of Europeans making their way from Sydney Cove on the east coast over the Blue Mountains and into vast "unknown" territory. The presumption of a vast inland sea occupied the expertise of many explorers. Listening to and cooperating with Australia's first peoples may have saved many lives in the forlorn attempt.

The journey of the magi was perhaps just as dangerous. They travelled in unknown territory and they were not Jews but strangers in the land. While they did ride camels the influence of Herod nearly included them in a murderous trap. All that guided these three was their search for a great king of ancient prophecy whose star they had seen rising in the east. Whatever their expectations the star guided them away from Jerusalem and shone over a humble dwelling. There they found a young mother and her baby. Entering with awe, they realised that this lowly place was where God had come to dwell with humankind. More than a Jewish king, Jesus was destined to rule the hearts of all people of good will.

These visitors give us some insight of what it means to live by faith. Committed and persevering, poring over ancient scriptures, theirs was a lifelong quest for meaning. They were courageous too, setting out without knowing the destination. It was the kind of faith that lets go of expectations. They went looking for a king, but did not go away disappointed when they were led to one who was at home with the poorest of people. Before this gracious child they fell to their knees in wonder. They offered him their all.

For all of us who share the ancient longing for someone who can truly lead us, our spiritual path may not be so different from that of those three. We too may encounter a "Herod" or two who deceive us with false promises. We too may feel mysteriously guided, though as the wise men discovered, stars have a habit of disappearing, leaving us nevertheless to go forward in faith. But of this we can be sure: however winding the road, however long we take to get to our Bethlehem, Jesus and his mother will be waiting for us.

God bless,

*Fr Kevin*

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



### **RESPONSORIAL 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!

*Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12*



**Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially** Cecily McKeon, Gloria Saunders, Maureen Twomey, John Clarke and Sr Mary Constable SGS **recently deceased and also for** John Fletcher, Bill Hanley, Les Kamp, Ross Kamp, Gary Fletcher, Stan Grzegorzolka, Patrick O'Connell, Mary O'Connell, Patricia O'Connell, Keith White, Patricia Vieyra, Begley and Bourke families, Karen Baker, Mike West, Norman and Katie Timmins, Norman, Patricia and Daniel Timmins, Patrick and Pat Boyle, Vince Long, Muriel Jones, Roy Jones, Sandra Swales, Noel Nicholson.



**Please remember the sick in your prayers** – Veronica Corcoran, Patricia Desbrow, Carmen Turner, Jan Low, Monica Marron, Harold O’Connell, Pat Dugger, Clinton Fletcher, Brian and Catherine Kearney.

**DATE CLAIMERS 2021**

- Sunday 24 January **Baptism Preparation Session 9am**
- Tuesday 26 January **Australia Day**
- Wednesday 27 January **School returns**
- Sunday 31 January **Baptism celebration**

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2021**

*Please mark these important dates in your diary for next year.*

**PENANCE** (Year 5 children)

**Parent workshop sessions**

18 February 7:30pm **OR** 19 February 9:30am

**FIRST COMMUNION** (Year 4 children)

**Parent workshop sessions**

22 April 7:30pm **OR** 23 April 9:30am

**Celebration of First Holy Communion 29 May - 6 June**

**CONFIRMATION** (Year 3 children)

**Parent workshop sessions**

29 July 7:30pm **OR** 30 July 9:30am

**Celebration of Confirmation 27 August – 9 September**



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH**

- **Collection Boxes at the church doors** - cash donations
- **Giving App** - <http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>
- **Drop off your donation** to the parish office
- **Give via direct debit or your Credit Card** - *please call the parish office or find the form on the website (Quick Links)*
- **Direct deposit donation to our bank account** - **BSB – 064 786 A/C - 006 031 500 (Ref: surname)**

**PLEASE BOOK FOR WEEKEND MASS** using the online forum by using the below link or QR code. Just click on the link and select your preferred Mass, choose number of people attending and fill in each person’s details. Marshals at the church door will ask for your name to be ticked off on arrival. Similarly, scan the QR code using your camera on your smart phone and it will direct you to the website.

**Bookings for Weekend Masses will open each Monday morning at 8am and close Friday morning at 9am.**



Please book for **Masses** via this link-

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=686140&embed=true>

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS** on sale at church doors for \$10. Please place money in SVDP boxes. Thank you.

**THE CHRISTMAS CRIB** is at the front of the church.

Bring the children to see it, tell them the Christmas story. Say the following prayer with them.

**BUT PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH!**



**PRAYER AT THE CRIB**

LORD JESUS,

conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, you become the brother of all human beings.

As we contemplate this wondrous event, may we feel the gladness of the shepherds, share the awe and worship of the wise men, and always sing your praise and glory with the angels. May the star of peace lead us to your love and mercy.

Amen

CHECK OUT THE PARISH WEBSITE

[www.bulimbacatholic.com](http://www.bulimbacatholic.com)

GET THE PARISH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

**THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the Christmas mass ministries - readers and communion ministers, musicians and singers, sacristans and servers, collectors and marshals. It was a genuine team effort. Let us pray that our liturgy has touched the hearts of all those people who came this year to celebrate the Birth of the Lord with us.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** – Thank you for donations to the Christmas Appeal this year. Your response was wonderful.

**MINISTRY**– Now is the time to consider how you will take part in the life of the parish in this New Year. We are looking for parishioners to help as leaders for the children’s liturgy of the word and baptism preparation, plus altar servers. There are also some vacancies on the roster for Communion Ministers. Please contact the parish office to volunteer for a monthly roster.

**VOCATION VIEW:** Even gift bearing kings, accompanied by camels and servants, went to visit Jesus Christ. You, come and follow Him. Take the Good News back to your people: Jesus is Lord of all. Pray for Vocations. To speak to someone about your vocation, please contact the Vocation Centre on 3324 3351

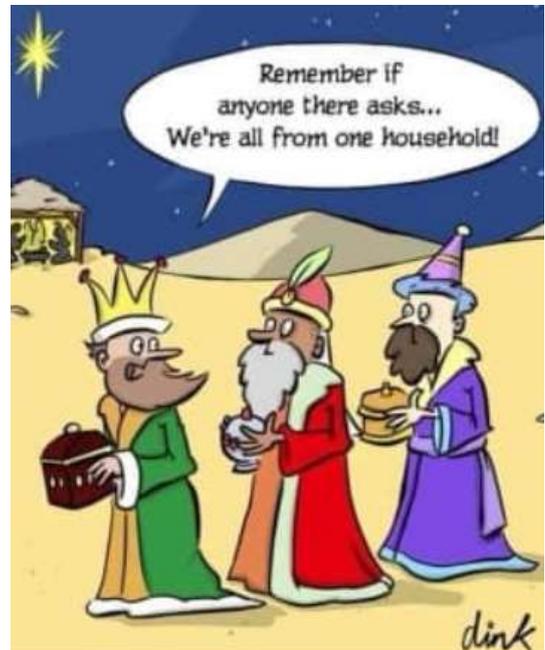


**EPIPHANY** - The English word ‘epiphany’ derives from the Greek term *epiphaneia*, which means ‘to appear’, ‘to be made manifest’. Originally, it referred to insight gained through experience with the divine. Today, we use the (non-capitalised) word ‘epiphany’ variously to refer to a sudden manifestation or perception regarding the essential nature or meaning of something, a ‘light-bulb’ moment involving a realisation or discovery, perhaps even a revelatory circumstance or event.

In Christian tradition, Epiphany (with a capital E), deriving from the same Greek word, refers principally to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the wise men from the East (astrologers or ‘magi’) in the Gospel story (interestingly, there is no mention in the Gospel of how many ‘wise men’ came – the assumption of ‘three’ is probably made because of the three ‘gifts’ of gold, frankincense and myrrh). Traditionally, Epiphany is celebrated twelve days after Christmas on January 6 (or the Sunday closest to this day, as occurs this year) by Catholic and most other Christian churches. Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate it on January 19, since they commemorate Christmas Eve on January 6.

As an aside: in earlier times in England and other countries, the night before Epiphany (that is, the twelfth night) was often marked with considerable eating and drinking – even more so than the twelve days previous – to signify the end of the Christmas season. Indeed, Shakespeare wrote his romantic comedy *Twelfth Night or What You Will* as an entertainment for such a night. And a cautionary word: in some countries, superstition holds that it is unlucky to leave Christmas decorations hanging after the twelfth night!

**A sense of humour is a gift from God. Laughter unites us.**





## Liturgy this Week 4 January – 10 January 2021

MONDAY	-	-
TUESDAY	-	-
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm	Mass
THURSDAY	-	-
FRIDAY	8:00am	Mass followed by Adoration and Benediction
SATURDAY	9:00am	Mass
SUNDAY	<b>6:00pm (Saturday); 8:00am; 5:30pm</b>	<b>Mass: BAPTISM of the LORD</b>
<i>Readings – Isaiah 55:1-11 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11</i>		
<b>OTHER LITURGY AND PRAYER</b>		
RECONCILIATION	Saturday at 9:30am and 5:00pm	
ROSARY/ANGELUS	Saturday before the 9:00am Mass	

### ENTRANCE HYMN

## WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are:

Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,

Field and fountain moor and mountain,

Following yonder star.

*Refrain*      *O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,

Gold I bring to crown Him again

King forever, ceasing never,

Over us all to reign.

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**GLORIA**    *Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.*

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,  
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

### COMMUNION HYMN

## SHEPHERD ME O GOD

*Refrain*    *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
Beyond my fears, from death into life,*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
All the days of my life:  
I well dwell in the house of my God forever more.

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### RECESSIONAL HYMN

## WE THREE KINGS

Glorious now, behold Him arise, King and God,  
And sacrifice!  
Heaven sings 'Alleluia!'  
'Alleluia!' the earth replies

*Refrain*      *O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!*

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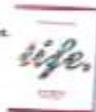
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