

## NEWSLETTER

◆ TOM ELICH parish priest ◆ GERRY CROOKS pastoral associate ◆ HELEN PRICE and HELEN COLE parish secretaries ◆ ANN-MAREE NICHOLLS sgs school principal ◆

# The Epiphany of the Lord

### POPE FRANCIS WRITES ON THE CHRISTMAS CRIB (*Part 5*)

9. As the feast of Epiphany approaches, we place the statues of the Three Kings in the Christmas crib. Observing the star, those wise men from the East set out for Bethlehem, in order to find Jesus and to offer him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These costly gifts have an allegorical meaning: gold honours Jesus' kingship, incense his divinity, myrrh his sacred humanity that was to experience death and burial.

As we contemplate this aspect of the nativity scene, we are called to reflect on the responsibility of every Christian to spread the Gospel. Each of us is called to bear glad tidings to all, testifying by our practical works of mercy to the joy of knowing Jesus and his love. The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, thirsting for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem.

Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. They are not scandalised by the poor surroundings, but immediately fall to their knees to worship him. Kneeling before him, they understand that the God who with sovereign wisdom guides the course of the stars also guides the course of history, casting down the mighty and raising up the lowly. Upon their return home, they would certainly have told others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations.

10. Standing before the Christmas crib, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren...

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crib is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us... And to realise that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

*From Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 'Admirabile Signum', December 2019*



#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, ev'ry 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** Pauline O'Loughlin SGS, Lorraine Montiford and Barbara Stefano **recently deceased and also for** John Fletcher, Gary Fletcher, Rev Bryan Lee, Stan Grzegorzolka, Patrick O'Connell, Mary O'Connell, Patricia O'Connell, Vince Long, Patrick Long, Eve Long, Arthur Wilson, Mavis Wilson, Norm and Katie Timmins, Norman, Patricia and Daniel Timmins, Patrick and Pat Boyle, Karen Baker, Mike West and Noel Nicholson.



**Please remember the sick in your prayers**  
 Diane Peck, James Bates, Maureen O'Connor,  
 Carmen Turner, Marlyn and John Chester, John  
 Clarke, Jan Low (nee Stefano), Maria Borzelleca.

**DATE CLAIMERS 2020**

**Thursday 9 January** MAHJONG - parish hall 9.30am  
 St Vincent de Paul meet 6pm  
**Monday 13 January** 'HEARTFIT' recommences for 2020  
**Saturday 18 January** SANTO NINO – 11am mass

**THE CHRISTMAS CRIB** is at the front of the church. Bring the children to see it, tell them the Christmas story. **BUT PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH!** Say the following prayer with them.

**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

**FIESTA in honour of SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO (Holy Child)** will be held at Sts Peter and Paul's church with Mass at 11am on 18 January, followed by lunch in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Everyone is very welcome.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2020**  
 Please mark these important dates in your diary for next year.

**PENANCE** (Year 5 children)  
**Parent workshop sessions**  
 20 February 7:30pm OR 21 February 9:30am  
**FIRST COMMUNION** (Year 4 children)  
**Parent workshop sessions**  
 23 April 7:30pm OR 24 April 9:30am  
**Celebration of First Holy Communion 13-14 June**  
**CONFIRMATION** (Year 3 children)  
**Parent workshop sessions**  
 30 July 7:30pm OR 31 July 9:30am  
**Celebration of Confirmation 8 and 10 September**



**MAHJONG GROUP** that usually meets each Thursday at St John the Baptist Hall in Oxford Street, will meet for 2 weeks 9:30am-12noon from 9 January at our Parish Hall. All welcome.

**VOCATION VIEW:** More valuable than material gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, is the invaluable gift of our lives. There is no greater gift than to lay down one's life for one's friends. Pray for Vocations. To speak about your vocation, please contact the Vocation Centre on 3324 3351



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



**NO PARKING please on the paved area in front of the church**

CHECK OUT THE PARISH WEBSITE  
[www.bulimbacatholic.com](http://www.bulimbacatholic.com)  
 GET THE PARISH NEWSLETTER ONLINE  
 School newsletter: [www.stspp.qld.edu.au](http://www.stspp.qld.edu.au)

**WANTED! - Interested parishioners and/or parents to join the 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' volunteer team in 2020**

The 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' program (for children Prep to Year 2) is held concurrently with Sunday morning 8am Mass during school terms. After the opening prayer, children gather in the Parish Hall to celebrate and learn about the Liturgy of the Word in a way that is engaging for their level of understanding.

**What's involved?** A team of two volunteers are rostered one Sunday per school term to facilitate the approximately 20minute session using pre-prepared material accessed anytime from an online portal. (<https://www.kidsliturgy.com/>).

**Interested?** Contact Ana Croger on M: 0407628389 or via email at [anacroger@gmail.com](mailto:anacroger@gmail.com) to join the volunteer team or find out more!

Interested volunteers are welcome to attend and shadow a session. New volunteers will be paired with more experienced volunteers and are invited to attend the annual orientation session early in 2020. [Please note: As part of the Parish's commitment to the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy, volunteers working with children (considered a 'high risk' category) require a Blue Card (Volunteer), Police History Check and need to attend a mandatory 2 hour safeguarding training session arranged through the Parish Office.]

**DROP-IN-FRIDAY** Come and enjoy hospitality plus morning tea with some friendly people on the first Friday of each month in the Parish Hall 10am-12 noon. Learn to play cards. Join the knitting table or just join in the conversation. The first date for 2020 is Friday 7 February. All very welcome

**PARISH MORNING TEA** – We are looking for volunteers to assist with hospitality after 8am Sunday mass on a shared roster. Parish morning tea is usually held twice in the month and is a vital parish community ministry. If you are able to help please contact the parish office with your details.

**PARISH FRIDGE CALENDARS** are available in the church and at the parish office for those who missed out at Christmas.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH COORPAROO** invites applications for the part-time position of Finance Officer – 10 hours per week. For a copy of the position description and to apply, please visit the following link. <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/> Applications close Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**CATHEDRAL GUIDES AND WELCOMERS** invite you to an information session on Thursday 6 February 2020 at 10.30am to discover the delights of volunteering with them. The meeting will be held in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre. If you enjoy meeting people and revel in good art and history, the rewards of becoming a volunteer guide is beyond measure. Training is offered. For further information please contact the Cathedral on 3324 3030 or email [deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au) by Friday 24 January 2020.

**IGNITE YOUTH SUMMER CAMP** – 10-13 January at QCCC Mapleton. Contact [summercamp@igniteyouth.com](mailto:summercamp@igniteyouth.com) for further information.

**PARISH ROSTERS**

**Readers, Communion Ministers, Sacristans and Altar Servers**  
 Team 1 - please arrange a substitute if not available

**Hospitality Roster**  
 12 January – Adriana Fernando.

**Casserole Bank Roster**  
 Recommences in February

**+ Liturgy this Week** 6 January 2020 – 12 January 2020

MONDAY	-	-
TUESDAY	-	-
WEDNESDAY	-	-
THURSDAY	-	-
FRIDAY	8:00am 8:30am	Mass Adoration
SATURDAY	9:00am	Mass
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6:00pm (Saturday); 8:00am; 5:30pm</b>	<b>Mass: The Baptism of the Lord</b>
<i>Readings – Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17</i>		

**OTHER LITURGY AND PRAYER**

RECONCILIATION	Saturday at 9:30am and 5:00pm
ROSARY/ANGELUS	Saturday before the 9:00am Mass
MEDITATION	Tuesday at 4pm Lourdes Hill Convent, 50 Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne

**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:

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship Him, God most high:

Text; Matthew 2:1-11; Tune: John H Hopkins Jr. 1820-1891. All rights reserved. Used with permission ONE LICENCE #A-621195

**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

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**HERE I AM LORD**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*REFRAIN*  
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord. If you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them, whom shall I send?

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**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**WE THREE KINGS**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes  
A life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,  
Dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

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

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

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# New Year Blessing of the Home

According to an ancient custom in England, families marked the door of their home with blessed chalk for the new year. Chalk will be blessed at Masses for Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 20

The letters C M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode). During the rite, children may hold the figures of the three wise men from the family Christmas crib. The family gathers at the front door of the home.

## **Chalk Mark Words to be Said**

Peace be upon this house and  
with all of us who live here.

**Amen.**

(Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11)

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 had 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The three wise men

**C** Caspar

**M** Melchior

**B** Balthasar

followed the light of the star  
to find Jesus, the Son of God,  
who came to live among us

**20** two thousand

**20** and twenty years ago.

**+** May Christ bless our home today

**+** and remain with us throughout the year.

Let us pray.

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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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