

## Gospel Reflection – Feast of the Epiphany Year C (Matthew 2:1-12)

God's presence is revealed to us in diverse ways: we can read the "story" of God's universe; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can listen to the voice of our sacred scriptures. Such learning has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgement of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany is the feast of the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem attracts the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. They follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named in the text as Emmanuel, God-with-us. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born king of the Jews. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

### BULLETIN for the EPIPHANY of the LORD, YEAR C



#### ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

#### MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 4th JANUARY 2016

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	9.00 AM

#### **READINGS - The BAPTISM of the LORD, YEAR C**

First:	Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11
Second:	Titus 2:11-14.3:4-7
Gospel:	Luke 3:15-16.21-22

**RECENT DEATHS:** Nancy Nugent, Mark Keirl.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Troy & Maurie Troy, Fr. Paddy Culligan.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

Next Week: .**Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.



### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,124.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>695.00</u>
		\$ 2,119.50
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 778.00

### EVENTS

- Wednesdays **Rosary** in the Chapel of Visitation at St. John of God Hospital at 12.45 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday afternoons **Legion of Mary** meets at Nazareth House, Mill St. Ballarat, at 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 5332 8624 or 5332 7227.
- **Legion of Mary Prayers:** Prayers of Petition to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral from 11.15 am - 11.45 am on 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

### KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE: VOLUNTEERS WORKERS WANTED

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks - administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning, etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. For further details, and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr, ph. 08 9192 1060, email: [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org) web: [www.broomedioocese.org](http://www.broomedioocese.org) or mail: PO Box 76 Broome WA 6725.

### ADVANCE NOTICE - DATES FOR 2016

- Rite of Election: Saturday, 13th February at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
- Mass of the Oils: Monday, 21st March at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

### A VERY BIG THANK YOU

For your very generous donations totalling \$6,558.00 for the recent Scotsburn Bushfire Appeal.

### MERCY WORKS

Has launched a campaign to raise funds to provide relief for the drought in PNG. The campaign is in direct response to a request from the Bishop of Daru-Kiunga who has requested funds to be able to supply fresh drinking water. People can donate by:

- The campaign is live on <https://chuffed.org/project/let-mercy-rain>
- Is on the Mercy Facebook page with a direct link to the crowd funding site
- Via the Mercy website - special donate button at [www.mercyworks.org.au](http://www.mercyworks.org.au)
- Paper campaign (see forms on notice board)

### FREE E-BOOK FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR E-READER (Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-2)

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader (or tablet), offers the Gospel for everyday of this Liturgical Year C-2 (Sundays Year C, weekdays Year 2), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year C-2 has now begun and will continue till November of 2016. The e-book contains the Gospel passages not only for this present but for any C-2 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their reflections. [www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/)

### DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with an interest in life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or you are welcome to submit items for publication to: [enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au). News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese and include photos where possible.

### GORDON PARISH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

On Sunday, 28th February, 2016 the Gordon Parish Pastoral Council is running a Community Festival at the Wallace Recreation Reserve. Many fun family activities planned with special guest appearances, along with a variety of stalls. Please keep this date free.