

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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The Epiphany (C) *Sunday 3rd January 2016*



Gospel Reflection - *'Where is the infant king of the Jews?'* © Mary Coloe

There are many key images in today's Gospel that have their background in the Scriptures. Bethlehem is the small village in which David, the great king of Israel was born, and later anointed by the Prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16). For this reason Matthew quotes the prophet Micah who speaks of a new leader, a shepherd like David to be born in Bethlehem.

The images of the star and Magi look back to the time of Moses. When the people of Israel escaped from Egypt they wandered in the Sinai wilderness before moving up into the region now known as Jordan. This is on the east bank of the Jordan River. In order to travel into the land of Canaan, they had to pass through the region of Moab and the king of Moab did not want this large group to travel through his land. The king called on his seer (*magus*) to place a curse on the Israelites, but the seer instead pronounced a blessing. This *magus* from the eastern land of Moab proclaimed, 'I see him but not now; I behold him but not near; a star shall come out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel' (Numbers 24:17). In this episode we have the symbols used by Matthew – a magus in the East, seeing a star, the symbol of kingship. By use of these images Matthew continues to show the links between his new Christian community and the more ancient religion of Israel. Like much of the Gospel narrative, we are challenged to move from reading literally to reading these narratives seeking their theology rather than history.

Once again I suggest you make the distinction between the joy-filled narrative of Luke, and the threatening atmosphere of Matthew so that the community recognise two different, symbolic narratives. In the eastern churches this Feast is celebrated as Christmas, for in today's feast Christ is revealed to the Gentiles, the non-Jews. By having foreigners come to the nativity and honour the child, Matthew looks ahead to the later Christian church which by the 80s, when Matthew is writing, has expanded beyond Judaism into the gentile lands.

The Gospel contrasts wisdom and power. The Magi from the east are called wise and they come searching for Jesus in order to offer homage. It takes wisdom to acknowledge the truth of who we are before the mystery of God's ways. In humility they kneel before a child, seeing here a sign of God's presence. Herod acts with power. He commands and expects obedience. He is the King in Judea and will not tolerate another called 'king of the Jews'. Even the words of the Magi and the prophecies from the Scriptures fail to change his grasp on power. Herod's hands cling to his rule while the hands of the Magi open with gifts for the child.

Next week's readings: *Sunday 10th January 2016*

Baptism of the Lord (C)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Recent Deaths: Kathleen Myers, Maude Smith, Val Wood

Anniversaries: Benjamin Broadribb, John Cameron, Sr Dympna Conroy IBVM, Michael Lourey

Welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Lucas Jack Lamond son of Andrew & Kate
May he grow in faith in his loving family and our Catholic Community.



New Catholic Primary School in Lucas – Opening in 2017

The new Catholic School in Lucas will be the third in the Cathedral Parish with St Patrick’s Drummond St and St Thomas More Alfredton. Community information evenings for the new Catholic Primary School in Lucas have created great interest from many prospective families. The new school will be designed to accommodate a long term enrolment of approximately 350-400 students and will encompass Prep/Foundation to Year 6. The position of Principal or Co-Principals for the new school has been [advertised](#) with applications closing on February 12th with a commencement expected mid-2016. The [architects Y2](#) have been appointed to master plan the site and have commenced working with the Steering committee (Frank Stuart – Cathedral Parish, Fr Justin – Governing Authority, Mark Hogbin and Rosa Tocchet – our current Parish School Principals, Brad Carr, Julie Duynhoven and Tony Perkins – Catholic Education Office Ballarat).

Stewardship Envelopes

If you have not received your new envelopes they available for collection from the Parish Office.

Collections Envelopes \$2,612.80 Parish Loose \$263.00 Presbytery \$2106.40

Counters 3rd January Team 6 Next week team 7

Masses during the coming week

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| Monday | 12.05pm | Cathedral | | | |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Redan | 12.05 pm | Cathedral | 5.30 pm Loreto Sisters |
| Wednesday | 9.30am | Sebastopol | 12.05 pm | Cathedral | 5.30 pm Loreto Sisters |
| Thursday | 9.30am | Redan | 11.30 am | St John of God | 12.05 pm Cathedral |
| Friday | 9.30am | Sebastopol | 12.05pm | Cathedral | |
| Saturday | 10.00 am | Cathedral | (11.30 am | Reconciliation) | |

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| Cathedral Parish Masses | January 9th/10th | Skipton | Beaufort | Snake Valley |
| 6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, | 10.30 am, | 5.00 pm | 7.30 pm Vigil | 8.30am |
| | | | | 10.30 am |

Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au



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| Clergy | Frs Justin Driscoll, | James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu SDB |
| Parish Office | Jacinta Westbrook, | Finance Officer Philip Westbrook |
| Family Ministry | Anita Houlihan, | Hospital Pastoral Care, Kaye Stringer |
| Principals | St Patrick’s Primary Mark Hogbin, St Thomas More Rosa Tocchet, | |