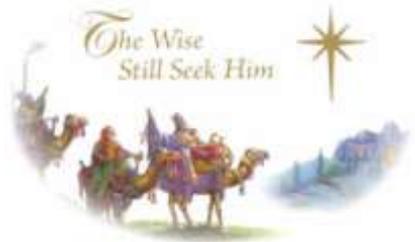


Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

Feast of the Epiphany - 3rd January 2016



The Epiphany

They followed the star until it shone on the child Jesus.

May the Lord bless your 2016 with peace, love, joy and hope, gifts of our Saviour to all the world.

From Fr. Peter. Thank you for your warm Christmas Greetings, gifts, prayers. My gratitude to all who contributed to our Christmas Masses, prepared our Churches. Flowers, cribs, tree, cleaning, music— Chris and Choir, ministries, all helping our Parishioners and visitors in their worship. May God Bless your generosity and support.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Making Connections: How has Christmas changed the way you act or think? In what ways do you encounter Christ in your life?

Marriage Tip: "As the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." (Col 3:13) A big part of being a holy family is giving and receiving forgiveness. "I'm sorry / I forgive you". Never hesitate to say healing, forgiving grateful words

Daily Prayer. By the light of a star, O God of the universe, you guided the nations to the Light of the world. Until the Redeemer comes again in glory, we, with the Magi, seek the face of the Saviour. Summon us with all those who thirst now to the banquet of love. May our hunger be filled, our thirst quenched with your word of truth.

A Vocation View: Many people continue to traipse across the earth looking for a shining star. Let us as God's people show who lights up life, and how we walk a different way with Jesus.

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. 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. This seer (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 – men 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 Is-

rael. 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. The Magi open gifts for the child.

May joy and mercy love, peace, hope, truth, light and forgiveness be the treasures we carry into 2016. Offer these to all we meet as God's gifts to us. Thank you for your service and ministry.

COLLECTIONS - thank you

Last Sunday - 1st Collection (Presbytery)

Horsham: \$867. Murtoa: \$90. Dimboola: \$56. **Total: \$1012**

Parish - 2nd Collection (Envelopes, loose):

Envelopes: \$1915. Loose: \$65.50. **Total: \$1980.50**

Christmas Parish/Presbytery Collection:

Horsham: \$2589.90. Murtoa: \$244. Dimboola: \$100. **Total: \$2933.90**

Bishop's Christmas Appeal: \$2784.00

Christmas Dues (to date): \$1450. Thank you most sincerely

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 5th Jan	5.30pm
Wednesday 6th Jan	9.30am
Thursday 7th Jan	9.30am
Friday 8th Jan	9.30am
Saturday 9th Jan	10am

Fr Peter is at MacKillop Centre Sydney until Jan 22nd, He will remember your intentions at St Mary's Tomb. Fr John will live here in that time. Mass on Australia Day will be at 10am in SMJ. Our School Staffs return on January 27th.

Epiphany Today we remember the three wise men who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing Him gifts. The gifts we bring - our time, service, prayer, care, and some who share of what we earn for the work they do - are equally precious in God's sight.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, my creator, breathe on me, renew me, refresh me, extend my abilities, comfort me in adjusting to changes in health, mobility and activity. Body of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being. Keep me well, and hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others. Amen



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Ann O'Neill (England, sister of Bill Kennedy), Terry McManus.

ANNIVERSARIES: Chin Wan Lui, Dan Burns, Alec Pekin, Bridget Jackman, Michael Hudson, Bill Pilkington

SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Bill Kennedy, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan, Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, Eileen Finnigan, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Jill and Christie Higgenbottoms, Roma Magee, Joy Flynn.

Emergency Care: Coordinator Betty 5382 6688

Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)

Saturday Morning Devotions:
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20
Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass

Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Month
Baptism of the Lord - 10th January

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm

Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday LLA 9am**



Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet
HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

ROSTERS

January 2/3	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Tess Hayes Anne Newton Silvanna Foster Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Anthony Amor	Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Zita Cannane Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Conn
January 9/10	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Betty Heinrich	Emelia Sudholz
Commentator	Les Butler	Mary Marshall
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Joan Parker Ann Hermans Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes B. Trounce	Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalglish Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Rosie Taylor Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann
Projector	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Pat Strachan Joan Whiley	Alistair Castle Sharon Creasey
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren	

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 10th: Zita Cannane, Mary Lawson, Lorraine Clancy, Veronica Barker. **Jan 17th:** Pat O'Connor, Win Stephens, Barbara Connellan, Kath Atkins.

Thank you to all who helped with the catering at the 2 funerals last Wednesday, very hot. Wonderful support for the two families. Thank you Betty and your teams, fantastic. Another wonderful ministry in our Parish.

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son

your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets

was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Acclamation Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

