

**Reflection on the Gospel– Feast of the Epiphany Year B  
(Matthew 2:1-12)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

God's presence is revealed to us in diverse ways: we can read the book of God's vast creation; 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. Being attentive to God's presence 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 personal and communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community teaches us humility. It also teaches respect for the whole of creation and for the power of the more-than-human 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. They learn from the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, the "scribes of the people". They then follow the star that leads them 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. 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 and to pay him homage. They also come to recognise, in a dream, the duplicity of King Herod. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to "bring him word" of the newborn king. Warned once again in a dream, 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 diverse cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, to honour the birth and the life of every child and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of self-serving rulers who find their positions threatened by the different sort of power that is based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



**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, 8TH JANUARY 2018**

**MONDAY:** No Mass  
**TUESDAY:** No Mass  
**WEDNESDAY:** No Mass  
**THURSDAY:** 2.00 pm Funeral Mass in Parish Church  
**FRIDAY:** 9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

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

**2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**READINGS** First: Samuel 3:3-10,19  
Second: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20  
Gospel: John 1:35-42

**RECENT DEATHS:** Monica Morgan, Jean Bernet, Fr. Brian Tiernan SAC, John Madden, John Morris.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr. Paddy Culligan.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Maria Wilson, Noreen Mullane.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

**This Week: Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

**Next Week: Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 849.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>140.00</u>
		\$ 1,289.20
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 664.00



**COMMUNION IN THE PARISH**

Will all who take Holy Communion to those in private homes please contact Jim on 5332 6611 with details.

A big *thank you* to all who have indicated their willingness to assist with this very important ministry to our nursing homes. You have not been forgotten and will be contacted soon.

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Please collect your envelopes and/or statements this weekend.

**STUDY TOUR OF THE BIBLICAL LANDS 2018**

Come and join us for our information session for *Study Tour of the Biblical Lands 2018* on Saturday, 20 January 2018 from 2.00—4.00 pm. In 2018 we are travelling to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Territories, Turkey and Greece plus there is the opportunity to add on 3 days in Rome! If you are interested in attending this information session please advise me on 9412 3314 or via email [jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au](mailto:jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au) by Wednesday, 17 January 2018.

**PROCLAIM CONFERENCE 2018—SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Diocesan Foundation has offered sponsorship for six people from the diocese to attend the PROCLAIM 2018 CONFERENCE in Brisbane from July 12-14 ([www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au)). Further information is available on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**DIOCESAN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PROJECT WORKER**

Ballarat Diocese will be employing a Project Worker in Youth and Young Adult Ministry in 2018, the Year of Youth. This will initially be a 12 month position, fulltime preferred but not essential. A position description will be available on the diocesan website in January or you can contact [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) to have the position description emailed to you.

**DIOCESAN E-NEWS**

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with, or with an interest in the 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.

**PRAYING**  
by  
**Mary Oliver**

*“It doesn’t have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot,  
or a few small stones,  
just pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don’t try  
to make them elaborate.  
This isn’t a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.”*