

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH - WARRNAMBOOL

Parish Office: 5562 2231 Fax: 5562 2230

E-mail: warrnambool@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land - The Gunditjmara People. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect & commit to working for reconciliation & justice.

PARISH STAFF: Fr John Fitzgerald (Parish Priest)
Kathleen Card (Pastoral Associate)
Barry Wolff (Business Manager)
Leanne McElgunn (Secretary)
Pat Negri (Gardening/Maintenance)

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER: Anne Maree Mugavin

Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 1.00pm; 1.30pm - 4.00pm

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS: Michael Gray (St Joseph's School)
Peter Morgan (Emmanuel College)

WEEK-END LITURGIES: **Sunday:** 8.30am - 10.30am - 6.00pm
Purnim: 11.00am (Eucharist on 2nd and 4th Sundays)
(Assembly of Word with Communion on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

WEEK-DAY LITURGIES: **Wednesday:** 10.00am (Liturgy of Word with Communion)
Friday: 10.00am (Eucharist)
Friday: 10.30am (Reconciliation)

Deaths: Maureen Kelly, Xavier Cassidy, Darcy Membrey

Anniversaries: We remember in Prayer: Rita Neagle

Wedding Bells: Congratulations and God's Blessing to Ashlee O'Keefe & Xavier Quinlan on their wedding this weekend

Re-union: Fr John will be in Melbourne for a couple of days this week for his year re-union with fellow year mates.

Thankyou: Special thanks from the family who assisted their mother at 10.30am Mass last Sunday: she is recovering well.

Plenary Council: A bookmark is available giving some background information and offering people an opportunity to participate in the Plenary Council process.

Stewardship - Finances

Stewardship: Weekly average contributions for the month of December

Parish: \$2,028.00 **Pledged Amount:** (per week) \$2,820 **Presbytery:** \$1,498.00

NB: Parish contributions consists of envelopes, credit cards & direct debit

The Epiphany of the Lord



THE FEAST OF SYMBOLISM

We, the **hearers** of the story, are invited to **recognise** ourselves in the scene. There is a natural inclination to **interpret** the Gospel stories in a far more **literal** way than they were ever **intended**.

We are encouraged to reflect on the **meaning** behind these stories.

Just as the **magi** from the East came in **search** for Christ;
We too are on a search (journey of faith).

We have a '**star**' to follow (Christ);
We have '**gifts**' to bring.

We also encounter the deviousness of the '**Herod**' within us'
And like the magi we are free to return '**home**' a '**different**' way.

Local Church News: In dialogue with the local communities and due to decreasing number of worshippers the faith communities of Hawkesdale (Koroit Parish), Orford and Yambuk (Port Fairy Parish) will close. Final Masses in February.

Fr Bill van de Camp, Parish Priest of the parishes of Port Fairy and Koroit, will retire at the end of April due to ill-health. We wish Fr Bill good wishes in his remaining few months.

Christmas Appeal: 'Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often requests come through people who have bonds with diocese of Ballarat... I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and your parishioners ... Yours sincerely in Christ' **Bishop Paul Bird**

The Christmas Appeal will be taken up at all Masses today (2nd collection).