



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

The Epiphany of our Lord - 5th January 2019



Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm

The ancient feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the whole universe is in God and that God is in us. It celebrates the presence of God who is revealed to us in wondrous ways: in creation; in our dreams; in our day to day experience; in our sacred stories.

Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways 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 more-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves towards a more profound encounter with the divine.

Epiphany has long been associated with 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 traditionally been 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 newborn 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 storyteller 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.

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Blessing of The New Year

Lord, at the beginning of this new year, we thank you for your gift of time. Let us embrace time as Mary did, as the experience of unfolding of your plan of salvation. We measure time with calendars and watches. You experience time as an ever-present "now." Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months, of holydays and holidays, of feasts and fasts, and all our special days of remembering. Please bless these instruments with which we measure time. Let them remind us that you are the master of time as we dedicate this 2020 to you. Lord, bless this New Year, each of its days and nights. Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives. Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2020. Grant that it will be a year of love and peace, goodwill and service. Amen.

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to embrace. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus, offered to Him in our service of others. *The really Christian response, is not indifference but concern for our neighbour to recognise that my neighbour is my brother or sister in the worldwide human family. This is a great vision. It is also a great challenge. It calls us to show concern for our neighbour and offer them whatever help we can in any trouble they might face. -Pope Francis.*

PARISH CONTACTS

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We welcome Fr John who is in our Parish whilst Fr Peter is at MMP in Sydney. Fr Nambikkai will celebrate Masses today at Dimboola and Nhill, then go to Melbourne and Sydney. He will be here on January 18/19, returning home on January 20th.

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

12th January -

Dimboola Mass 8.30am

Murtoa AWC 9am

19th January -

Dimboola 8.30am

Murtoa 8.30am

Kaniva 10.30am

26th January -

Natimuk 8.30am.

Murtoa AWC 9am

Dimboola Mass 12.15pm

2nd Feb: Murtoa 8.30am.

Dimboola 12.15. Nhill 5pm

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Jan 7th 5.30pm

Wednesday Jan 8th 9.30am

Thursday Jan 9th 9.30am

Friday Jan 10th 9.30am

Saturday Jan 11th 10am

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Christmas Dues \$ 435.00 Murtoa \$ 90.00

Horsham \$ 1038.00 Dimboola \$ 57.00

Total \$ 1185.00

Planned Giving

Envelopes \$ 783.00 Loose \$ 154.15

Total \$ 937.15



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Carmel Cannard (Echuca, Sr Jacinta's sister), Greg Hogan (Donald, Barry & Therese's brother), Jenny Carracher (Geelong, sister-in-law to Rosemary Pritchett & Helen Hunter)

ANNIVERSARIES: Romano Radolovi, Jenny Boyko, Jenny Issell, Margaret Lawson, Anne O'Neill, Edward Jackman, Ede Pekin

SICK: Brian Rice, Debbie Nolan, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas.

Emergency Care: Parish Office 53821155

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
Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord - 12th January**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 9.00am**

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

ROSTERS

Jan 4/5	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Geoff Simpson Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts	Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon
Jan 11/12	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Frank O'Connor	Kingsley Dalglish
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Shayne Keenan
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Peter Gutteridge Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton	Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane
Projector	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
Welcomers	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Marina Manserra Zita Cannane

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 12th: Zita Cannane, Mary Lawson, Lorraine Clancy, Veronica Barker **Jan 19th:** Pauline Barber Gwen Antonucci, Carmel O'Connor, Kate Herson-Spasic

Parish Secretary (Camille) Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 8.30am to 12.30pm.
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30am to 3.30pm

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



First 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.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)
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.

Gospel Acclamation

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. Warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by a different way.

