8 January 2023, Epiphany, Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Ariah Park
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Parish Priest Fr Sijo Jose Email: Sijo.Jose@cg.org.au
St Therese Barellan

In our Prayers: Alicia Bonny, Frances Vince, Jim Bonny, Barry Carroll, Neville Caldow, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel,
For our Deceased: Family, friends, parishioners and community members., those who have died tragically in recent accidents, Neville Popple, *(anniversary)*

January 14-15	Ariah Park 6 .00 p.m. Sat *Liturgy*	
Mass	Temora 6.00 p.m.	
Mass	Ardlethan 8.00 a.m.	Barellan 10.00 a.m.

Reflection
They Offered Him Gifts. For some Christians the feast of Epiphany is the day on which gifts are exchanged. As we observe the wise men opening their treasures in today's Gospel and offering gifts to Jesus, we can ask: *what precious gifts can we offer to Jesus today?* We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh but we have our love, our fidelity, our time. We can give these to Jesus by giving them to those in need.

House Blessing
As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany you might like to take the opportunity to bless your home. Doing it on the feast of the *"Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of "chalking the doors."* The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2023 — is simple: take chalk of any colour and write the following above the entrance of your home: 20 + C + M + B + 23. *(No need for the actual chalking – information provided for your interest!)* The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: *"May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "23"* at the end mark the year.
Prayer to bless our Home:
Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jubilees
It's that time of year again when the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate their jubilees. For your interest Sisters whom you may know are:
Diamond
Sr Beryl Drew
Sr Frances McAleer
I will be joining with them and other Sisters including a cousin of mine, at North Sydney at their celebration on Friday and staying down for the Regional Jubilee Celebrations and Meetings.

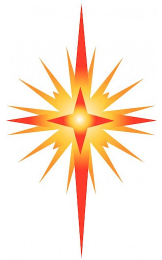
Christmas Crib
As we will return to Ordinary Time next week it would be appropriate to pack up the crib this weekend. Thank you in anticipation to those who will be able to assist after our Liturgy with this task. Drapes will be changed to green.
Thank you for your preparation of the church and grounds for Christmas, especially, Andrina for the flowers and Bruce for the lawns. May God bless you.

Reflection
In sum, the Magi had more faith in God than in their own ideas and understanding. They were willing to sing "I spent a lifetime looking for you" for the rest of their lives. We might look to them as the patron saints of evolution, reminders that no matter how much we accomplish, learn or love, God keeps offering more to those who are willing to seek and find it. ... Surely, we will sometimes end up in the wrong places, but, like the Magi who could leave Herod to his own devices, it's always possible to reorient ourselves. Our journey will not end on this Earth, but we cannot do better than spend our lifetime seeking."
Sr Mary McGlone csj

"Follow the bright star of Jesus. Have courage,
because the light of Jesus can overcome the darkest darkness."
Pope Francis

Let us imitate the Magi: Looking Upwards, Setting Out,
and freely offering our gifts. **Pope Francis**

And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new
and trust the magic of beginnings.
Meister Eckhart



Roster: 15 January Reader: Bernard