

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 07
8 January 2023
Year C

VERITAS



Epiphany of the Lord

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP
(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church
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Antill Street, Watson ACT

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Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
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9am to 12.30pm

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Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am
Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday
4pm - 4.45pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Friday's 6pm - 7pm

Pray the Rosary

Before 10am Mass on Sundays



PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is
NOON TUESDAY

Please contact the office Ph. 6248 5925
or Email: watson@cg.org.au



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Malachi 3: 1; 1 Chronicles 29: 12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

First reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet

Above you the glory of the Lord appears
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 your 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

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

Second reading - Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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 that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 - The visit of the Magi

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon is NOT recited when hymns are sung.

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Matthew 2: 2

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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THANK YOU

Thank You Fr William (Loh) for your care and assistance to the Parish over the Christmas period.
We wish you well in your transfer from Adelaide to Melbourne and hope you enjoyed your stay in Canberra.

EIPANY

This Sunday we have the marvellous and intriguing story of the 'three wise men from the East' who left their home country to follow a star.

Eventually, the star stopped over a stable in Bethlehem. Overwhelmed with joy, they found a Child and his mother. They knelt before the Child, paid him homage, and offered him gifts. Then they left and were never heard of again – but their story has been told and retold thousands of times.

I wonder if we are being called to follow their example. Called to be wise, to listen to the soft intimations of the Divine, leading us away from comfortable surroundings to undertake a journey – maybe into unknown territory – where eventually we, too, discover Jesus, with his mother?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TOO LATE

Epiphany is the last official day of the Christmas season. Tomorrow, we as a Church transition back to Ordinary Time.

The first day of my Christmas break, I would make all sorts of plans. Then, on my last day of Christmas break, I would wake up and realize how few of things I had planned to do I had actually done. Then I would get this overwhelming feeling that I had missed it all.

And maybe that's how you feel about the Christmas season. You went to Christmas Mass, had Christmas dinner with your family, opened Christmas presents, but you don't feel a whole lot closer to Jesus.

If you feel that way, don't despair! The Three Kings today remind us, it's not too late!

Matthew tells us that the three magi, or members of the ruling class from Persia, noticed a new star in the sky, took it as a sign that a new king had been born in Israel and travelled to Jerusalem to greet the newborn king.

The distance from Persia to Jerusalem was over 1,000 miles. In Jesus' time, a trip of that distance most likely would have taken months. Talk about arriving to the party late! The shepherds and the choir of angels would have come and gone. All the excitement of Jesus' birth would have been pretty much over by the time the three kings arrived.

Even though they were late arrivals, that didn't stop

Cont... them from having a life-changing encounter with Jesus. When they finally made it the place Jesus was they were overjoyed. When they saw "the child with Mary his mother, they prostrated themselves and did him homage. They opened their treasures" to Him and allowed Jesus into their lives. So, even though this is the last day of the Christmas season, you can still have a new encounter with the Lord this Christmas. Take some time to pray today, opening your heart to the Lord. Tell Him how overjoyed you are that He has come into the world. Ask Jesus to use you and your treasures this New Year. Ask the Three Kings to pray with and for you as you celebrate this last day of Christmas..It's never too late to meet Jesus.

EMPTY HANDS

Epiphany.

*Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP preaches
on the gifts the wise men gave ... and received.*

The magi gave the child Jesus 'gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' Why did they bring him gifts? These would not have been useful for Mary's child. What would they have done with them?

The point of course is not that Jesus's family needed these presents, though presumably gold always comes in handy! These gifts were not in recognition of what he wanted but of who he was. The gold was the recognition of his kingship, the frankincense of his priesthood and the myrrh of the death that he would die.

So the magi gave him gifts in honour of the gift that he was to them, and is to us. These gifts show not that the child Jesus was needy but that we are, who long for this priestly king who gave his life for us. The magi go to seek him with their bags full of precious things, but more importantly they depart with their hands empty, and thus able to receive the gift of all that Jesus is. Contrast this with how Herod sees the child, as a threat to what he possesses, to his kingship and riches. His hands are too full to receive the gift that he too is offered in Christ. If we are to receive the gifts of this Epiphany, then we must empty our hands too.

Andreas English is a German religious journalist who had been deeply critical of Pope John Paul II. He accompanied the Pope to India in 1999. He went with the Pope to visit the home of Mahatma Gandhi. He was bored, and watched without interest the Pope remove his shoes to honour this holy Hindu. At best he hoped that the Pope would trip up so that he could get a good photo of him flat on the ground.

Then he got into conversation with an old Indian woman, who had known Gandhi and been sent by the Indian government to witness this event. She said 'Gandhi did not have anything. He had only his two empty hands and his Hindu belief. But the powerful British empire, with all its gunboats and armies, was not able to win the fight against his empty hands. They had no chance against a small faithful Hindu. And so it is with the Pope. He didn't have any armies either. He had only two empty hands like Gandhi, but the Russians were not able to win the fight against his belief, his deep trust in a liberating God.'

This was a moment of revelation that changed the journalist's life for ever. This Christmas most of us will have given and received gifts. We have probably looked for gifts that our friends do need. Even more profoundly our gifts

Cont...are, like those of the magi, in recognition of who are the people whom we love. We delight in their humanity. If we give them books or wine, it is not just because they need these things, but because we take pleasure in the pleasure that they will have in them. We celebrate their enjoyment.

But the heart of all these celebrations is the one who needs no gifts from us but is pure gift. His very being is given to him by the Father from all eternity, and he comes to give himself to us in turn. To receive that gift, then we too need empty hands. We need to recognise that God's fullness of life is what we most deeply yearn for and create a space to receive it.

The Herods of this world cannot receive the gift, for it would mean letting go of their own fullness and self-satisfaction. They can only see the powerless child as a threat. When Manuel Merten OP, who told me of this German journalist, went to see the Archbishop of Ho Chi Min city in Vietnam, he asked what was the secret of the wonderful success of the Church in Vietnam. He replied 'I believe it's our powerlessness which makes us so powerful.'

THE BREATH THAT MOVES US

Swaddled tightly beneath a star-blanketed Bethlehem sky, God breathed gently yet powerfully. The acceptable time had come. The prophecies were now — at last — fulfilled. The Creator had invaded His creation on a mission of love and for the next three decades, peace and joy would be breathed and received in tangible new ways. Atop the blood-covered stones of Calvary, Love breathed mercy upon hearts filled with hate. Three days later, Love breathed again within the darkness of a tomb... and then, soon after, Love breathed forgiveness and purpose to fear-filled followers huddled behind locked doors.

Through it all, the divine life of God was communicated through each human breath. Put simply, God breathed not solely so that He might live but that we would. It's fascinating how something so small, a breath, roughly eight ounces of oxygen or carbon dioxide, forms the line between life and death. The Latin word for breath — inspirare — is where we get the term "inspiration"; it literally means, "to breathe [life] into." Inspiration, however, is far more than a biological word or concept, it is a deeply spiritual reality; God's inspiration animates our Christian souls, guides our steps, and offers us both a mission and a purpose. by Mark Hart

POPE FRANCIS

Like the Magi themselves, the feast of the Epiphany has had a long journey. Today in the Western Church it celebrates the gift of salvation for all.

Here's Pope Francis on this: 'The salvation which God has wrought, and the Church joyfully proclaims, is for everyone. God has found a way to unite himself to every human being in every age. He has chosen to call them together as a people and not as isolated individuals. . . . To those who feel far from God and the Church, to all those who are fearful or indifferent, I would like to say this: the Lord, with great respect and love, is also calling you to be part of his people!' (*The Joy of the Gospel* #113)

GANG GANG

Renovations to GangGang began before Christmas and expected to continue until mid February or March. There are no take away facilities. Hopefully, we will be able to gather there again on the third Thursday of February 16th at 10-30 am. There will be no gathering this month. I will advise of any changes in the church bulletin early Feb. Wishing you a Happy New year with many blessings.

PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: Mary Martin, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Mimma Gia, Philip Bailey, Veronica Cornelly, Rosa Maria Santos, Beth Delos Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Peter Catlin, Sue King, Fr Ellis Clifford, Joe Schimizzi, June Pollard, Awny El-Ghitany, Elizabeth Webster, Una Ford, Terry Stephens, Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Una Bell, Anthony Parsonage, Lily Copeland, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Alphonsa Bankovsky, Michelle Brotohusodo, Carmel Slammon, Brian & Suzanne Brown, Fr Rafael Cabezon

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.
Pope Benedict, Gabriel Savas, Dennis McKeon, Romano Ippoliti, Anna Schneider, Geoff Dodd

PRAY THE ROSARY Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. Please join in.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on Thursday evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or www.wccm.org

WEEKLY READER FORMATION - Formation sessions are on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday.

All parishioners are invited. - Meet in the church Office.

HOLY ROSARY WOMEN'S FAITH CIRCLE *WhatsApp Group*. By joining the group you can connect with women of all ages from the Blackfriars (Holy Rosary Church) Parish and School community and grow in fellowship within the Blackfriars community. Send me your mobile number to Emily 0422 815 680 to connect.

ROSTER 14 / 15 January

Saturday 5.00pm - Acolyte - M. Tran
Reader - L. Dowling

Sunday 8.00am - Acolyte - K. Linnard / N. Webb
Reader - Webb Family
D. P. - Clarke / Klekner

Sunday 10.00am - Acolyte - L. Kim
Reader - A. McCarthy
C. Rheinberger
D. P. - J. Kim

Sunday 5.00pm - Acolyte - Volunteer
Reader - M. Brotohusodo
T. de Luca
D. P. - C. Bailey

DONATIONS TO PARISH & PRIESTS

Parish details to contribute to the Planned Giving.
Bank details - Account Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson
BSB: 062786 - A/C : 000013341 - Reference: Name

Priests details to contribute to the First Collection.
Details - Account Name: Dominican Fathers Watson
BSB: 083 347 Account number: 97 310 5044
Reference: Your Name - Donation

**DONATIONS TO ST DOMINICS GARDEN
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PARISH BANKING DETAILS ABOVE
BANK DETAILS - REFERENCE GARDEN**

In a world full of people who couldn't care less,
Be someone who cares more.