

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 7  
7th January  
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

**Assistant Priests**

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

**Holy Rosary Church**  
Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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**Office Staff**

Jacquie Cortese  
Jim Smith

**Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9.00am—12.30pm

**Parish Council**

Andrew Blakey

**Mass times**

Wed 5.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45am  
Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

**Pray the Rosary**

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass  
Saturday after 9am Mass  
and First Saturday each month  
3.30pm

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm  
and 4pm—4.30pm

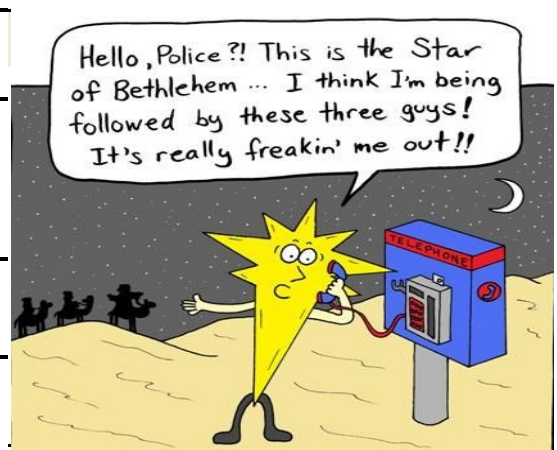
**If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**

# EPIPHANY



A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!	
COMMUNION	We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.	
READINGS	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



### PSALM : 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

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.

### EPIPHANY ALERT

The many little "epiphanies" or revelations of Jesus in our daily lives are Gods gifts to us. If we are sleep-walking through the day, these gifts will remain un-opened. For the next week, go on an Epiphany Alert. Be alert for the signs that Jesus is present in the world and in the people around you. At the end of each day, where it is a beautiful sunset or inspiring song let us acknowledge these little epiphanies.



### THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



Fr Kieran, Fr Rafael and Fr Bernie as well as members of the Parish Team would like to thank all parishioners for your generosity and help during the year. We have a huge list of people to acknowledge. 'Thank You' to the members Parish Finance Council & Parish Pastoral

Council, to the Acolytes, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, School of Religion, Musicians & Choir, Flower Ladies, Pastoral Care Groups, Altar Linen Carers, Data Projector operators, Counters & Collectors, St Vincent de Paul members, Prayer & Reflection Groups, Social Function Organisers, Maintenance, Garden Care, BBQ helpers, Children's Christmas Mass & Crib Organisers, the four ladies that help in the office & all the other quiet achievers who contribute to the life of our wonderful Parish!

**Happy New Year.**

### WHO KNEW?

Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime? In this Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out. The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born, because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born, because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too. For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes. But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate? Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either. But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who didn't know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know. In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure it out for themselves either. The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted, too. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.



<b>In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:</b>	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Fr Ellis Clifford, Philip Bailey, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Mary Harrigan, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Charles Ryan, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Awuny El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Rosemary Denmead, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Alexia Harris, Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi, Lynn & Richard Bale, Zelma McManus
<b>Remember our deceased</b>	Mollie Bouquet, Waqaas Ashraf

## BAPTISM

### *Saverio Pasquale Carbone*

who will be baptised this weekend.  
May his life filled with God's peace,  
and his heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.



## Isaiah 60:1-6 - REFLECTION

In this first reading God's people hear words of encouragement. God is going to "shine on them" again and give them a new opportunity to keep their covenant and be faithful. If they do that, they will be filled with joy. The writer also hints of an even more joyous time when the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will come into the world and persons will come from afar "bearing gold and frankincense."

Like the Israelites, we often fail to keep our covenant with God. But God, who is always faithful, offers us another chance to fill our lives with the peace and joy of God's love.

## Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 - REFLECTION

In the second reading the people of Ephesus are told that the Good News of Jesus is meant not just for the Jews but for all people. We are called to be "co-heirs" in the promise of Jesus Christ. That means we share in his work of salvation by caring for others, by reaching out to those in need, and by being peace-makers.

## Matthew 2:1-12 - GOSPEL REFLECTION

The story of the astrologers, or magi, following the light of a distant star is full of surprises. The astrologers, who were Gentiles, were the first to worship Jesus as the newborn King of the Jews. They found him, not in a palace surrounded by signs of wealth and might, but as a helpless baby in the arms of Mary, his mother. Yet the astrologers believed and worshiped him, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, Matthew tells us, full of joy and wonder, they returned to their distant homes. The astrologers had the faith and wisdom to see in this baby the promised Messiah. Christ shows himself to us, too, and comes into our lives in many ways and through many people. If we are people of faith, we will find him in these little "epiphanies." We will offer him our own gifts. Our prayers and worship, our loving service of others, and our constant faith, even when it might seem hard to find him. Reflect on some of the "little epiphanies" in your life.

*Proclaiming Faith*

**Epiphany** A message of new life bringing new hope to the world. The excitement of a new beginning.

**'We wish you all God's blessing and His love at this festive time and pray that 2018 will be a year of peace, joy, faith, hope, health and happiness.'**

## A NEW WAY

### *Epiphany.*

*fr Richard Ounsworth OP examines*

*how the lives of the Magi must have been changed by their encounter with Jesus Christ.*

There is a very interesting website called 'Television Tropes and Idioms' (tvtropes.org) that lists, quite exhaustively, the plot devices and conventions that script writers use to structure their storytelling. The website points out that these are not simply clichés: a cliché is something stereotyped, trite, dull and uninteresting, whereas these tropes are the vast array of plausible narrative patterns and character-situations by which writers of fiction, skilled and unskilled alike, help their audience to find meaning within a story.

Over the years the database has expanded beyond television to include a number of other genres, but as yet not the scriptures. This seems a shame, because the biblical authors certainly employ and appeal to the same familiar plots that we find in Star Trek, Coronation Street and The Killing. A fun project would be to go to the website and see how many of the tropes listed – and there are hundreds of them – you can find somewhere in the Bible. In particular, there are a whole set related to journeys. This is not surprising, because from the very beginnings of story-telling it seems that the tale of the quest-journey has been a favourite; and in today's Gospel we encounter one such, the quest of the Magi for the new-born King.

I want to take us today to the very end of this journey – and beyond it: we are told that 'they returned to their own country by a different way'. Now this word 'way', in Old Testament and New alike, means more than just the literal road they happen to take. 'Way' also means a way of life, a pattern of behaviour, and for all that it is no doubt literally the case that the Magi were careful to skirt around Jerusalem to give Herod the slip, there is something much deeper going on also. Let us recall that these men, great in the (so-called) wisdom of Persian astrology, wealthy and no doubt much respected, had knelt in homage and worship before the child of Bethlehem. They had learnt, at the culmination of their journey, that their old ways had to change. We see from our first reading and our psalm today that the Jewish people had long foreseen the time when all the nations would flock to Israel to pay her homage; as is so often the case in St Matthew's Gospel in particular, we are reminded that the scriptures of Israel are fulfilled, and yet in an utterly surprising way. Who could have foreseen that this homage would be received by an obscure child of seeming questionable parentage in a nowhere town?

More to the point, the prophets of Israel had not foreseen that, having come from the lands of the Gentiles bringing their gifts, the wise, the wealthy and the powerful would go home again! And yet the Magi cannot go home again, can't return to their old ways, their old positions of power and influence, their wealth and status and luxury. Neither can they return to seeking the secrets of the cosmos in the stars, because now they have seen the one true mystery of creation, a mystery revealed, as St Paul tells us, through the Spirit. Yes, a star had led them to this child, because God in his infinite mercy stoops to accommodate our ways, even sometimes our foolish and misguided ways; but the Magi can be astrologers no longer...So what did happen to these Magi, now that, having at least seen and worshipped the Christ, they have truly become wise men? We do not know; but there are many traditions about them, and for centuries Christians have piously believed that they became Christians and were ultimately martyred for their faith. What, after all, could be more natural than that these men, who went home 'by another way', found that when they got there they no longer fitted in? Their eyes had been opened to the mean reality behind the pomp and wealth of Persian court and Babylonian temple. This was no longer their home, because they had received from Christ infinitely more than they had given him: they had received the faith that brings with it the promise of a heavenly homeland.

# HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

## CATECHISTS FOR 2018

Our Parish is looking for Catechists for 2018 to assist our team currently teaching School of Religion classes on Sunday mornings. No prior experience is necessary, other than an interest in teaching Primary school-aged children about their Catholic faith. A commitment is required of approximately 2-hours each week during school term time. Classes begin 11 February 2018. Training and support is offered by the Archdiocese. Please contact Jacquie Cortese at the Parish Office if you'd like more information.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

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

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

**Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T- switch on your hearing aid.**

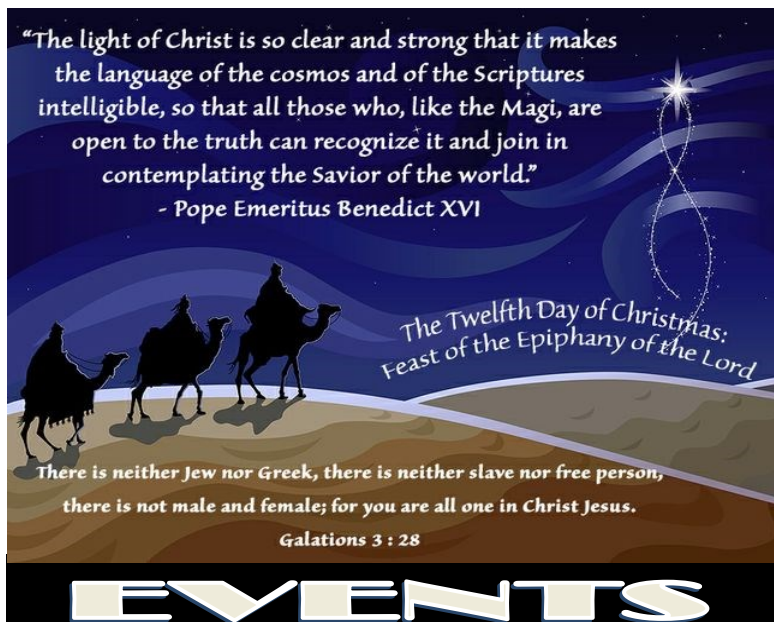
**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

## IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.**

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

**ONLY GOD can turn a MESS into a MESSAGE....a TEST into a TESTIMONY...a TRIAL into a TRIUMPH...a VICTIM into a VICTORY!!**



## 9 - 11 February - SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Parishioners are invited to a living encounter and a life transforming experience with the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit from the 9th to the 11th February 2018.

**9 February - St Monica's Church:** Evatt from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

**10 February - St Brigid's Church:** Dickson from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

**11 February - St Brigid's Church:** Dickson from 10.30am to 5.30pm.

Conducted by Brother Lalith Perera, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Father Ken Barker with support from Fr Bernie Patterson and Loi Vivioicente.

Lunch will be available at a nominal price or BYO. A crèche will also be available for children. Contact: Shan 0412 310364; Karen 0402 160401; Sean 0448 510237.

## 18 - 15 January - CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM

Campion College are offering a 'Summer Program' from 8 to 15 January 2018. An opportunity to experience college: literature, history, hiking, coastal walks & swims, theology, philosophy, sports and other activities. Registration: \$390 per person with financial assistance available. Contact: [study@campion.edu.au](mailto:study@campion.edu.au) or [www.campion.edu.au/summer](http://www.campion.edu.au/summer)

## TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au). All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

## ROSTERS 13 / 14 January 2018

### Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	P. English	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	J. Anderson	
EMOE	C. Lewis	

### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Falk	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	E. M. Falk	
EMOE	N. Clarke	

### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	H. Beasley	
Readers	J. Cooke	A. McCarthy
Presentation of Gifts	Musolino Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

### Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Cornelly	
Readers	M. Proctor	
Presentation of Gifts	De Luca Family	
EMOE	K. Kralikas	E. Kralikas
Counters	C. Barn	G. Gleeson