



## The Epiphany of the Lord

8 January 2017

### First Reading **Is 60:1-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

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.

### Second Reading **Eph 3:2-3. 5-6**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

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 Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### Gospel **Mt 2:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

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.



## Meditation Training

### Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam  
pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au  
T (02) 9644 7787

### Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop  
T (02)8723 9192  
M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora  
Pastor Emeritus SJW

### Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito  
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm  
T (02) 9644 7787

### Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)  
T. 0402071849  
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)  
T. 0408404130  
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)  
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),  
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)  
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)  
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),  
Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit) ,  
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino, Danny Pavicic, Arthur Doumit and Principals of the Parish Schools.

### Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)  
T (02) 9644 8859  
Micheline Botham (Secretary)  
0422939342,  
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel & Brendon Nazareth

### Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park  
T. 96449083  
Principal - Phil Townsend  
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South  
T. 96461434  
Principal - Gai Melville  
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

# Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	The Baptism of the Lord 6.45am Mass
Tuesday	6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass
Thursday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 6.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Friday	6.45am Mass & 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 9.00am - 10.00am Adoration, Novena & Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
Sunday	8.00am Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 10.00am Mass

### Mass Intentions

**Anniversary:** Liam Coyne, Aidan Lynch  
**Recently Deceased:** Teodulfa Estrada  
**Deceased:** Peter Duong Tien Hong, carman Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Bert Portelli, Carmen Spiteri, Anthony Spiteri, Joseph Nguyen Loi, Cathy Mulligan  
**Deceased members and friends of :** Ross & Mitchell Families, Erwin & O'Dwyer Families,



**"Family that pray together stay together"**

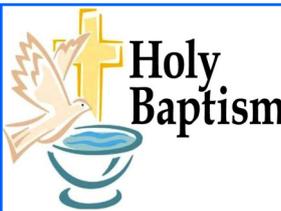
### PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel

at the Montfort home, 16 Smith St, Regents Park  
Please join them any evening at 7.00pm  
for the Rosary

To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel  
contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

### ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker

To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker  
contact the Legion of Mary.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

### Rafael Hunter Cervantes

May he always know the love of God and feel  
His guiding hand throughout his life



### New Years Eve!

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck, the bartender was almost crushed to death.

**Alcohol and Drug Information Service:** (Confidential) 02 9361 8000

**Spiritual Retreats:** Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - [www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats](http://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats) Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville - [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au) Ph: 8795 3400

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) Ph: 4372 1598

**Sara's place:** For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit [www.sarasplace.org.au](http://www.sarasplace.org.au) Ph: 9699 8190

## Epiphany: Follow Like Magi Or Be Content Like the Chief Priests



Basuki Purnama - the first Christian governor of Jakarta in more than 50 years, was accused of blasphemy when he quoted a verse from the Islamic holy text in September last year. (Ref. SBS World News 20 Dec 2016). Now he is being tried in the judicial court for the crime of apparently stepping off the mark in his speech. According to the hard line Muslims, their sacred scripture is 'untouchable' for non-Muslims. Similar sentiments are shared by ISIS and many other trouble makers of the world. According to them even any depiction of God is blasphemous, let alone the incarnation of God. Because God is very remote to humans, according to them.

But the birth of Jesus revealed a God who is very near to us. God has become human with flesh and blood so that men and women can touch and feel God. Moreover this revelation was not restricted to the chosen people, the Israelites, but to all people of good will. The wise men from the east visiting baby Jesus represents the people of the world. They acknowledged baby Jesus as the Eternal King born for them too. The wise men came from outside the territory of the chosen people. The only thing that led them to Bethlehem was their willingness to follow the signs and messages God provided for them. The chief priests and scribes of the Jewish people were able to provide the right information: (Child Jesus 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.'" (Mat 2:5-6) But the chief priests and the scribes were unwilling to believe in the message brought to them. Like Herod, they also were threatened of their privileges and positions. Therefore they conveniently ignored the message of a 'king born to them'. The Magi, (wise men) were not privileged. But they followed the sign provided to them, the Star of Bethlehem and reached the new born king. They accepted him as their king forever with the gifts they offered.

There are lessons to be learnt from the Epiphany narrative. We too can be like the chief priests and scribes, know all about the Christ, but can miss out on accepting him as our King and Saviour. If we do not allow our comfort zones to be disturbed by our faith commitment by standing up for what is divinely revealed to us, we too will miss out on touching and feeling God incarnate. Dignity of human life from conception till death, fellowship and commitment to one another in love and charity, living as part of the Body of Christ, are all demands on our comfort zones. Now the question is 'do we follow the star of Bethlehem' like the wise men or are we happy to be like the chief priests and scribes, just a pious meditation on the Scriptures.



### Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

#### The Magi

*In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference "We saw his star as it rose". It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three - based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.*

### GOSPEL FOCUS

#### Going home

*The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way - indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus - in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves - then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.*

### Feasts of the Week

**9 January - Baptism of the Lord** Drawing from the Eastern tradition of Epiphany, the West has remembered the baptism of the Lord on the octave of the Epiphany since the eighth century. Formally introduced into the Roman calendar in 1960 on the Sunday after the Epiphany, it now concludes the Christmas season. Commemorates the revelation of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the Christ, anointed by the Spirit.



## Antiphons & Readings

**Entrance Antiphon:**

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

**Responsorial Psalm:**

(R) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you

1. 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. (R)

2. 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. (R)

3. 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. (R)

4. 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. (R)

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**Communion Antiphon:**

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

**Next Week's Readings:**

Is 49:3, 5-6  
1Cor 1:1-3  
Jn 1:29-34



**Holy Mass at Berala**

Monday to Friday 6.45am  
Wednesday to Friday 9.15am  
Saturday 8.00am  
Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena.

**Holy Mass at Auburn South**

Tuesday 9.00am  
(during school term only)

**Lord's Day Mass Berala**

Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil)  
Sunday 10.00AM

**Lord's Day Mass Auburn South**

Sunday 8.00AM

**Reconciliation at Berala**

Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.  
Or contact the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office.

## St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

15 JANUARY 2017		2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Renee SALAR	SJW	
CANTOR	Renee & YOUTH CHOIR	YOUTH CHOIR	
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Ken HARTMAN	Hoa NGUYEN
	Phirum DUCH	Jenny MICHAEL	Maureen HYNES
COMMENTOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Joe MOSES	Hilary NGUYEN
GIFTS	Anita YIP Family		Roland JAVIER Family
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Mai VU
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Micheline BOTHAM
CHURCH SHOP	Adele MELER		John SHANLEY
GREETERS	Kate PARISH	Joe MOSES	A THAM, S TAN, G KIM
HOSPITALITY			Alex BALDORIA
<b>HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT :</b> Jann Rockliff & P Lopez		<b>ALTAR:</b> Group 5 M Heys; C Mabon; M Wood	
<b>HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN:</b> J McDonald & A Manganaro		<b>COUNTERS:</b> Group 3 K Hartman	
<b>CLEANERS - SPC:</b> R Quinoy, YFC & Friends		<b>SJW Maronite Group</b> A Tham R Cheema	

### Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:.....

Telephone No .....Email .....

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent for completion)