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Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

The Epiphany of the Lord

5th / 6th January 2019

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ. (Dianne Bergant CSS)

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Tuesday Mercy Place. Includes sacrament of Anointing 11.00am

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

NO Mass Thursday

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

CHURCH STORES.

Religious gifts and supplies shipped overnight. Phone (02) 9233 2268.

churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au

PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA

Phone (03) 9882 3424

Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Watters, Mary West, Fr Jim Victory, Margaret Power, Sr Marie Duffy.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Sykes, Kevin Murphy, Keith Hertzog, Kerryn Mildren, Raymond Fogarty, John Mamouney, Sr Monica Esler, Lynette Dosenko, Katherine Wishart, Alma Putnam, Veronica Fagg, Marie Sullivan, Myrtle Westblade, Fred Owen, Doris Hourigan, Frank Tracey, Maria Kramer, Martha Oldcarn, Margaret Keys, Joy Bruton.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 5th / 6th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Ed Brown	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Nano Clancy	Wendy McFerran
Lector 2	Justin Clancy	Sr Carina Morton
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Hopkins Judy Lindsay	Mary Lefevre Kansas Michael Kevin Kennedy
Cantor	Brian Waters	Simon Goss
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts		Cleaning Group: Group 3

Sat /Sun: 12th / 13th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Brian Waters	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Paula Waters	Leanne Michael
Lector 2	Pat Hickman	Bede Hart
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Michael Regan	Carmel Butts Frank Glennon Pamela McIntosh
Cantor	Margaret & Ed Brown	Ann McIntyre
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Michael Byrnes		Cleaning Group: Group 4

Be Our Daily Star **An Epiphany Prayer**

God of all heaven and earth,
From the breath of your love
came the creation of the
world.

We are amazed at the vast
beauty of the night sky and at
the intimate nature of the love
you have for us your children.

Be our daily star,
Guiding our lives to search for
kingdom love.

May we always follow your
light of truth in all that we do,
Forever trusting, hoping and
believing in your word.

Lift our eyes to see your
eternal life shining brightly,
Leading us home. Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):
'Follow the light that leads to Christ.'

Parish News

Thank You!

Many thanks to all for so generously supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Both St Anne's and Xavier School communities collected Christmas gifts for children and families. In addition to our own donation of gifts \$1,130.00 was raised through the Christmas Day leaving collection and the envelope appeal.



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This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism George Clarence Hartwig son of Angus and Megan; Ava Adeline Gaynor daughter of Joshua & Jessica; Eliana Kate O'Kell daughter of Simon & Kate.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

50th Anniversary

On the 2nd January 1969 Anne Hagan, Colleen Livermore and Patricia Johnson were professed as Sisters of Mercy in Sacred Heart Church, North Albury. We congratulate each of these women for their service to the church and their example of faith. May the Lord's many blessings continue to enrich their lives.

We welcome home to our local community many young women and men over the Christmas holiday season. You are a great blessing to the Church. May you continue to be aware of the presence of God's Spirit in your life's journey - a presence that is real, inspiring, challenging and comforting.

Lighting of Christmas Candle - Communal Prayer

All: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby, yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Outreach Visitation

It is planned to begin visitation of Parishioners who are ill, unable to come to Mass, bereaved, live by themselves etc in mid February 2019.

If you would appreciate seeing a friendly face or two, we would love to call on you in your home or nursing home. So that plans can be made can you please contact the Parish Office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9am to 2pm on 6025 1516. Please leave your name and phone number and preferred day for visitation.

Blessing upon the New Year

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us.

May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed so that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

The Epiphany of the Lord—Year C

Readings: Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6 ; Mt 2: 1-12

Responsorial Psalm:



Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

(Fr Richard Leonard SJ)

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