

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

5 JANUARY 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

YEAR A

MISSION STATEMENT

St Theresa's Catholic Parish is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community committed to living and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Under our baptismal mission and inspired by the Spirit, we are bread for one another and nourished we reach out to make a difference in the world.

Stars and Seekers after Truth

There is a fascination with stars: their beauty shining and sparkling in the dark canopy of the night; amazement and wonder at their number and extent.

And who amongst us hasn't stolen a furtive glance at the horoscopes, half humorously checking 'what the stars hold for me'.

The Magi, the wise men in today's gospel story, were not like the writers of our horoscope columns. They were astronomers – astrologers from ancient religions found to 'the East' of Bethlehem, perhaps modern day Iraq or Syria.

In particular, they would have thought that the birth of those destined to be great figures would be signalled by unusual constellations of events in the night sky. They really believed that stars greatly influenced and controlled the destiny of human beings. But, *these* Magi were open to the insights of other religious traditions. And it was that combination of their own religion of astrology and their reading about Jewish expectations of a wonderful person who would inaugurate a new epoch of history, which led them to:

To what? To whom?

To Jesus, in a nondescript dwelling, in a nondescript town, hovered over by an exhausted Mary and a protective Joseph.

This would be a most unexpected culmination of their journey.

Yet, because they were genuine seekers after truth, they were open enough to see in this baby what their own religious teaching had prepared them for, even as they were led beyond that religious system.

They were the first non-Jewish people to kneel before that infant. They did homage to this baby. Why? I think it was because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant.

On the contrary: 'There is something in *this* baby which *caused* the night sky to respond. *This* baby is responsible for the movement of the stars!'

They were sufficiently filled with wonder that they preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, not reporting where they had found him.

And, then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

What does this Gospel passage hold for us today?

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

People may be trapped in the limiting language of their astrology or Buddhism, or an ideology such as atheism or whatever. Of course, those systems of thought cannot save anyone.

But, individually and personally, Buddhists and atheists and astrologers can be set on a journey towards 'the Love which moves the sun and all the stars' (Dante).

As a person responds to the (often anonymous) prompting of the Holy Spirit and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. (cont)

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Francois Frichot Neville Preece
Lynne McRae Len Pauli
Moya Schaefer
Eric & Vi Howe

Friends and Family

Kate Sturgeon (Rita Sturgeon's Granddaughter)
Peter Brown (Denis Brown's Brother)
Stella Artuso (Paul & Kathryn Marangelli's Niece)
Anna Sellar (Trish & Terry Sheely's daughter)
Bernadette Welch (friend of Bette Flamstead)
Kathleen le Gras (Sister of Sr Una)
Shona Kraayvanger (Gabrielle Adam's daughter)
Joe Short (Powell family group)
Indiana Harman (Ray & Madeline Taylor's Granddaughter)
Louis Gandini (Lina Pervan's brother)
Robert Gandini (Lina Pervan's brother)
Connie Bamgart (Lina Pervan's friend)
Peter & Elaine Dillon (Vivienne Price's father & mother)
Patricia Jenkins (Thel Jelley's cousin)
Roslyn Morton (Patrick's sister)
Simon Riethmuller (Shirley's son)
Max Shearer (Grandson - Judy Shearer)
John Mullen (Helen McNaught's nephew)
Archie Mullen (Helen McNaught's brother)
Rev. Brian Sparksman
Fr Peter McGrath .CP
John Morgan (Kathy Sternes Uncle)
Veronica Griinke (Friend & neighbour of Kathryn & Paul Marangelli)
Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim McKinley
Fr Tom O'Brien
Nora Black
Maisie Hutchins
Margaret Blackie
Pat Ruming
Arthur Murphy
Lorraine Turner
Helena Eksa sgs
Maureen Shelvey
Dan Shine

MASSES

READINGS

BAPTISM

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| MON | NO MASS |
| TUE | NO MASS |
| WED | NO MASS |
| THU | NO MASS |
| FRI | NO MASS |
| SAT | 6PM MASS |
| SUN | 9.30 AM MASS |

RECONCILIATION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS OR BY APPOINTMENT

If you require a Gluten Free host, please advise the coordinator.

The Epiphany of the Lord Year A
First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*
 The Glory of the Lord shines upon you.
Responsorial Psalm: *71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13*
 Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6*
 The revelations means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.
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*
 We have come from the East to worship the king.
Next week's readings.
The Baptism of the Lord Year A
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Acts 10: 34-38
Matthew 3: 13-17

Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month either during Mass at 9.30am or after Mass at 11.00am.



There is a copy of the **HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS** Vatican Basilica Midnight Mass 2019 on the notice board. If you would like a copy to take home there are some extra copies printed in the foyer .

This is where we differ drastically from some fundamentalists. The Catholic Church believes that the billions in China and India, who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons, even leading humane lives, do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth. That Truth which we have the privilege of understanding leads us to accept the claims made on us by the baby to whom the Astrologers paid homage: We understand and accept that *He* is the Body Language of God, that *He* is 'God with us', Emmanuel, that *He* is The Answer to all the seeking after truth and the yearning of the human heart. O come, let us adore *Him*.
 © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com
 Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

Liturgy Thoughts No 14 - The Word
 Some Christians claim to belong to "Bible Churches" and portray the Catholic Church as not valuing the Scriptures as highly as they do. It's true that Catholics and Orthodox Christians see Scripture as part, not the whole, of God's revelation to us. But we do give the Scriptures great reverence, regarding them as a presence of Christ, himself the Word of God, in written form.
 In a three-year period we hear proclaimed for us in our Sunday liturgy close to 160 Biblical readings. We believe that in these readings God speaks to our hearts, most importantly, and to our minds. The readings are then "broken open" for us in the homily. Western Catholics all over the world hear the same readings each Sunday. We don't hear the whole Bible read over the three years. We are certainly encouraged to make personal, prayerful reading of the Bible part of our everyday lives. The excerpts we do hear at Mass have been carefully chosen to help us in our lives as followers of Christ. The three years are labelled A, B, C with A being the year we hear most of Matthew's gospel proclaimed; B, Mark's; and C, Luke's. 2020 is a Year A, a year of Matthew. These three gospels, the "synoptics", have much in common. John's gospel is a different kind of writing and we hear much of it read every year in Lent and the Easter season and on a few other Sundays.
 The first readings and the responsorial psalm are taken from the Old Testament, except at Easter when the readings come from the Acts of the Apostles or when a reading from the Book of Revelation makes a rare appearance. There is usually a clear link between the first reading and the gospel.
 The second reading comes from one of the letters written to early Christians with St Paul being by far the major contributor. An obvious link between the second reading and the other two is not always apparent and this leads to the second reading not often being the focus of homilies. (*Gerard Hore*)

NOTICES



SOUND DESK VOLUNTEERS -CAN YOU HELP

Our worshipping community at St Theresa's values the contribution made by our volunteers who operate the sound desk, controlling sound and visuals. Recently with some families moving from our parish and various other commitments, we have lost some valuable members of the ministry who are available on Sundays. We are looking for teams of 2 to come on board and be part of this ministry. Training will be provided and an experienced person will lead you through during the initial masses that you are the sound desk operators. Please consider this ministry and contact the parish office by phone Ph:4639 4688 or email office@sttheresas.org.au or monica@sttheresas.org.au if you wish to belong to this ministry or have any questions about this ministry.



LIBRARY MINISTRY.

The library was started several years ago as a means of bringing spiritual reading matter to the members of the Parish.



What is its relevance today? Twice a month the Saturday evening crew manage the library, diligently putting out the stands.

However the number of people who use it, or even look at it, is very few.

Should we be looking at putting something on the Parish web page such as title names, or websites for prayer; and dispense with a hard copy library?

PLEASE give feed back through the suggestion box or to Monica ASAP so we can plan for 2020. The last week for library this year will be 7/8th December as it closes for school Christmas break.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:
LOCAL LISTENING & DISCERNMENT

Date: 15/2/20 Saturday
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Where: To be confirmed dependent on numbers. The event will be held in Toowoomba. A gathering is on offer to people interested in participating in the Listening and Discernment Phase for the Plenary Council but have missed this opportunity in their parish or agency.

Register your interest at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSY83FC> Registration will be open until 31/1/20, at this time people will be notified of venue.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Mary Otto on 0447 074 807 or email rcia@twb.catholic.org.au.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE APPEAL

Thank you to all who so generously donated to this year's appeal. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Also thank you to Joann Hodal who has once again organised and coordinated the appeal. This year there were a record number of 120 packages, thank you.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Thank you to all the members of the Children's Liturgy team. We have had a wonderful response from the children and families within our parish. There will be no children's liturgy over the Christmas holiday break.

Children's liturgy will commence again on Sunday 9 February 2020.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us. If you are interested, please contact Monica at the office Ph: 4639 4688

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSURES

Bishop's Office: Closed Monday 23/12/19, re-opening Monday 6/1/20.

Diocesan Finance Office: Closed Monday 23/12/19, re-opening Monday 6/1/20.

Sychar - House of Prayer & Spirituality: Closed Monday 23/12/19, re-opening Monday 6/1/20.

For ministry offices not listed, please contact the individual office for availability during this time.

JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton:

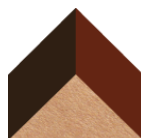
When: 8 March at 2pm

Where: St Theresa's Parish Centre
Cnr Curzon & Campbell Sts, Toowoomba.

For enquiries or bookings contact Sr Mary Cleary 4634 9786, marycleary5@bigpond.com

DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO

We all have good days and bad days. Then there are those days when something isn't quite right, you've got something on your mind, or things just seem too much. Whatever it may be, sharing the load with someone else can really help. So no matter who you are, or how you're feeling, you can talk it through with one of the following services.



Australian Men's Shed Association
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

1300 550 009



1300 22 4636



13 11 14

CONTACTS

Parish Priest:

Fr Brian Noonan ph:4696 7094
e-mail: brian.noonan@sttheresas.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monica Brennan
Ph.: 4639 4688 Fax 4639 6538
e-mail: monica@sttheresas.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Janet Weier
Ph.: 4639 4688 Fax: 4639 6538
e-mail: office@sttheresas.org.au

Church: Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts, Toowoomba

Office: 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba

Parish Website www.sttheresas.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Brian Noonan, Michael Murtagh, Tim Burgess, Gay Jorgensen, Vanessa Horton, Bernadette Zimbwa, Gailene Jurgs, Matt Boyd, David Wilson, Monica Brennan.

Finance Committee

Fr. Brian Noonan, Pat Morton, Warren Dredge, Ray Taylor, Shane Blakeley, Brian Wilson, Pat Richardson, Alfia Ginardi.

Liturgy Team

Fr. Brian Noonan, Jan Mayo, Peter Kenny, Carole Rogan, Libby Rosentreter, Monica Brennan, Suzanne Cavanagh.

Musicians

Norma Kenny, Kathy Sternes, Elizabeth Stewart, Libby Rosentreter.

Baptism Team:

Cath Kelly, Jenny Ryan, Tracy George, Bernadette Hede, Alison Daniel, Anne Anderson, Jan Watkins, Maureen Burke, Angela Irvine, Mary Otto, Jane Burgess, Catherine Cooper.

Sacramental Team:

Monica Brennan, Vanessa Horton, David Wilson, Gay Jorgensen.

Consolation Team:

Fr Brian Noonan, Lyn McRae, Peter Kenny, Bette Flamsteed, Pam Merritt, Alf Mason, Moya Schaefer, Josephine Nolan, Liz Phelan, Monica Brennan

Welcome & Hospitality Team:

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli, Carole Rogan, Maureen Burke.

Family Groups:

Contact Parish Office 4639 4688

Care & Concern Team

Coordinator: Pamela Merritt



NOTICE

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY

Sunday **26 January** Australia Day, public holiday
Monday 27 Parish office closed.
Tuesday **28 January** School Term 1 starts.



To all our
Parishioners and visitors
wishing you a Happy New Year
from Fr Brian, Monica and Janet

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION APPEAL 2019

At the November Council of Priests meeting it was agreed that the most pressing area of concern for our diocese are the difficulties affecting people due to the ongoing drought situation. Even with widespread rain in near future the "turn around" will take many years to occur. With this situation in mind it was decided that half of the Christmas collection this year will be divided between Catholic Care and Drought Angels.



Second & Fourth Tuesdays /month

St Vincent de Paul St Theresa's
Conference, 4pm, Contact 0408 808 437

First Tuesday/month

Care and Concern Meeting, 9.30am Parish Office.

First Wednesday /month

Parish morning tea at 9.45am, Cobb & Co Museum

Second Sunday

Mad Toowoomba Group from 7.00pm at
St Anthony's. Parish Centre.
(Grade 7-12 people) PH: 4636 0461

