

## The Epiphany of the Lord Year B

SUNDAY January 4 2015

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

Few of us have the luxury of time and means to begin a trip with no destination in mind, spending however much time we wish wandering about at will. For almost all of us, whenever we begin a journey either for pleasure we find security in having our route clearly laid out. We have a specific in mind and we use a route plan or GPS to plot out exactly how we are going to get there. The Gospel for this Sunday recounts a journey – that of the Magi who travelled from the East to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem to find the ‘newborn king.’

The Magi began their journey searching for this newborn king in a most unorthodox way; they followed not a road map but a star. They allowed themselves to be led, not by human plotting of routes but by divine guidance. Their route was not always clear; when they arrived in Jerusalem, the star disappeared, leaving them in darkness and uncertainty. Ignorant of the political ramifications, they sought out the most logical source for clear direction, the reigning King Herod, and inquired of him where to find the newborn king. Herod pointed them to Bethlehem, and when they resumed their journey the star once again appeared to lead them on their way. Their journey ended when the star ‘stopped over the place where the child was,’ they entered and offered their homage and their gifts.

Lessons from the Magi story remind us how faithfully they followed God’s lead, how diligent they were to complete their journey, how prepared they were by bringing appropriate gifts, how humbled they were to stoop to this tiny Baby and offer homage. But we also learn that God leads even in darkness, even when we have lost our way, and even through the machinations of those who intend evil. **We** are the Magi today: still searching for the ‘newborn king’, still following the light along an uncertain journey, still being surprised by what God reveals along the way and how God reveals it.

We can hardly expect a star to guide us to our eternal destination. But this doesn’t mean that God is less present to us than to the Magi, guiding us where God wishes us to go. God guides us today in many and sometimes surprising ways: through the Commandments, through the proclamation of Scriptures, by the model of goodness and holiness of people around us, by our consciences, during prayer, even through the actions of our enemies – in any manner or place where we look beyond ourselves to the good of others. We only have to do as the Magi did – surrender ourselves to God’s guidance and God’s surprises.

Sister Elisabeth

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Parish Priest

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### St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

#### Sunday Mass

7.00 am

8:30 am

#### Weekday Mass

Monday -7.00am

Wednesday-7.00am

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**Each Friday-10.30am  
Mass at Gold Coast  
University Hospital**

### Guardian Angels’ Church

99 Scarborough St

Southport

#### Saturday

6.00pm

#### Sunday Mass

7.00 am

10.00 am

#### Weekday Mass

Friday 12.30pm

#### Reconciliation

Saturday - 4.30pm

### Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive Ashmore

#### Sunday Mass

8:30 am & 6.00pm

#### Korean Mass

Sunday 3.00pm Last Saturday  
of the Month 6.00pm

#### Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am

Thursday - 5.30pm

Holy Hour. First Thursday  
of the Month 4.15pm

## Catholic New Year Resolutions

- I resolve to arrive at Mass early.
- On arrival at Mass, I resolve to turn off my mobile phone.
- I resolve not to wear to Mass that tube top that looked so great the night before at the rock concert.
- I resolve not to wear shorts to Mass if I am a Eucharistic Minister.
- I will refrain from leaving prayer notes, empty juice boxes or empty water bottles in the pews.
- I resolve to sing loudly.
- I resolve to actually shake hands with those around me during the Sign of Peace.
- I resolve not to bolt for the door after communion and before the blessing.
- I will stay in my pew to sing the recessional hymn.
- I will take home this newsletter and cut out these resolutions and tape them to my refrigerator, so I don't forget them.

## Travel by Faith

"Magi comes from the Greek word, *magoi*. No single word adequately describes them. In a sense they were all of the following: kings and wise men; scientists, astrologers and physicians; magicians, sorcerers and wizards; teachers and Zoroastrian priests. They came from Media, Persia, Assyria, Babylonia and all the lands of the Parthian Empire. In all probability their journey of 1000 – 1200 miles may have lasted as long as two years. Like Abraham, the Magi were called by God to a foreign land. Like Abraham they travelled by faith, not knowing where they were going."

## Other Words and their Meaning

**Epiphany:** In its Christian sense, it means an 'appearance' or 'manifestation', A celebration of the 'shining forth' or 'revelation of God' to the shepherds, to the Magi and all humankind.

**Frankincense:** Incense is a hardened gum that comes from certain Boswellia trees which, at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India and Ethiopia. The word 'frank' comes from an old French word that means 'marked'. It is a stamp that indicates the incense is 'free' from contamination or 'pure'. The frankincense trade was at its height during the days of the Roman Empire. At the time this resin was considered as valuable as gems or precious metals. Incense was used primarily to cover up the smells caused by animal sacrifices. hence it was connected to worship.

**Myrrh:** Myrrh is an aromatic substance made from the sap of Myrtle balsam trees found in India, Africa and Saudi Arabia. It is a natural antiseptic and useful as a medicine. Egyptians used myrrh for embalming mummies. It is now used for toothpaste and mouthwash.

## Welcome to our new Associate Pastor

### **Father Huong Van Nguyen**

Father Huong left Vietnam on a refugee boat in 1988, and eventually arrived in Sydney in October 1989 after spending a year in Pulau Bidong Refugee Camp in Malaysia.

He commenced his studies for the priesthood in Vietnam and was ordained a Deacon for the Vinh Long Diocese on the Mekong river of South Vietnam in 1983.

He joined Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo in 1993 and was ordained to the Priesthood at Saint Stephen's Cathedral on November 18, 1995.

Fathers first appointment was to Caboolture Parish and has since worked at Grovely-Mitchelton (1996-1999)

Redcliffe Parish (2000-2002)

Surfers Paradise Parish (2003-2008)

Sunnybank Parish (April 2008-2011)

Burleigh Heads Parish (2012-2014)

Father Huong sends his blessing to all parishioners and their families of the Southport Parish, he said he was 'Looking forward to working with Father Jan and Father Dom and meeting and getting to know all the parishioners of Southport Catholic Parish.'

## The Francis Effect

Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.

This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid. *Pope Francis 2013*

## Pearl of the Week

Unbelievable fact—

Our body is full of water but

Whenever it hurts, BLOOD comes out.

Our heart is full of Blood but

Whenever it hurts,

TEARS come out.

## **You are invited to celebrate World Marriage Day**



**At St Benedict's Church, Mudgeeraba  
on Sunday February 8, 2015 at 11.00am  
Mass, including renewal of vows, will be  
followed by a shared lunch.**

**Please bring a plate, and feel free to  
invite your family and friends.**

**For more information call Sue and Bren Milsom:  
55 224 880 or [milsoms@outlook.com](mailto:milsoms@outlook.com)**

## Marian Valley Canungra

Celebrate Fatima Day at Marian Valley Canungra on Tuesday, January 13. Bus will leave Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters at 8.15am. For bookings call Viviane on 55 359 623.

## The Peace Lamp from the Holy Land



We still have a number of people who have not collected their lamps. Lamps can be collected after the 8.30 Mass at Mary Immaculate today and next Sunday, opr any time from the Parish Office.

If you have ordered a Lamp, but have changed your mind and no longer want one, please let

us know as we have a number of parishioners who are waiting to see if there are any left.

Also there are extra wicks available if you require some.

Father Jan is organising a Special Blessing Ceremony sometime in February for all who have a lamp.

## Parish Sacramental Life

This time last year we were asked by the Archdiocese to provide the statistics in regard to sacramental celebrations in our parish during 2013.

Today we compare 2013 with 2014. The figures leave much room for discussion.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>First Communion</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Weddings</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Funerals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>

**Mary come sit with me, take my hand and speak to me.  
Let me lay the secrets of my heart upon your own  
and grace me with the secrets of your heart.  
Mary never leave me. Amen**

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE FATHER.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARY:** Brian Burge

**ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED:** Rita Tessari, Tim Howard, Trudi de Vries, Gary O'Connell

**Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercession those who we love and those who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God**

**The new Privacy Laws**

We at the Southport Catholic Parish must abide by and adhere to the requirements of the Privacy Act and The Australian Privacy Principles. The Privacy Act impacts upon us all today and if you wish to peruse the Compliance Requirements of the Privacy Act, please go to the Archdiocesan website [www.bne.catholic.net.au](http://www.bne.catholic.net.au) or our Parish Website [www.scp.org.au](http://www.scp.org.au)

**To comply with the Act, we can no longer publish names of persons on the Sick List unless we have SIGNED written authority from that person or their next of kin. This also applies to notices of Anniversaries, Baptisms and Recently Deceased. Email's are not acceptable.**

**This Week's Saints**

**Wednesday, January 7, St Raymond of Penyafort**

As a member of the Spanish nobility, St Raymond had the resources and the education to get a good start in life. By the time he was 20, he was teaching philosophy. In his early 30s he earned a doctorate in both cannon and civil law. At 41 he became a Dominican, Pope Gregory IX called him to Rome to work for him and to be his confessor. One thing the Pope asked him to do was to gather together all the decrees of popes and councils that had been made in 80 years since a similar, Raymond compiled five books called the *Decretals*. They were looked upon as one of the best organised collections of Church law until the 1917 collection of cannon law. Earlier Raymond had written for confessors a book of cases. Called *Summa de Casibus Poenitentiae*. More simply a list of sins and penances it discussed pertinent doctrines and laws of the Church that pertained to the problem or case brought to the confessor.

**WORTH A SMILE**

- My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70. "Blow this," I thought, "I can get one cheaper off the web."
- I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.
- I was driving this morning when I saw an RACQ van parked on the side of the road. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself, "That guy's heading for a breakdown."
- Paddy says, "Mike, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador." "Really?" says Mike "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"
- My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30am this morning, can you believe that? 2.30am! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

**Thank You from St Vincent de Paul**

Thank you so much for the fantastic efforts made to ensure 130 families plus those at Families Back on Track or in the Buddies/Sense programs will enjoy feeling "special" and valued this Christmas. The hampers provided (the 98 hampers assembled and packed by the conference plus the 32 families "adopted and shopped for") by parishioners were put together with such generosity, care and compassion.

**PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2015**

**First Sunday of each month**, Morning Tea at the "Annex" after 8.30am Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador.

**Each First and Third Sunday of the Month**, 11.30am Charismatic prayer Meeting, Guardian Angels Church.

**Bridge**, every Wednesday 9.30am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate. Beginners welcome.

**Rosary and Novena** at 6.00pm every Wednesday, followed by Mass at 7.00pm on the First Wednesday of the month at St Joseph the Worker. **The Mass on Wednesday**,

**Catholic Women's League**, Meeting Second Friday of each Month, 11.00am Guardian Angels Church, Meeting Room, followed by Mass

**Care and Concern**, Meet Fourth Monday of each month, Mary Immaculate Meeting Room, 10.30am

**Young Adults Group**, Meet in the Parish Resource Centre every second Wednesday at 7.00pm

**SPY**. Southport Parish Youth. Meet in the meeting room at Mary Immaculate on the last Friday of each month. 6.30pm. Wednesday, **February 18**, Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent.

Sunday, **April 5**, Easter Sunday.

Thursday, **June 4 2015**, Confirmation.

Sunday, **June 7 2015**, First Eucharist

**De Paul Manor Estate**



**Only a few new luxury apartments left. Come and join this Vibrant Community. To clear the stock, prices start at \$380,000 Be quick they won't last at this price! Phone Sue on 1300 732 306 To arrange an inspection**



**Mary Immaculate Bridge Club**

Offers a new Beginners Course for 2015. For more information and to enrol for lessons

**Telephone: Cheryl 55 38821**

Bridge is easy to learn; you get lots of help!!

Learn to play in a small social group with no pressure and meet lots of new friends.

**Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellowmen throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love give them peace and joy.**

**Amen**

**Blessed Mother Teresa**

# HYMNS

## **WE THREE KINGS**

We three Kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we travel afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star...

**ANTIPHON: O Star of wonder,  
star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect light.**

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold we bring to crown him again.  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign R

## **GLORLY TO GOD**

**Refrain:  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good  
will.**

We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,  
almighty Father. **R**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us  
You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
have mercy on us. **R**

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the most High, Jesus  
Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God  
the Father. **R Amen**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

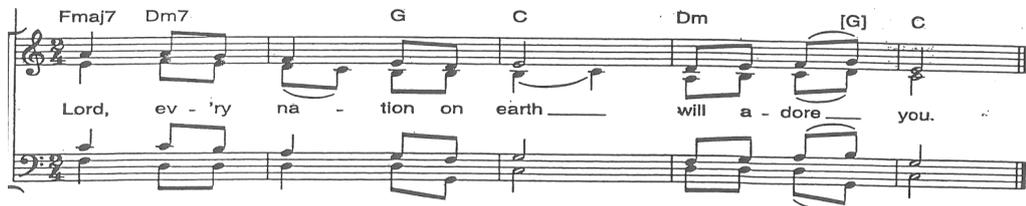
Lord every nation on earth will adore  
you.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (to be said)**

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

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## **GIFTS PROCESSION THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

(Donald Fishel)

### **Refrain:**

**The light of Christ has come  
into the world.**

**The light of Christ has come  
into the world.**

We must all be born again to see  
the kingdom of God;  
The water and the Spirit bring new  
life in God's love. **R**

God gave up his only Son out of love  
for the world,  
So that all who believe in him  
will live forever. **R**

The light of God has come to us so  
that we might have salvation;  
From the darkness of our sins we  
walk into glory with Christ Jesus. **R**

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.

Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

When we eat this Bread and drink  
this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O  
Lord, until you come again

## **AMEN**

Amen, Amen, Amen.

## **LAMB OF GOD**

(Shalom)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world: Grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION PROCESSION**

### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the  
everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears for all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR**

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Isaiah 55:1-11

1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him,  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

## **ONE BREAD ONE BODY**

### **Refrain:**

**One bread, one body,**

**One Lord of all,**

**One cup of blessing which we bless.**

**And we, though many,**

**Throughout the earth,**

**We are one body in this one Lord.**

Gentile or Jew,  
Servant or free,  
Woman or man, no more. **R**

Many the gifts,  
Many the works,  
One in the Lord of all. **R**

Grain for the fields,  
Scattered and grown,  
Gathered to one, for all. **R**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

### **ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

#### **Refrain:**

**All the ends of the earth,**

**all your creatures of the sea,**

**Lift up your eyes to the wonders  
of the Lord.**

**For the Lord of the earth,**

**the Master of the sea,**

**has come with justice for the world.**

Break into song at the deeds of the Lord,  
The wonders God has done in every age. **R**

Heaven and earth shall rejoice in your  
might;  
every heart, every nation call you Lord. **R**

The Lord has made salvation known,  
faithful to the promises of old.

Let the ends of the earth, let the sea and all  
It holds make music before our God! **R**