

St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.

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Parish Office Hours: 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday



The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2018

First Reading Is 60:1-6

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

**(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 falls.
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.)

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

*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 Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

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.

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

Over this holiday break our bulletins are promoting who we are! Over the next **two** weeks we have listed some of the groups that are within this Parish. YOU are most welcome to become involved.

ST VINCENT'S PARISH, ASHFIELD

MINISTRIES AND PARISH GROUPS

Acolytes & Altar Servers

Acolytes assist the priest on the altar during the celebration of mass and other liturgies. They also prepare the sacred vessels for the celebration. Acolytes are officially commissioned after completing a training course.

Altar servers (boys and girls who have made their first communion) assist the Priest and the Acolytes at Sunday Mass and at other special liturgies. Contact: Father: 97982501

Altar Society

These people ensure that everything that is used in the liturgy is kept clean and tidy, and the altar and sanctuary look beautiful. Members may be rostered for 2 hours each month or undertake laundering of altar linen and vestments in their own home. Contact: Carmen 97982501

Catechists

Catechists provide Religious Education and Christian formation of Catholic children in Government schools. A training is provided by the Archdiocese of Sydney A half hour each week is spent in the classroom with groups of children at Ashfield Primary School & Ashfield Boys High School. Contact Marguerite 97982501

Charismatic Prayer Group

A Charismatic Prayer group meets each Monday evening for prayer and praise. At times guest speakers address the gatherings. A Senior group meets on Monday afternoon. Contact: Teresa 97984912

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

The Catholic Church warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide an appropriate spiritual formation according to each person's need. The ministries of the RCIA include team members who organise and support the process. Contact: Marguerite 97982501

Counters

The Counters meet each Monday morning to count the first and second collections and total them in preparation for banking. Contact: Carmen 97982501

The first collection (pastoral revenue) is used for the priests of the Vincentian Community – living expenses, stipends, and the support of retired and sick priests. The second collection, including envelopes is used to run the Parish – staff salaries and stipends, building maintenance and general running expenses.

Finance Committee

The main concern of the Finance Committee is to ensure that budget and actual performance are explained and documented. Collections, expenses, assets, maintenance and insurance are under continual review. The committee has the responsibility of advising the parish priest on financial matters. Contact: Father 97982501

Men's Group.

The men's group is a group of men who spend an hour together once a fortnight to reflect on how to live their Christian Spirituality in their daily lives, at home and at work. Meetings are held at 7:30pm eversecond Monday. Contact Michael 0422009048

Music / Choir Ministry

Music is an important part of the Liturgical celebration and volunteer organists, pianists, instrumentalists and singers are always welcome. The weekend masses provide various styles of music.

Sunday 8am: Organist and Singers - Contemplative Contact Anne : 0419427486

Sunday 10am: Organist & Choir - Traditional Contact Kath: 97448006

Sunday 6pm : Sunday Evening Music Group - Contemporary Contact Jenny: 97997136

Meanwhile the Liturgy committee was to share joyous exultation in discovering THE STAR, lightweight enough to travel from the gallery in the west to the altar in the east, where it would shine brilliantly o'er the crib. However the blessed technology, the powerpack transformer, disappeared into the ether. After searching and multiple prayers to St Anthony, they turn to you. Have you seen the transformer? It would brighten up their day.....Contact the Parish Office.