



St Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

The Epiphany of our Lord - 8th January 2017



Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways: we can read the "book" of God's creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be attentive to the wisdom of our sacred scriptures. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and our kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany presents us with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" attracts the attention of the duplicitous Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews".

Advised by the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, through the agency of Herod, they follow the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named as Emmanuel, God-with-us, with the entire Earth community.

There is no indication in the story as to whether the wise ones are men or women or both. Nor are we told their number. The three earth gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of diverse nationality and colour. These

strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise "in a dream" the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born "king of the Jews". They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road". The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with those of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest:
Fr. Peter Hudson
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We welcome Fr John who is in our Parish whilst Fr Peter is away in Sydney.

Natimuk Anointing

Mass at the Natimuk Nursing Home at 4.15pm this Thursday 12th January. All Welcome.

OFFICE TIMES

for the period January 9th to January 20th
Monday 9th—Closed
Tuesday 10th to Friday 20th—9.00am to 12.30pm
We thank Teresa Plazzer who will be filling in for Anita whilst she is away during this time.

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

15th January -
Dimboola Mass 8.30am
Murtoa AWC 9am
22nd January -
Natimuk Mass 8.30am
Dimboola AWC 8.30am
Murtoa AWC 9am
29th January -
Dimboola Mass 8.30am
Murtoa Mass 10.30am

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 108.00
Horsham	\$	Dimboola	\$ 91.00
Total			\$ 1120.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account) (Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals)

Envelopes	\$	1984.00	Loose	\$	67.20
Credit Card	\$	2566.67	Direct Debit	\$	2206.67
Total					\$ 6824.54

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 10th Jan	5.30pm
Wednesday 11th Jan	9.30am
Thursday 12th Jan	9.30am
Friday 13th Jan	9.30am
Saturday 14th Jan	10am

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, my creator, breathe on me, renew me, refresh me, extend my abilities, comfort me in adjusting to changes in health, mobility and activity. Body of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being. Keep me well, and hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others. Amen



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Naureen Feery (Melb), Cecilia Opie (Melb)

ANNIVERSARIES: Jenny Boyko, Alex Pekin, Dan & Ede Pekin, Jenny Issell,

SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Fred Webb, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Teresa White, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Joy Flynn, Carmel Cannard, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Roma Magee, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Michael De Jong, Heather McPhee, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Bernie Ryan, Rhiannon Jackson

Emergency Care: Coordinator Betty 5382 6688

Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)

Saturday Morning Devotions:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20
Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass**

**Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of the Month
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time- 15th January**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm

Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 9.00am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet
HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.**

ROSTERS

Jan 7/8	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Ann Hermans Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce	Julie Antonoff Faye Wills Cate Rigby Mary Marshall Tim Lannen Mary Dagleish Russell Reid
Jan 14/15	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Micky Robarts	Andrea Cox
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Angela Murphy
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvanna Foster Peter Gutteridge	Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Julie Antonoff Karen Hill
Projector	Gabby Mills	Shayne Keenan
Welcomers	Judie & Hugh Delahunty	Zita Cannane Mary Dagleish

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 15th: Lucille Pekin, Pauline Breen, Sue Chalkley, Judie Delahunty **Jan 22nd:** Lynda Hutchinson, Silvanna Foster, Helene Bush

There will be **NO MEN'S GROUP** during the month of January. The next meeting will take place on February 16th 2017 in the Parish Hall at 7.30am. All men welcome

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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 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

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-

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 the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the 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

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.

