



Pastoral Cluster

Incorporating the Parishes of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

PARISH PRIESTS:	Frs Gerard Keith & Mick Fitzpatrick - Phone 5278 1343			Web Page Address: www.pastoralclustergeelong.org
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OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm			
OFFICE MANAGER:	Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@netspace.net.au)		
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

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'. (Cont'd P2)

- The Epiphany of the Lord -

(Year A - January 2, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord and ruler is coming. kingship is his, and government and power.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Baptism of the Lord - Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
 2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38
 Gospel: Mt 3:13-17



PARISH PRAYER:

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help the parents to be a good example to the children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Heavenly Father, help us to respond to and live out our mission in the Church, and in the world. Help all your people to know their vocation in life and assist them to live it well.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, call many to be priests and religious. Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Pastoral Cluster at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am (Sunday)

Croatian... 11.30am (1,3,4,5th Sunday), 12.30pm (2nd Sunday) - Slovenian... 11.30am (2nd Sunday)

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

6.00pm Sat

11am - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Sat

11am - 2nd and 4th Sundays

9.30am - Italian Mass at St Patrick's

WEEKDAY MASSES: (Mon Jan 3 to Sat Jan 8)

Mon 3pm - Vincentian Village, Tues 9.15am - Holy Family, Wed 9am - Holy Spirit, Thurs 9.15am - Holy Family

Fri 11am - Holy Spirit, Sat 9am - Holy Spirit

THE COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP:

Last week we received a note of thanks for the \$18,000 that the three parishes and three primary schools of the Cluster raised for the Columban Partnership from Sr Claire Griffin. In the new year (a time of resolutions) you may give consideration to being actively involved in the awareness, fund and friend-raising elements of this partnership.

THANKYOU:

Fr Mick and I thank the parishioners for your best wishes and gifts over Christmas. Your generosity is much appreciated.

RECENT DEATHS:

Allan Mee, Lorraine Abela, John Nardi, David Hamilton, Vytautas Bindokas, Peter Kenny, Fr Anthony Hicks, Bishop Joseph Grech

ANNIVERSARIES:

Giuliano Cola, Domenico, Antonina & Grazia Arena, Nell McFarlane

BAPTISMS:

Solomon Russell (HS)

Columban Calendars are available for sale at
Holy Family after Mass.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

'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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

F O'Neill

E Di Domenico, I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova

C Marcantonio, P Walsh

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Modica, E Glynn, M Baird, J Sheahan

V Resciniti, G Cracco

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

M Lacy

M Willett, G Harrison

B Murphy, M Willett, R O'Neill

M Brown, D McFarlane, P Ryan

B Stocks

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

A Hubbard

P Power, P Hubbard

P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchy

R&K Maddalena

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

L Strzelecki, A/L Fossey, M Sleeman

M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey

T Martin