



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

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OFFICE:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

PARISH MANAGER:

Trish Stickland - Phone 5278 1343 (email: trish.stickland@cam.org.au)

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic - Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@cam.org.au)

THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:

Helen Brislane - Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.org.au)

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -	Paul McBride/Trish Moloney	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit -	Rohan Cann	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
St Patrick's -	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard

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 P4



Best Wishes for a holy, safe and prosperous New Year!



- The Epiphany of the Lord -

(Year C - January 3, 2016)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East
and see your children gathered from the rising
to the setting of the son.

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:

The Baptism of the Lord - Year C

1st Reading:	Is 42:1-4,6-7
2nd Reading:	Acts 10:34-38
Gospel:	Lk 3:15-16,21-22

**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

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING JANUARY WILL RETURN TO THE NORMAL TIMETABLE.

Holy Family:	9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs		
Holy Spirit:	9am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat	Reconciliation after Saturday Mass	
Grace McKellar Centre:	10.15am - 1st,3rd,5th Tues	Maryville Nursing Home:	11am 1st & 3rd Friday
Multicultural Centre:	1.30pm - 1st Friday	Vincentian Village:	3pm 1st&3rd Monday (2nd&4th Communion)

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Kathleen Myers, Harry Kuehnel and Margaret Dyson
ANNIVERSARIES:	Nikola & Ljubica Mikin, Patricia Dickinson, Frances Drew, Rose Seljak, Nell McFarlane, Tony Patti, Rosario Trifiletti
BAPTISMS:	Scarlet Ward
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Ernie Cawthray, Anna Beachell, Elain, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall

Cluster News:

- ◆ **HEARTFELT THANKS:** To all those who played a particular role in our Christmas liturgies - our musicians and choirs, lectors, commentators, special ministers, collectors. Thankyou very kindly for a job well done! Your efforts enable the whole community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas - God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son.
- ◆ **ALSO...** Fr Mick and I would also like to thank so many people who offered Christmas gifts, cards and well wishes for this festive season. This tangible expression of support is much appreciated.
- ◆ **TRISH'S LONG SERVICE LEAVE:** After 12 years of service for the Pastoral Cluster, Trish Stickland - the Parish manager, is taking Long Service Leave and will return in May. Any queries can be directed to the Cluster Office. We wish Trish an enjoyable and relaxing time during this extended period of leave.
- ◆ **PASTORAL CLUSTER PARISH GROUP RECONCILIATION:** From January 11th, bookings will be taken for those Catholic children in the non-Catholic schools for parents who wish their child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please contact the Office on 5278 1343. The program entails a Commitment Mass, a one-off Parent/child information session with Paul Spence on Monday February 29th and a couple of Sunday morning classes. The Reconciliation service takes place in Holy Week.

/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 10, 2015

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators	8.00AM R Allum
Lectors	F O'Neill
Special Ministers	R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
Welcomers	C Marcantonio,
Projectionist	R Allum

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators	6.00PM D Ryan
Lectors	J Ryan
Special Ministers	R O'Neill, E Ryan, Lucy Vannata
Welcomers	M Brown
Projectionist	J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators	5.00PM A Hubbard
Lectors	P Power, P Hubbard
Special Ministers	P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera,
V Resciniti, E Glynn
C Resciniti

11.00AM

E Strzelecki
M Martin, A Kissane
E Strzelecki, L Fossey,
M Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey
R Martin