



# St Michael's Parish

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

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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.

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.

*Have a Holy, Happy and Safe New Year!*

## - The Epiphany of the Lord -

(Year A - January 5, 2020)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

### 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**

1st Reading: Is 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.

# ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER



## WEEKEND MASSES:

### Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday

Croatian... 11am Sunday

Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

### Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

### Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Saturday

## WEEKDAY MASSES:

### Holy Family:

9.15am Tues (followed by Novena to St Anthony), 9.15am Thurs

### Holy Spirit:

9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat. **Reconciliation after Saturday Mass**

### McKellar Centre:

10.15am - 1st Tuesday (3rd & 5th Communion Service)

### Multicultural Centre:

1.30pm - 1st Friday;

**Elstoft House (formerly Vincentian Village):** 3.00pm 3rd Tuesday, (1st, 2nd & 4th Communion Service)

**St John of God Hospital:** 11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Slavko Saric, Mary McDonald, Katarina Vlahovic, Sr Joan Johnson RSM and Sr Joan Doolan RSM

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Patricia Dickinson, Rose Seljak, Alosz Seljak (1 year), Cresencia Mangas and Vito Cammarota

### **BAPTISMS:**

Olivia King

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, John McDonald, Angela Reed, Narciso Baldasso, Josica Markov



### **PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:**

**Tues January 7...**

Lancaster & Carter family members

**Wed January 8...**

Bourke family members

**Thurs January 9...**

Ciola family members

**Fri Jan 10...**

O'Neill and Wallace family members

**With praise and thanks to God, you and I had the first great Christmas celebration at St Michael's Parish. My heartfelt gratitude and thanks to everyone involved in their particular roles in our Christmas celebration.**

*Thank You*

**Special thanks to our musicians and choirs, Commentators, Lectors, Special Ministers, Collectors, Sr Anne and the Holy Angel Sisters. Thankou so much for your help and well done! Your support and love enables the whole community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.**

**God bless you all - Fr Minh Tran**

## **Roster for Next Sunday**

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM**

Commentators M Carson  
Lectors P Power  
Special Ministers P McGlinchey  
Welcomers D Dougherty  
Projectionist B Middleton  
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

### **HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM**

E Strzelecki  
M Martin  
V Trinder, L Vannata  
L. Fossey  
R Martin

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Commentators K Saunders  
Lectors F O'Neill  
Special Ministers R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio  
Welcomers C Marcantonio, L Allum  
Projectionist R Allum  
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

### **9.30AM**

C Simpson  
D Lunn, A Negro  
H Verdrik, E Di Domenico, E Glynn  
V Resciniti, E Glynn  
C Resciniti  
J Mann, 0488 784 802