

ST JEROME'S CATHOLIC PARISH

VISION: "To be an active faith community centred on Jesus Christ, which unites everyone to build a better world"



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YrB – 3rd January

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay D'Souza CRS
E: johnson.dsouza@perthcatholic.org.au
Assistant Priest: Fr Pierangelo Borali CRS
E: pierbora@gmail.com

Parish Office: 36 Troode Street, Munster
Phone: 9418 1229
Secretary : secretary@stjeromesparish.org
Website: www.stjeromesparish.org

FIRST 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 nation's 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.

The Word of the Lord. **R: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Ps 71 R v 11*

R: 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. **R**

In his day's justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and the seacoasts 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**

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: *Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6*

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 Holy 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.

The Word of the Lord. **R: Thanks be to God.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Father's message

Follow the star!

'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' (Matthew 2:2)

The wise men appear to be seekers of God. They saw the star, a sign, and followed the sign consistently. They kept their eyes on that initial experience - "as it rose" - and meant to seek the King "to worship him", "to do him homage".

The people of Israel had not seen the star. It was the wise men, who were seekers, who saw the star. We need to look for the star. We need to be seekers.

As long as they were in the area of Herod, they could not see the star. Once they left Herod the star was visible again. At times our reliance on human resources, our capabilities, may block us from recognising the star.

Jesus does manifest himself. We do have our own "epiphany".

When did I first see the star? When did I have a glimpse of Jesus, an experience of his personal love for me? I must have, or I would not endure coming here every Sunday.

We might have been looking for that experience ever since.

"My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek." (Psalm 27:8)

"You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace." (St. Augustine, Confessions)

Follow the star. Seek the King to do him homage.

Worship/Homage:

Worship means putting the Lord at the centre, not ourselves. Worship means making God's plan more important than our personal time, our entitlements and our spaces.

Worship means going to Jesus without a list of petitions, but with one request alone: to abide with him

Worship means concentrating on what is essential.

Worship means bending low before the Most High and to discover in his presence that life's greatness does not consist in having, but in loving.

Follow the star - keep looking for the King in everyday life and do him homage.

THE MAGI

If you carefully read Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, you may be surprised that many of the details that people assume about the magi are actually absent. The word magi usually mean "astrologers" or "magicians." It can also refer, more specifically, to priests of the Zoroastrian religion—an Iranian tradition that has influenced both Judaism and Christianity. Zoroastrian magi were famous in the ancient world for their skills in interpreting the night-time sky, so Matthew's enigmatic figures may have been priests who hailed from Iran.

Regarding their country of origin, Matthew says nothing more than that the magi hailed from "the East" (Matt 2:1), but most early Christians thought the magi came from Iran. However, there were different theories about where in the East the magi came from—either Babylon, which had a reputation as the birthplace of astrology, or Arabia, since the exotic spices brought by the magi came from that region.

One ancient Christian text, the Revelation of the Magi, even portrays the magi as coming from China. You may notice that Matthew never says how many there actually were. Since the magi carried three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—a tradition developed that there were only three magi, each with a single gift.

The familiar names "Balthazar," "Caspar," and "Melchior" do not appear in Matthew's story either: they emerged in later Christian tradition. <https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/magi>



The BEST New Year's resolution?

one Hour a week to Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

JESUS IS NEVER OUTDONE IN GENEROSITY

VATICAN PUBLISHES NOTE ON MORALITY OF USING COVID-19 VACCINES

We publish here some excerpt from this Note, as some members of our community had been wondering about the morality of the upcoming vaccines. The full Note, which is rather brief, can be found on the Vatican website. "In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century."

"When ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available, it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted foetuses in their research and production process."

"The fundamental reason for considering the use of these vaccines morally licit is that the kind of cooperation in evil (passive material cooperation) in the procured abortion from which these cell lines originate is, on the part of those making use of the resulting vaccines, remote."

The "moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger," such as "the otherwise uncontrollable spread of a serious pathological agent—in this case, the pandemic spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. It must therefore be considered that, in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive."

"It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines."

POPE FRANCIS ABOUT ST. JOSEPH IN HIS LETTER "PATRIS CORDE" WITH A FATHER'S HEART:

1. A beloved father

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation".[7]

Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home".[8]

Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious Institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him. Among them was Teresa of Avila, who chose him as her advocate and intercessor, had frequent recourse to him and received whatever graces she asked of him. Encouraged by her own experience, Teresa persuaded others to cultivate devotion to Joseph.[9]

Every prayer book contains prayers to Saint Joseph. Special prayers are offered to him each Wednesday and especially during the month of March, which is traditionally dedicated to him.[10]

Popular trust in Saint Joseph is seen in the expression "Go to Joseph", which evokes the famine in Egypt, when the Egyptians begged Pharaoh for bread. He in turn replied: "Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do" (Gen 41:55). Pharaoh was referring to Joseph the son of Jacob, who was sold into slavery because of the jealousy of his brothers (cf. Gen 37:11-28) and who – according to the biblical account – subsequently became viceroy of Egypt (cf. Gen 41:41-44).

As a descendant of David (cf. Mt 1:16-20), from whose stock Jesus was to spring according to the promise made to David by the prophet Nathan (cf. 2 Sam 7), and as the spouse of Mary of Nazareth, Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments.

In an Emergency only (anointing of the sick), when the Parish phone is unattended please call the parish emergency number of 0478 456 079 or send a text to this number. Thank you



REQUIREMENT TO KEEP RECORDS OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE FROM 5 DECEMBER 2020

To support contact tracing in case of an outbreak of covid-19, records are required by the WA government. The easiest way will be that all who can download an app - SafeWA. The app will easily record attendance by scanning a QR code. Using the app would make it so much easier for us to manage the requirement. We humbly request all who can to do so. All who cannot use the app will be required to write down their details on the sheets provided. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Benji Kentwell, Matilda De Santos, Sister Renee Quadros, Salvatore Lazzara, Alessio De Souza, John Alvarez, Marina & Rita Papalia, Sid Gaspar, Lucia Merenda, Madeleine Lombardo, Maria Fernandez.

(Please advise the parish office if any of these names need to be removed.)

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 02/01/21	6pm	Soul of Ken Orr Soul of Laretta Yon	Tues 05/01/21	7am 9am	Int. for Anna & family
Sun 03/01/21	8am 10am	Soul of Andrew De Sousa Soul of Manuel Canada Int. Gail Ashton	Wed 06/01/21	7am 9am	Soul of Eileen Desmond Int. of Freitas & Yukos families Soul of Gabriel Abreu Int. for Anna & family
	6pm	Soul of Raffaele D'Angelo Souls of Roko & Ruza Ukich	Thurs 07/01/21	7am 9am	Int. of Edita Int. for Anna & family
Mon 04/01/21	7am 9am	Soul of Giuseppe Antonio Merenda & Family Souls of Anton & Maria Zuvela Int. for Anna & family	Fri 08/01/21	7am 9am	Deceased members of Jayasuriya Family Int. for Anna & family
			Sat 09/01/21	9am	Soul of Nicholas Fistonich In Thanksgiving to Jesus the Nazarene Int. Carmela & Francesco Favazzo

Remembrance Funerals



Remembering Families

Remembering Life

Pre paid available at today's

affordable prices

Burials & Cremations

any time, all areas

Portuguese & Italian Spoken

Contact Susie Lombardi

1300 799 093



Saving families thousands

without compromise!

ABC

Blinds and Awnings

Edwin Pinto 0413 914 918

- * VERTICALS
- * VENETIANS
- * TIMBERS * AWNINGS
- * ROLLER BLINDS
- * SUNSCREEN BLINDS
- * PANEL BLINDS
- * ROMAN BLINDS

Free measure and quote in your own home.

Special discounts for parishioners

Installation in 10 Working Days

Generations of experience and innovation

For all your funeral requirements, including information on pre-paid funerals, or female funeral directors please call our Head Office 92315199.

Chapels located at Cannington, Cottesloe, Dianella, Fremantle, Mandurah, Medina, Midland, Perth and Westminster.

