

## Gospel

2:1-12

*from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel thoughts

*by Dianne Bergant CSA*

**T**he Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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# Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

Epiphany Sunday (Year C) - Season of Christmas

3 January 2010



## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71

**R/** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

## Second Reading

3:2-3, 5-6

*from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

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

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

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### *The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (Manifestation)*

The very ancient Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the fact that Israel's Messiah is also the Saviour of the entire world. We believers of later generations take this more or less for granted. The passage from the Letter to the Ephesians read as today's second reading speaks of it as a great 'mystery', one which Paul himself came to know by revelation (his experience on the Damascus Road; before becoming, as Apostle to the Gentiles, the principal instrument of its realisation.

Faced with this 'mystery' of the extraordinary richness and scope of God's salvation, the early Christians went back to the Scriptures of Israel to find traces of its foretelling. It has clearly influenced Matthew's account of the coming of the Wise Men, which forms the Gospel.. The gospel will conclude on the same note with the great commission, 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations' (28:16-20).

Their journey has been one of faith and risk. Their coming has caused 'disturbance' in Jerusalem; the treacherous and murderous figure of Herod looms over all, foreshadowing the Passion that is to come. But the riches of God's salvation will go to the Gentiles. We too walk in the footsteps of the wise men, sharing their longing, their faith, and the joy of their discovery, and bringing our own gifts to the Lord.

### **Sunday Masses for the Holiday Season:**

- Nowra:**...Vigil 6pm, 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.00pm
- Berry:**..... 8.00am
- Bomaderry:**.....9.30am
- Culburra:**.....Vigil 6.00pm, and 8.00 a.m.
- Vincentia:**..... Vigil 6.00pm, 8.00 & 9.30am
- Kangaroo Valley:** 11.00.am.

S'haven Heads: Vigil 6.00.p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 only  
(Community Centre)

### **MASSES DURING THE WEEK**

- Nowra:** Mon. 7.00.a.m Tues/Wed/Thurs. 8.15 a.m.  
Fri. 7.00am and 11.30am, Sat. 9.00 a.m.
- Berry:** Tues. 5.30 pm
- Culburra :** **Please note no Mass this Thursday**
- Vincentia:** Mon/Thurs/Fri 8.00 am,  
Tues/Wed 5.30 pm
- Kangaroo Valley:** Mon/ Tues/Thurs and Sat. 8.00am  
(Divine Office 10.40am), Wed Mass 6.15am. (Lauds at 6am)

### **CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION**

- Nowra:** Sat 11.30am – 12.30pm,
- Culburra:** Sat. 5.30pm
- Vincentia:** Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

### **Feastdays:**

**Sunday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.** The Baptism of the Lord.

**Sat. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> Santo Nino-** The Philippino Annual Festival Mass – 9.00.a.m. at St. Michael's



Pope Benedict shared a meal with 150 of the poor at soup kitchen operated by the Sant'Egidio Community in Rome, on Sunday last. The crowd cheered 'long live the Pope', some children were personally greeted by the Pope.

Pope Benedict distributed gifts, chatted with the guests and gave a brief address.

*(Peace and God's Blessings to all throughout 2010)*

### **IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE**

**PEACE, PROTECT CREATION :** At the beginning of this New Year, I wish to offer heartfelt greetings of peace to all Christian communities, international leaders, and people of good will



throughout the world. For this 43rd World Day of Peace I have chosen the theme: ***If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation.*** Respect for creation is of immense consequence, not least

because "creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works", [1] and its preservation has now become essential for the peaceful coexistence of mankind. Man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to authentic and integral human development – wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect – if not downright misuse – of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen "that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying". [2]

In this festive season the community has been profoundly shocked and saddened by at least two tragic accidents during the week. We commend those who have died to God's eternal keeping: Joel Walker (two-and half yrs, Shoalhaven Hds.) the Bridges sisters (Ulladulla) and David Carolan (Narellan Vale.). 'God of compassion, grant consolation and support to their grief-stricken families.'



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased: **Peter Ryder and Monica Hampel.** Also **Joyce McMahon, Yvette Tito, Joan Reid, David Weeks, and Rona Wakefield** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in eternal peace.