



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

2016 - Jubilee Year of Mercy

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills, Elizabeth Hills & Elizabeth Park)



Parish Administrator: Rev Fr James McCarthy

Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

Assistant: Rev Fr Phan Nguyen

Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator: Joe Sullivan

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

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website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

Accountant: Michael O'Mara

Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10am to 4pm

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

'Prayer of the Church'

prayed at John the Baptist

10 minutes before weekday Masses

Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

Mass Intention for Mary Vella

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

St Raymond of Penyafort, priest

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 9/10 JANUARY

(The Baptism of the Lord)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses :

8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm

1st Sunday of Month:

5:30pm Youth Mass

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4.15 - 5.00pm

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year C)

2nd & 3rd January, 2016

"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage."

Today we celebrate Christmas again, but today is slightly different Christmas. On Christmas Day we visited Bethlehem with the shepherds. Today we make a second visit, this time with the Wise Men or the Magi, as they are often called.

In the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Traditions it is held that there were twelve kings who were the wise men, and they represented the twelve tribes of Israel, which was considered a symbolic representation of all the people of the world. In our Latin Tradition, we often say that there were three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, because the Gospel mentions three gifts. But it has always been understood that the wise men represent all the people of the world.

I think the visitors who came were not just three, but a whole caravan of people. These people left their homelands on a lengthy journey, presumably with their families, friends, advisors, livestock, farmers, merchants, wealth and most likely anyone who was interested in taking the journey of their life. This group of travellers must have made a significant impact when they entered Jerusalem otherwise King Herod would not have agreed to meet them. They brought gifts including gold, frankincense, myrrh, but they also brought the greatest gift possible, the gift of themselves.

A relationship with the Divine Son is not only for the wise men, but it is offered to all of humanity. We should want to bring our friends to Christ because it is only through Christ that we have a genuine future. If we are willing to become like the wise men, to leave our homes, routine and the security of everyday-life in search of God, then Christ will take us places we never expected to go. Christ may take us to a humble place, maybe something like Bethlehem, where we will see and experience generosity, kindness and the love of God extended to all.

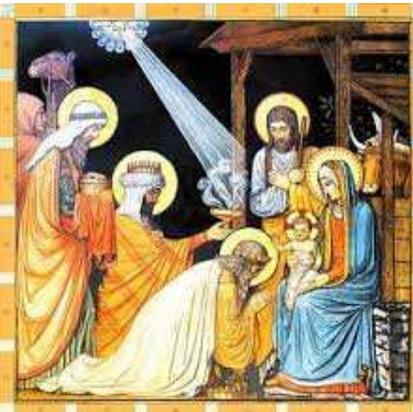
Going on a journey to find Jesus is part of what it means to be a Christian. When you are on holidays, especially away from home, find Jesus in the place you are visiting. Visit the church and attend Mass. See Christ and worship Christ in these distant places, whether it is Fiji, parts of Europe, Africa, or even the Central or South Coast of NSW. The Church is everywhere, and we can come as the Magi to visit Jesus in distant far-off places.

Our Gospel tells us that the wise men "fell to their knees and did homage" to the newborn child. This too should be our response. When we genuflect and kneel at the presence of God, we should also spiritually lay ourselves down in love entirely at the feet of the Lord. When people fall to their knees, they take on a posture that makes them completely vulnerable. When someone kneels in front of another, a person is motivated either by trust and love for another, through complete fear of another, or through passion to prove a point. The wise men freely chose to fall to their knees in trust and love, giving up their weapons, security and defences to worship the King of Kings, God-made-man.

Immediately before receiving communion, the Church asks each person to make a deliberate act of reverence at the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, like the Wise men coming to do homage at Bethlehem. We genuflect or bow profoundly as this is God we are receiving. Let us show ourselves and others that we believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, that we have seen his star, and we have come to do him homage!

Happy New Year. Let us make 2016 a year devoted to the mercy and homage of God.

Fr James



Reflection Questions

- The light I follow is.....
- It leads me to.....
- I search for Christ when.....
- I am the revelation of Christ for others when.....
- Like the magi, I encounter the "newborn king" when.....
- The gift I offer him is.....

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are usually held on Sundays. It is necessary to make a booking through the parish office and attend a Baptism Preparation session with either Fr James, Fr Phan or Deacon Mervyn. The Baptism will be pencilled in, and will only be confirmed once you have attended a Baptism Preparation session.

Sacrament of First Penance/Reconciliation/Confession: Will take place in term 4 (November 2016)

First Holy Communion: Will take place in term 2 (June 2016)

Confirmation: Took place in term 3 (September 2016)

Please keep watching this space for changes or updates or call the Parish Office.



We congratulate the family of Zac DAWSON who will be Baptised here this Sunday 3rd January.

John Cassian 4th-5th Century monk

Presented by Bishop David Walker at

The Centre for Christian Spirituality, 14 Frances St, Randwick

Dates: Wednesday nights 20, 27 January & 3 February, 2016

7:00 - 8:30pm Course Cost:\$30

Online Bookings: <http://trybooking.com/JUUK>

Direct Bookings: 9398 2211 or sally@thecentre.com.au

**'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD'
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

Every Tuesday at 8pm. Give 20 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. Duration time is approximately 30 minutes. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.

BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday 10am - 11am

Gathers in the **Church Meeting Room** (after the 9:10am Mass and Rosary). For further information please contact Meding on 9823 7121 or 0410 177 673.



Bereavement Support Group: Will be back in 2016, so please watch this space for the commencement date!

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2015/2016 are now available for collection from the Parish Office.

If any Parishioner is interested in joining our Planned Giving Envelopes there will be clipboards available for you to place your names on the request forms. If you wish to have your contribution direct debited there are also yellow Standing Authority forms available. Thank you for your support.

PARISH HOUSIE: Every Saturday

2pm - 4:30pm at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

Think about your choices. Gambling More, enjoying less? For free and confidential information and advice about problem gambling, contact **Gambling Help 1800 858 858** www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au



ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

| Ministries Next Week 9/10 Jan | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------|
| READERS: | L Krslovic A Pace | I O'Connor L Barilla | C Purcell G Zangari | R Camilleri A Watts |
| EUCHARIST MINISTERS: | M Chum A Gorla B Gorla M Harvey T Grana P Grana M Abela | B O'Connor A Esposito F Foti F Bushby | G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato J Sullivan C Goodyer G Zangari Delica Vella J Vella M Velardi | |

YOUTH CORNER

LUNA PARK OUTING



The John the Baptist Parish would like to extend an invitation to the Jordan, Galilee and Antioch youth groups to attend our summer holiday outing which will be held at Luna Park on January 15. This has been organised as a "thank you" to all those who have participated in the youth groups throughout the year, so that they can have fun with one another and enjoy each other's fellowship, a beautiful way to commemorate the new year as a community. We hope to make a day of it and so those that are up for it are welcome to attend a picnic that a few of us will be hoping to have at Bradfield Park (right next to Luna Park). We will have our lunch here and then make our way to Luna Park, where we will stay till 5:00pm. Bring some snacks also if you'd like to join us for our picnic at Bradfield Park.



Youth Prayer Intentions and Mass

All the youth and young adults of JB Parish are invited to the weekly Wednesday night Mass to pray for specific intentions (which will change each week). There will be a chance to celebrate Mass, pray for the intention during the Holy Hour as well as some time for fellowship with other youth. So please join us this Wednesday 6th January at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For those who are poor and hungry.** If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Joe to do so. Come along for a chance to pray the rosary, celebrate Mass and worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.



Antioch meet every Sunday evening from

6:30-8:30pm at JB Parish Hall. Come and join us for some great talks, participate in sharing, music, prayer and more! All youth from 16-24yo are more than welcome to attend! **Begins again on January 10!**

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

Weekend Retreat: Enter the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy

Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, OCD

When: January 29-31, 2016 Cost: \$230 (Concessions apply)

Day Retreat: Healing Wounds, Lifting Burdens, Setting Free

Presenter: Fr Greg Burke, OCD

When: 5th March, 2015 Cost: \$25

Bring your own lunch

Pick ups from Minto train station at 9:30am and 10:00am

Phone: 02 8795 3400 Email: retreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

"When Christ is your friend, you have joy, serenity, happiness."

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:



Sick: Archbishop Anthony FISHER, Sebastian AGUIAR, Maria KONTREC, Eduiges CAMPOS, Bishop George PHIMPISAN, Fr Paul STENHOUSE, Fr John B CHIANG, Ray CLARKE, Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Facunda MARTINO (7 years), Luis MARTINO, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAF, Cherish ADINA (1 year), Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Eugene KLEIBERT, Dora BADINO, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK

Recently Deceased: Elrick Daniel SIBUYO, Jose BRITO, Joe CAMILLERI, Amparo PEDRO

Death Anniversary:

Other: Mary VELLA, Very Special Intention

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

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!*

Communion Antiphon: *We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year C

3 January 2016

First Reading Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

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 your 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 nations 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- 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. *(R.)*
- 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.
(R.)
- 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. *(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 Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

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 Mk 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

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.



Reflection

by Michael Tate

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control this infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

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The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

THE FIRST NOEL

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

3 And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

5 Then entered in those Wise men three
Fell reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **Refrain**

O, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;

Refrain

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

2. Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer Him frankincense and gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child, Bring our hearts oblations.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest.

WE THREE KINGS

- 1 We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain

**O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. **Refrain**

- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high. **Refrain**

- 4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. **Refrain**

- 5 Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia!, Alleluia!,
Rings through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

