



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429

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Liturgy Times this Week

Sat 5.30pm St Anne's
 Sun 8.30am St Anne's
 10.30am St Anne's
 5.30pm St Anne's
 Mon 9.15am St Anne's—Liturgy of Word
 Wed: 9.15am St Anne's
 Thurs 9.15am St Anne's
 Fri: 9.15am St Anne's

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
 Assisting Priest: Rev Bert Fulbrook SDB
 Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Jose Noy RSJ
 Pastoral Co-ord: Lyn Plummer
 St Anne's Primary School: 9744 3055
 Principal: Noelene Hussey
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel School:
 9740 7344

Acting Principal: Mark Gleeson

Baptisms celebrated on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

Reconciliation OLMC Church
10.00am-10.30am Saturday

8 January 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

Psalm Response

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!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Emmanuel AGIUS Margaret CROOKS Kath KILGARIFF Lionel MCGUIRE Fr Joe MCMAHON Violeta MARIANO Josephine MEHAS Bernadette NOONAN Kath REILLY Kevin SMITH Frank WALKER Beth WARBURTON

Recently Deceased:

Gweneth SHANAHAN (nee Johnston)

Anniversaries: Alberto CARASIG Pauline CARASIG Joe D'SOUZA Peter D'SOUZA Ulysses D'SOUZA Jean DORNEY Ken MCMANUS Jack QUIRK Mark SPITERI Wanda TABERO



ARTABAN

The Fourth Wise Man

The wise man Artaban, in his pursuit of the King of the Jews, missed his three friends: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, who had set out before him. He also misses the Christ Child because his adventures led him into strange encounters with dying beggars and frightened mothers to whom he gives two of his three jewels intended for the newborn child. Having failed to search out the child, Artaban returns to his homeland, but he continues his search for the Messiah into his old age.

After thirty-three years of fruitless searching he returns to Jerusalem. It is Pass-over time. Artaban, now an old man, notes an unusual commotion, and he inquires about its cause. People tell him, "We are going to the place called Golgotha, just outside the walls of the city, to see the crucifixion of two robbers and a man called Jesus of Nazareth. This man Jesus calls himself the Son of God, and Pilate has sentenced him to be crucified on the charge of treason, because he claims to be King of the Jews."

Artaban knows instinctively that this is the King he has been searching for. So he rushes to the scene. But on his way he meets a young girl being sold into slavery. She sees his robes and falls at his feet pleading with him to rescue her. His heart is moved with pity, and he gives away his last jewel for her ransom. Just then darkness falls over the land and the earth shakes, and great stones fall into the streets. One of them falls upon Artaban crushing his head.

As he lies dying in the arms of the young girl he has just ransomed, he cries out weakly, "Three and thirty years I looked for thee, O Lord, but I have never seen your face nor ministered to thee." Just then a voice comes from heaven, strong and kind, and says, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." Artaban's face grows calm and peaceful. His long journey is ended. At last he has found his King. Or it might be said that the King he has been searching for has found him.

(The above story is taken from **William J Bausch, 'A World of Stories'**)

Matthew's story of the three wise men from the East is not found in any other Gospel. Why did Matthew write this story? What was he trying to say by it? Half way through his gospel Matthew makes it plain that by and large the Jewish people rejected Jesus as the Messiah. However, we know that the early followers of Jesus were Jews. Mary and Joseph were Jews, so were his men and women disciples. But by the time Matthew came to write his gospel, many gentiles (non-Jews) had joined the Christian flock. So Matthew finishes his gospel with these words of Jesus: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." Like two bookends these last words of Jesus and the story of the Magi emphasise that the gospel has universal appeal, and he who was believed to be 'King of the Jews' was, in fact, 'Universal King'.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

CONGRATULATIONS SR JOSE' ON GOLDEN JUBILEE: on 6 January 2017, Sr Jose' celebrated her 50th anniversary. She celebrated in Sydney with the Sisters of St Joseph and we will celebrate as a parish on Sunday 26 February at 10.30am Mass with a luncheon afterwards.



MORE PRIESTS NEEDED: In 2016, eleven Melbourne Diocesan priests have retired from active full time ministry. Next month, nine young men are beginning their priestly formation in Carlton. Please keep them in your prayers and encourage others to join them for the most fulfilling life, according to research by the ... Cabinet Office.

SUNDAY EVENING MASSES : during January and February we will be following our custom of celebrating Mass at 5.30pm in St Anne's Church where there is cooling for the health of all beginning on Sunday 1 January 2017.

VALENTINES DAY DANCE: is being organized by the Youth Group for Saturday February 18 from 6.30pm-11pm in the Parish Centre. Tickets can be purchased via Garnet on 0411 286 428 or the Parish Office. Tickets are Adults \$20, Pensioners \$15, Family of 4 with 2 children under 12 \$50, children under 12 \$12. Food and music included in price of ticket.

Sponsors, Donations and Raffle prizes are welcome.

All profits will be donated to the Goonawarra House and the Youth Group.

Goonawarra House run a program to support young girls who suffer with bullying. Funds raised will pay for mentors for the girls.

The Youth Group will be looking to fund a bus trip for the parish community this year. Funds from the dance will be used to fund the bus trip.



THANK YOU: for the generous support of the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This year an amazing amount of \$6200 was raised for those in need. Money is given to families so they can buy the things they desperately need.

THREE WISE MEN: 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.

© Fr Michael Tate

MARY'S EXPERIENCE AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS: A CONTEMPLATION OF LUKE 2:1-20 FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MARY.

This is the Holy Night. Share in the joy of your heavenly mother, who feels that the moment of her Virginal motherhood has now come. For me, it is as though everything that surrounds me is far away: the fatigue of the journey to Bethlehem; the noise of the crowded caravan; the anxious search to find a place to spend the night; the sad surprise before each door as it is closed; the trusting confidence before a poor little cave which opens itself to us.

The gentle and loving assistance of my most chaste spouse, Joseph, surrounds me like a caress. It is he who seeks to make the place more hospitable; who prepares the crib in a warmer manger; who looks about for a shield against the rigor of the cold; who stays close to me and joins in my fervent prayer; who contemplates in wonder the prodigy; hears the song of the angels and is conscious of the peace which comes down from heaven.

My soul was immersed in an ocean of peace and blessedness. The presence of the word who, for nine months, had been pulsating in his human body which was formed in my virginal womb, had filled my soul with the light and happiness of all paradise. There the most holy trinity had made its habitual dwelling; the choirs of angels were prostrating themselves in perpetual adoration and interweaving sweetest harmonies of heavenly songs. The very light of God was transfiguring my soul, which became a most pure reflection of his divine beauty. Thus I was preparing a precious and holy crib in which to place the light which was about to rise in the midst of an immense darkness.

My heart was opening itself to an experience so great such as has not been granted to any other creature. What sentiments of ineffable love my heart was experiencing in feeling that the awaited moment of the birth of my divine child had now come; my motherly love was made even more perfect by my virginal state and the consciousness that the child who was about to be born of me was the son of God.

My body was enwrapped in a light which was becoming stronger and stronger and more intense, the more I entered into an ecstasy of prayer and of profound union with the heavenly Father. On this night, paradise was completely contained within a poor and cold cave. As a ray of light passes through a crystal without even grazing it, so too the divine child passed through the veil of my virginal womb without grazing the charm of my perfect virginity. In this wonderful manner there took place the birth of my son. The greatest of all prodigies is accomplished in the fullness of time.*John Porta*

REFLECTION: The wise men returned to their own country "by a different way" because they had been warned about Herod. But there is another reason why the Magi set out on their journey "by a different way". The Magi had searched, and because of what they had found, they themselves and their lives could never be the same again. They had found Jesus. The "different way" taken by the Magi refers not only to the new route taken on their journey home. The "different way" refers to something interior. It refers to the entirely new outlook they had been given because of Jesus.

TS Eliot wrote about the journey of the Magi in a poem with that name. Eliot's poem ends with one of the Magi, now an old man, reflecting on the journey he and the others had made so many years before. Traditionally, the Magi are depicted as wise kings from pagan lands. In the poem this is what the Wise King says:

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, with an alien people clutching their gods.

After finding Jesus, the Magi had returned home but they no longer felt "at ease" in their own kingdoms. Although they had returned home, they no longer felt at home. Their own people now seemed alien to them. For the Magi, seeing the infant Jesus was an epiphany, a revelation which had opened their eyes. Nothing could be the same again. They had no choice but to take "a different way" in life because they themselves were now so different.

.....*Fr Leo Duck of Emmanuel Advent Reflections 2016 Catholic Archdiocese Wollongong*

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Nil **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Snell Family St Anne's Church – Lisa Crotty Chris Perry Narelle Anderson **COUNTERS** Frank Busuttill Jenny & Peter Ryan Imogen Corrie **GIFT SHOP:** Pat & Peter Readman John Porta **LECTORS:** Phyllis Jacob Assistance Required Elaine Van der Weerden Kevin Crowley **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **5.30pm** Angelo Snell Jim O'Brien Dawn Westwood Sue Wight Patricia & Angelo Altair Mary Baensch Anne Burnside **8.30am** Carmel Wiegerink Colin & Coreen Wilson Tom Allen Ann Chir-cop Lloyd D'Crus Rex Jacob **10.30am** Bernadette Anderson Julie Reddan Anne Smith Sylvester D'Souza John & Sheila Stafford Aileen & Terry Sweeney **5.30pm** Alan Slocombe Mary Thomas Christine Wallace