



St Michael's Church - Meadowbank

The Parish Bulletin

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C/1

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year!



Entrance Antiphon:

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

1st Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13

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

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

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

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*

We have come from the East to worship the king.

Communion Antiphon:

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

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. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Reflection from Fr James McCarthy

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

Today we celebrate Christmas again, but today is slightly different from Christmas Day. On Christmas Day we visited Bethlehem with the shepherds. Today we make a second visit, this time we visit as foreigners and strangers to Bethlehem as we visit with the Wise Men.

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 speaks of three gifts. But it has always been understood that the wise men represent all the people of the world.



The Parish Bulletin**Acknowledgement of the land**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoira nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

Parish Directory

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Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.

Acolytes: Arthur Lee

Readers & Special Ministers of Communion:

Sue Metzmacher

(Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

Music Ministry**Coordinators for 6pm Saturday Masses:**

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

4th SUN 10 am - Muntia Gouw

1st SUN 10am - Peter & Jenchris

3rd, 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu**Sacramental Coordinators:** Marisa

Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted

Altar Society - Marie Bennett

Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher

Finance Committee - Stephen Topple

St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke

Catechists - Judith Orrock

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer -

Lou Temprosa

St Michael's Primary School

School Principal - Brian Story

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Welcome to St Michael's Church -

Meadowbank! A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**REFLECTIONCONTINUED**

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 and 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 family, friends and everyone we know to Christ because it is only through Christ that we have a genuine future. If we are willing to become like the wisemen, 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 on holidays, especially when away from home, we are called to find Jesus in the place we are visiting. Visit the church and attend Mass in whatever place you are visiting. See Christ and worship Christ in distant places, whether it is at the beach or the bush in NSW, an Island Paradise such as Fiji, or parts of Europe, Africa, the US or anywhere. The Church is everywhere, and we are all called to come as Wise men 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 new-born 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 2019 a year devoted to the worship and love of God.

Pro-Life Training Day - February 2019

International speaker Brendan Malone will run workshops on effectively spreading the pro-life message with clarity and compassion during times of political upheaval. New abortion laws are expected in NSW parliament in 2019 which may look to grant abortion up to birth. Come and prepare to defend life. \$30 per head includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Saturday February 16, 9am to 5pm at St Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd. Dulwich Hill. RSVP essential: www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ

Download & Sync Parish Calendar - view and download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, it is easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button on the homepage: www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

O Come all Ye Faithful.

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

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Lo! star led chieftains,
 Magi, Christ adoring,
 Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 We to the Christ Child bring our hearts oblations.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
 Bearing gifts, we traverse far
 Field and fountain
 Moor and mountain
 Following yonder star

Oh, star of wonder, star of might
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain
 Gold we bring to crown him again
 King forever, ceasing never
 Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I
 Incense owns a deity nigh
 Prayer and praising, all men raising
 Worship God on high

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:

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:

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 whereever it went:

4 This star drew nigh to the north-west;
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
 And there it did both stop and stay
 Right over the place where Jesus lay:

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:

Joy to the World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
 Let earth receive her King
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing
 And heaven and nature sing
 And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns
 Let men their songs employ
 While fields and floods
 Rocks hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders, wonders of His love.

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.

**NEXT
WEEKEND**

Roster: 12/ 13 January 2019

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Arthur Lee Josh Martin	1 Brian Maher 2 Carol Maher 3 David Doring 4 Gemma Martin 5 Henaa Jawher 6 Prescilla Luzon
8:00AM	Meynardo Talisayon	Agnes Aldana Gemma Evesson	Marie Bennett Mel Talisayon
10:00AM	Joel Tabuso	Francis Mawuko Michelle Stait	1 Gloria Divine 2 Joan D'souza 3 Joel Tabuso 4 Lala Tabuso 5 Maureen Richardson 6 Celeste Villarente

Liturgy for this week (7 - 13 January 2019)

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:15pm-5.45pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday

Morning Prayer: 7:40AM every Sunday

Rosary: 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)

Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**

Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

8:15am-9:15am every Friday

8:15am-9:15am every Saturday (with Benediction at 9.05am)

Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

Weekday Services this week:

9:15am - **Communion Service:** Monday

9:15am - **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday to Saturday

Weekend Masses:

6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday Masses

The Piety Stall Christmas Blessings to all from all the volunteers at the Piety Stall. We will be closed throughout January and will re-open in February. Date to be advised.

January Church Cleaner Roster

Sarah Magsakay, Henna, Colleen MaGuire & Sue Lobo.

Linen: Ancy Joy (Weekly) Carolyn Thomas (End of month)

Vacuum: Justin Isaac

Church Cleaning, Altar Linen & Flowers

Have you ever noticed how beautiful our sanctuary and church is arranged? We have a great team of helpers who arrange flowers, clean and vacuum the church on a weekly basis. We always need more help. Contact Marie Bennett on 0447 830 551 to volunteer. Flowers cost about \$100 per week. Please consider donating to the Altar Society. Donation boxes are at the church doors.

Mowing Help Needed: The mowing team is in need of assistance. Two members have recently moved and we are shorthanded. Mowing maintenance takes about 2-3 hours one day a month. If you can help contact Don Smith 0414 748 302



Prayer to St Michael the Archangel. Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Congratulations to Joe and Vi Moussa on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 28th December 2018.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

Tuesday 8th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Neville Gittany

Wednesday 9th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Alfredo & Senen Dimaano

Thursday 10th January 2019 9:15am

Healing from serious illness of Archer Robertson

Friday 11th January 2019 9:15am

Thanksgiving Mass from D'Souza family

Saturday 12th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Uy Teng Hong

NOTE: Only one Mass offering is permitted per day.

SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Mon 7 Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

Sun 13 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Feast

Acolyte Roster for 2019 is now available from the Sacristy. Please pick up your copy.

Contributions to the Parish

Please consider using a direct recurring automatic transfer for Sunday offerings, especially when on holidays. It is a safe, secure process that each person can easily setup via their own online banking to give to the parish on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Parish First Collection: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292002; Account Name: St Michael's Pastoral Revenue

Parish Second Collection Details: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292000; Account Name: St Michael's Church Account

Please use your envelope number (if you have one) as a reference for the transaction. Contact Parish Office for more information if needed

Are you new to the Parish?

Welcome. It is great to have you here. Please make our parish your home. Feel welcome to share experiences and ministries from your previous parish with our community. Please complete a parish registration & census form at the office. Consider volunteering and joining the parish planned giving.