

8th January 2023
The Feast of the Epiphany
Year A



"That They May All Be One."

Faith Communities
of Adamstown
Cardiff and Kotara

*'Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve.' (Mt 20:28)*

~ A humble service with a smile ~

All Saints Catholic Home - Blackbutt South

'Listening to God's word, growing in faith, reaching out to all'

WEBSITE:

www.allsaintsblackbutsouth.org.au

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PARISH STAFF:

Anna Bojkowski, Liza Ruitenbach

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9am—3pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- St Columba's, Adamstown
- St Kevin's, Cardiff
- St James', Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

- St Pius X, Adamstown
- St Paul's, Booragul

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

- www.mn.catholic.org.au/agencies/office-of-safeguarding
- www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Kotara

Sunday: 8.00am Adamstown

9.30am Cardiff

Sunday Adoration 6pm (Summer Time)

Kotara recommences 15th January

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday: 9.30am Adamstown

Wednesday: 7am Kotara

9.30am Adamstown

Thursday: 9.30am Cardiff

Friday: 9.15am Kotara

1st Saturday: 9.00am Kotara

Gospel Reflection

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel

in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.



'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.' John 15:9

ANNOUNCEMENTS—MASS ROSTERS

Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the ‘wise men’ of this passage are referred to as ‘Magi’. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference ‘We saw his star as it rose’. It is interesting that the passage describes ‘some’ wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their ‘relics’ lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the ‘Jewish-ness’ of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

© Greg Sunter—Liturgy Help.

8/01/2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Barry Bourke	Elizabeth Doyle	Marilyn Thomson
Readers	Volunteer Basia Wedesweiler	Ben Lerch Majella Maher	Faye Robertson Emma South
Presentation of Gifts	Goodman Family	Hall Family	Donna & Harper Morgan
Extraordinary Minister	Volunteer	Angela Hall	Henryka Bradley
Counters	Francine Goodman, Kathy Kelly, Paula O'Neill	Andrew & Sharon Murphy-	Narelle Robb, Patricia Hines, Paul Crosbie
15/01/2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Diana Hannigan	Cathy Waugh	Giavanna Angeli
Readers	Therese Nolan Stan Heaney	Michael Deed Sr Clare McCudden	Peter Cunningham Marilyn Thomson
Presentation of Gifts	Gloria Ramage	Friere Silveira Family	Dever Family
Extraordinary Minister	Preciosa Winter	Mark Wilmore	Janelle Oliver
Counters	Lynn Johns, Dot Reynolds	N/A	N/A

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our Faith Community...

Rio Gibson & Levi Gibson

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS: We remember in our prayers ...

Leonie Pickett, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Lorraine Caldwell, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Chris Patsan, Dorota Bakowska, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Maria Kanonczuk, Sharyn Trappel, Clare Sullivan, Jill Heffernan, Laurel Dixon, Jarrad Bryant, Barry Moore, Tom Campbell, Baby Anthony Dib, Helen Tumbers, Kathleen Gurr, Don Robertson

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, John O'Mara

ANNIVERSARIES: George Pink, Bob Hopwood, Tom & Maria Kaiapich

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults — particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 1st and 2nd Collections : Offertory Plates will now be taken up as per normal during Offertory and after Communion.

Rainbow Family Group: our 2023 planning day will be a lunch on **15th January**, 11.30am in Kotara Parish Hall. This will be a BBQ lunch, please send through dietary requirements so I can plan menu for this. Don't forget your diaries and ideas for the new year of activities!!! Please let me know if you will be attending as I already have an apology from the Taylor's.
Kerina Marshall

New Parish Mass Ministry Roster is due to be drawn up.
Any new volunteers? Anyone wishing to change or be removed? Please notify Parish Office by Wednesday 11th January via email or phone during office hours.

The Bereavement Support Team has concluded its meetings for this year. The team's next meeting is on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

Meditation Group at Kotara will be in recess from December 14th until January 10th.

Praying the Gospels has concluded for 2022 and will recommence on February 1 2023. For more info
Contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

2023 Lenten Reflection:

Finding Light within the Darkness

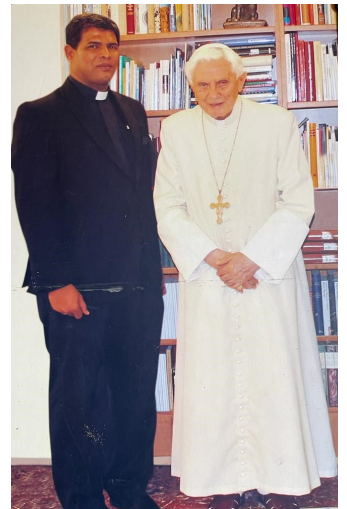
Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, Finding Light within the Darkness. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community.

This resource will be available at the end of January.

Save the Date: Toronto Men's Weekend

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au



I had such a blessed moment in my life to see Pope Benedict XVI, I went near him and held his hand and helped him to come to the parlour.

You are invited to come and have an Eucharistic Experience by adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during

Sunday Evening Meditation 6.00 PM at Kotara.

**Recommences next Sunday
15th January 2023**



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation

READINGS— The Feast of the Epiphany Year A

First Reading

Is 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 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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(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. **(R.)**
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. **(R.)**
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. **(R.)**
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. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Eph 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 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 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

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.

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.