

St Mark's Parish

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C

6 January 2019

Parish Priest Reflection



In some parts of the Church and the world this feast is regarded as more important than Christmas because it celebrates the showing forth of the Christ child to the world. Salvation is for all and not just for some people at a particular time. The mysterious people from the East have come to do the Christ child homage and come bearing the most precious gifts fit for a king. On the back wall of the church at the very highest point in the smallest windows are the Southern Cross and the Sun and the Moon. The Sun and Moon rule the day and night, the stars are used as a navigation which guide us.

This Feast is shrouded in political overlay with Herod recognising the birth of a future King as a religious

and political threat. The appearance of the strangers brings much discussion and speculation. There was discussion and consultation within the community as to who these people from the East are and what are they about. All seems to point to the insignificant town of Bethlehem and the signs in the heavens keep leading them on. I have had the privilege of visiting the Holy sites and am amazed at the simplicity even today of Bethlehem. There is a peacefulness and a serenity there that I have found in few other places.

God often comes to us in simplicity and in unexpected people in our lives. We are called like Mary to be Christ bearers and to bring the presence of Christ into all aspects of our lives. Even the simplest of tasks can be done for the glory of God and with thankfulness and praise in our hearts. God became man to share our life that we would share something of the Divinity of God. He has come to redeem and save us. The greatest gift we can give to others is to reveal the face of God to them in love and service.

God has given us the assurance of his love in Christ Jesus the Lord who became one with us. What we can give back to God is a life well lived in witness to his love for us. At the end of our lives we want to hear God say, 'well done good and faithful servant enter now into the life of heaven'. May our meeting with Christ this Christmas help us to move forward in our lives and possibly find new ways to serve and love God and others in the coming year.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ, Fr. Michael McLean, Parish Priest

St. Mark's Parish:

United in Baptism,
Nourished by the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,
Reaching Out to Those in Need,
Journeying Together, Growing in Faith.

Chalking the Door:

An Epiphany House Blessing 2019

Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

One way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 19.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2019 is the year.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk write 20 + C + M + B + 19 on the lintel of your front door (front porch step or convenient location) *while saying*:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and eighteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing

of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. It is a reminder to let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.



Today's Liturgy.

Entrance Antiphon: *Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12*

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

First Reading: *Is 60:1-6*
Jerusalem is exalted.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13*
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: *Eph 3:2-3. 5-6*
Paul declares the Gentiles co-heirs to the Kingdom.

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*
The Wise Men journey to the infant Jesus.

Offertory Antiphon: *Ps 71:10.11*
The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer presents; the kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring gifts. And all kings of the earth shall adore him, all nations shall serve him.

Communion Antiphon: *Cf. Mt 2:2*
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Next Week:
The Baptism of the Lord - Year C
Is 42:1-4. 6-7 or Is 40:1-5. 9-11;
Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 3:15-16. 21-22:

*We welcome into our faith community this
Sunday through the
Sacrament of Baptism at St. Mark's.*

*Eoe Annette Hanoumis
& Leonel Mittee Repeti*



and we congratulate their parents.

Blessing the Chalk 2019

Priest: Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Priest: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: From this time forth for evermore.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Prayers & Condolences

In your love and concern, please pray for the following ill members of our community:

Eileen O'Neill, Tony McNamara, Nora Bateman, Tina LaForgia, Julius Mendel, Anne Whitfield, Daisy Gill, Francois Tuyau, Giovanni Iacono, Elvira Favorito, Pat Williams, Bruce Barter, Betty Bidgood, Jeff Bidgood, Evelyn Dann, Meagan Ficarra, Mae Ann Buckley, Pat Castagnone and Lynette Lord and all St Mark's community members unwell at this time.

Anniversaries and those we are remembering at this time:

Geoff Rice, Denis Williams, Chris Grady, Roslyn Iris Poppen, Skye Heyton and Larry O'Neill. We pray for those who have died and offer our prayers to their families.

In memory at Christmas:

As the holidays approach, we remember the loved ones who will not be with us this year, our parishioners and family members who have past. They are in our hearts as we come together to celebrate the birth of the Jesus. Even though they are not with us physically, we know that they are held in the loving mercy of God. Because of our faith we know they are celebrating with all the angels and saints in heaven.

Have you thought! 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 'Jewishness' 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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS - 05/ 06 JANUARY 2019 **The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C**

NEXT WEEK:	WORD	COMMUNION	SERVER/JEM	Children's Liturgy
Saturday 6.00 PM	J Pattenden T Pattenden	S Looi S Uthappa	R Zoccali	School Holidays
Sunday 9:00 AM	B Bateman M Massy L Boulos	M Griffin M Jimenez C O'Neill	A Griffin / Holidays	
Sunday 6:00 PM	A Laughlin D Moiso	I Boccalatte J Price	T Boccalatte	

St Mark's Parish Mass Times

Saturday Vigil **6.00pm**
Sunday **9.00am & 6.00pm**

Weekdays:

8.00am *Monday*
9.30am *Tuesday*
7.30am *Wednesday*
9.30am *Thursday*
8.00am *Friday*
12 noon *Saturday*

Morning Prayer of the Church 15 minutes prior to weekday Mass

Reconciliation:

11.30am *Saturday*

Adoration & Exposition:

11.00am - 12 noon *Saturday*

First Friday of the Month from the conclusion of morning Mass



BAPTISMS: are on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30am. During Lent no Baptisms or Weddings are celebrated.

MARRIAGES: Parishioners intending marriage are asked to notify the Parish office at least six months prior to your wedding.

FUNERALS: Parishioners are asked to contact the parish office.

NEW PARISHIONERS: If you are new to St Mark's please pick up a Welcome to St Mark's envelope from the foyer.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS - 12/ 13 JANUARY 2019 **The Baptism of the Lord - Year C**

NEXT WEEK:	WORD	COMMUNION	SERVER/JEM	Children's Liturgy
Saturday 6.00 PM	M Bullock R Harris	M Griffin M Hanvey	A Griffin	School Holidays
Sunday 9:00 AM	M Fernon E Chatterjee V Beggs	Y Lee R Colantonio K Rowntree	D Gardiner / Holidays	
Sunday 6:00 PM	R Casey D Wing	D Swetz Sr Antonia	M Casey	

If you would like to **join the Planned Giving Program**, fill out a new **GREEN** planned giving card that can be found at the Church entrance along with a Census form and return to the Parish office. Deductions can be made via your credit card or envelopes. Planned Giving, helps run the parish of St Mark's & offers a 25% tax deduction. Through the support of our Parishioners in the Planned Giving Program we are able to meet our Parish Budget commitments and plan for our future. **We have two collection plates in place at each Mass:**

* **The First Collection** is for the support of the Priests of the Archdiocese and also contributes to Priests working in poorer Parishes & special ministries.

* **The Second Collection includes the Planned Giving Program and is the Parishes main source of income.** Though most of the pastoral work of the parish is done by volunteers, there are a number of expenses related to the running of our Parish Church, Parish Office and Presbytery. These funds remain in the parish for the care, maintenance, insurance, secretarial services, utilities and other expenses incurred to maintain the day to day running of the parish for our community. Thank you for your support.

* **Visitors if you would like to make a donation the Second Collection is for our St Mark's Parish.**

* **Christmas envelopes** can be placed on the First Collection.

Thank You

St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047

Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm

Parish Priest: Very Rev Fr Michael L McLean PP EV

Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP

Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR (Mon & Tues)

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng

School Principal: Ms Rachel Bourke **School General Tel:** (02) 9181 3042

Parish Administration: Ms Vicki Anderson (Mon to Fri)

Wise men came from the East

The Epiphany of the Lord



Help the three wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



Three Wise Men came from the East to worship the newly born king. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Draw yourself offering a special gift to Jesus.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



east
kneeled
myrrh
frankincense
search
gold
secretly
house
star
important
warned
wise

D	D	Q	H	Q	A	V	K	R	U	B	E	B	E	B	B	Z
R	W	Y	H	R	R	Y	M	D	W	L	S	M	X	L	F	I
I	L	L	F	T	W	M	E	L	S	E	N	V	M	V	N	J
E	X	N	I	Y	H	F	F	O	W	H	E	D	B	V	C	I
C	M	L	K	O	Y	R	P	G	B	R	C	T	S	O	F	I
E	A	T	S	A	P	R	U	N	V	T	N	I	H	S	B	A
S	P	P	N	Z	I	O	G	K	W	J	I	Z	I	C	I	E
T	L	P	E	S	H	K	X	X	L	P	K	K	K	M	S	S
A	Q	T	Q	S	A	K	N	Z	R	U	N	B	P	C	E	U
R	T	S	A	E	N	E	S	I	W	K	A	O	N	D	C	O
Y	A	U	Y	E	O	K	O	D	E	N	R	A	W	G	R	H
M	D	C	E	C	X	W	G	W	T	T	F	L	O	V	E	K
P	A	L	S	K	R	W	W	B	A	H	P	J	D	L	T	H
Z	E	E	M	L	E	S	D	N	N	S	I	Z	G	L	L	I
D	J	F	H	J	C	D	T	S	E	A	R	C	H	K	Y	G

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office phone (02) 9390 5812.