

# PARISH NOTICES

## Dates for your Diary



Sun 3rd Jan. Epiphany  
 Mon 4th Jan. Divine Mercy Prayer Group  
 IN ENGLISH. 6.00pm  
 Thurs 7th Jan. Meeting re Multicultural Mass 7.00pm  
 Sun 10th Jan. Baptism of the Lord

## Collections For Last Week

**First** ☹️ ↓  
**Second** ☹️ ↓  
 ☺️ ↑ = Income up on last week.  
 ☹️ □ = Income steady.  
 ☹️ ↓ = Income down

**Welcome to our Community!** Have you moved into our parish lately? We would love to hear from you. Please give the Parish Office a call on 3818 0111. If you call at the information point after Mass, a member of the Parish Council will give you a welcome and information pack. We hope that you will enjoy your time in the parish and join in our activities.



**For the Sick and housebound.** If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit from a priest or to receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know and a visit can be arranged.

## 3rd January The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

## 10th Jan Baptism of the Lord

Is 41:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



## Services times this week:

**Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**  
**Sunday 7.30am Mass**  
**9.00am Mass**  
**Benediction 4.30pm**

### Weekdays

Monday 9.00am Mass  
 Tuesday 9.00am Mass  
 Wednesday 9.00am Mass  
 Thursday 9.00am Mass  
 Thursday 9.00am Mass  
 Friday 9.00am Mass  
 Saturday Vigil 6.00pm  
 Sunday 7.30am & 9.00am Mass

**Reconciliation Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm**

## Cleaning: 8th Jan. Lavemai family

If you would like to help out on this roster, please contact Pam Dodrill on 3288 4594. (Roster approximately once every eight weeks)

## We Pray for the Sick:

Audrey Congreve, Colin Jackson, Sr Helen Stanley, Breda O'Sullivan, Ellen Parker, Rose Logan, Edna May Tournay, Keith Auld, Kathy McMonagle, Kevin Ward, Matthew Berwick, John Ward, Allan Peterson, Kathleen Doherty. Rachel Scriben, Stan Brown, Carmon Z, Nancy McCarrick, Kath McGrath, Maria Vink, Claire Curry, Phil O'Dwyer, John Doherty, William Ryan, Hudson McHardy, Hini Habchi, Jamie Teal, Jaiden Madasferi, Maureen Shackleton, Macey Ingham, Nada Payne, Carmel Vig, Rebecca Habraken, Sr Carmel.

(Some names have been removed from this list, so please contact us if you need these names back on. If you know someone who can come off the sick list please contact us)

## Anniversaries: 3rd—9th January

Phyllis Hammond, Kevin Jones, Della Wilks, Ellen Smith, Patrick Collins, Jane Wallace, Kathleen Harvey, Ivan Pirsic, Hannah Morris, Henryk Rudak, Eutropio Basubas, David Kirby, Norma Finlayson, David Kerslake, Bridget McKelvey, Mary Fryars, Dorrie Hall, Gerard O'Halloran.

## LOOP SYSTEM



The church Sound System at St Francis Xavier's is fitted with a Loop System. If you wear a hearing-aid set the control to the "T" setting to obtain a clear sound.

**A gift in your Will** can provide support for the many ministries of your Parish and ensure a legacy of faith for future generations. A gift in your will is a wonderful way to express your Catholic faith. After you have provided for your loved ones, please consider a lasting memory to your parish. Booklets available from Parish Office.



## Newsletters by Email.

If you would like this newsletter sent to you by email each week, simply send an email to goodna@bne.catholic.net.au title it 'newsletter' and the next week you should receive the email.



## St Francis Xavier Parish

6 Church Street (GPO Box 450) Goodna, Qld. 4300

**Office Hours: Monday - Wed 9.00am — 4.00pm**

**Friday 9.00am –4.00pm Closed Thursdays**

Website: [stfrancisxaviergoodna.org.au](http://stfrancisxaviergoodna.org.au)

Ph: 3818 0111 Fax 3818 1420 Email: [goodna@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:goodna@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Clergy: Fr Roger Burns PP. Fr Paul Chanh**

**Parish Secretary: Mrs Marie Hodges**

St Vincent De Paul: For Assistance Please call 3010 1096 - Weekdays only . Meetings:  
Fortnightly on Tuesday 7.00pm. Call 0479 163 335

## The Epiphany

3rd January  
2016

Embracing the suburbs of Goodna, Bellbird Park, Camira, Carole Park, Collingwood Park, Ellen Grove. Gales, Kruger, Redbank, Redbank Plains, Wacol and beyond.



***"It is our worshipping communities of mercy that are the sign of the God of love on earth."***

**- Joan Chittister.**

### **THE EPIPHANY**

There are three groups of people in Matthew's story: Herod and the political set in Jerusalem; the scribes, priests and religious leaders; and the wise men who came from the east.

This story of the magi shows the different responses of people to the news of the infant king. It was true what Simeon had said to Mary in the temple, that the child was destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel. He would be God's light, in which people would be their own judges.

The first group were the political people in the capital. Herod was perturbed at the news 'and so was the whole of Jerusalem.' These are the power-people whose only religion was their own advancement. But the tyrant is always desperately insecure. Herod is threatened by a tiny infant. The tyrants of history from Pharaoh to Herod, from Cromwell to Hitler, from Stalin to Ceausescu have thought nothing of huge massacres in the interest of their own survival.

Was Herod genuinely interested in paying homage to the infant king? No way. Herod was interested only in one god ...himself. He shows us how selfishness can take over our lives so that we become blind to the light of God that God comes to us.

In the second group of people were the scribes and religious leaders of the Jews. They were consulted about these rumours. So they looked to their books and came up with the answer 'Bethlehem'.

But did they go there, did they take the road to Bethlehem? Not they. They stayed in Jerusalem, content with their books and debates.

They represent those who have all the philosophies, all the theories, all the arguments for and against ... but they will never take a single step of commitment. They live in the world of theory and never step out on the road of reality. History is repeated in that many who fail in this way still belong to the priestly circles and religious families. They bury their commitment in learned theses, abstract speculation and dry debate. But will they ever step out and share the light of God with a world which is drifting in darkness towards despair?

The wise men stepped out on the road and followed the star. We must note that the star is such a little light: it is a very distant light: and it is only in darkness that we can see it. For the wise men the star in itself was not important. What they sought was what it would lead them to. The star was sign of the Beyond. It rested over a house. They went in and saw the child and his mother Mary. Faith is a commitment to the distant, dimly perceived Beyond that has come into our midst in this child at Bethlehem.

The wise men brought gifts of gold for a king, frankincense for a priest and myrrh for the embalming of one who would die for his people.

The gifts we bring to God at Epiphany are symbolised by the gifts of the magi.

The gold we bring is our commitment to the kingdom of God established by Jesus on earth: this means a commitment to the Christian ideals for society ... justice, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit.

cont.

The frankincense we bring is our recognition of Jesus Christ as the true priest or authentic way to the Father. All our prayer is in his name. The Eucharist, as the prayer of Christian memory, is the pinnacle of our journey to God.

The myrrh we bring is our belief and trust in Jesus Christ who has conquered death. We now dare to hope even when all the omens and trust, we fall on our knees and pay homage.

God in our midst.

Emmanuel.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn, OFM Cap—'The Good News of Matthew's Year.'

### **Third Collection this weekend for Church Repairs**

**School Watch** Once again you are asked to keep an eye on the school during the holidays. There will be some work being undertaken on the Tomasi Block near the Church. Building work is always attractive to those who want to take advantage of scaffolding etc. If you see anything suspicious please contact the Police first.

**Something floating in the Chalice!** Sometimes when you are receiving from the chalice you may find a piece of a host floating in the Precious Blood. This is what is referred to as the 'fraction'. If you have missal which gives the words of the celebration, turning to just after the Sign of Peace you will find the instruction:

*Then he (the priest) takes the host, breaks it over the pattern, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:*

*"May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it."*

The 'fraction' dates back to the early Church, when the leader of the Church in a particular place, (we would now call that person the Bishop, gave a portion of the host he had consecrated to a Deacon, who then went to other groups celebrating elsewhere and placed the 'fraction' in the chalice, before communion. This signified, that although they were in an other place, they were one body with all others celebrating the Eucharist.

So if you find yourself being presented with the chalice and there is a small portion of the host floating in the Precious Blood, simply consume it as you take a sip.

Perhaps this can also be a reminder that others will be hoping to drink from the chalice after you, so take a sip, not a drink. Occasionally, the minister reports that someone drank off the whole of the Precious Blood.

### **Multicultural Mass—24th January**

To celebrate Australia Day and the multicultural aspect of our parish. we will be holding a special Mass on the Sunday before Australia Day. We are asking **your help** to make the day a success. Can you share some of your national food, arrive in national dress and be part of the celebration? There will be a meeting to plan the event on Thursday 7th January in the Parish Centre at 7.00pm. Come along, share your ideas and help the parish by sharing your time and talents.

**Christmas Cards:** We would love to receive your used cards for our Religious Education classes. We use Nativity scenes. A box will be near the Angel in the church to put the cards in. We give out each year about 600 cards to the children we teach with the real message of Christmas. Thank you. Christine Hodgkinson.

**Church Cleaning:** Each week a number of parishioners clean our Church in preparation for the weekend Masses. We are in need of some more volunteers to go on the roster, at the moment the people who are on the roster only have to clean every 6 weeks and only takes 2 people about an hour to clean the Church and pergola area. If you and a friend or partner would be interested in being put on the next roster please contact Pam Dodrill on 3288 4594.

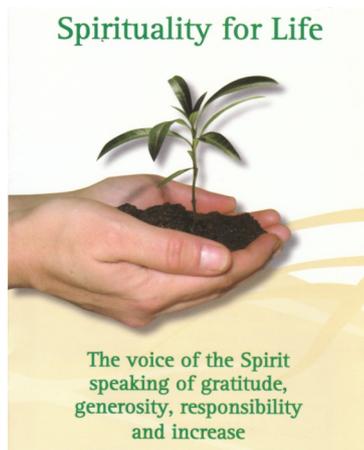
**Humour:** Actual children's versions of Christmas Carols:

"...sleep in heavenly peas";

"Joy to the world, the Savior rains";

"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plane";

"While shepherds washed their socks by night."



***Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it out at the service of others.”***  
***(1 Peter 4:10)***

January 3, 2016

**Epiphany of Our Lord**

*“...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” (Ephesians 3:6)*

Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet

equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all “be one” in this Year of Mercy. Accessed on 29th December 2015, from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>).

## **The Call – The Call of Stewardship**

Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is not just something else to do . . . it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion. – *A Disciple’s Response. A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

*As Vatican II remarks, all Christians are “bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech,” that new life of faith which begins in baptism and is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in confirmation.” (Ad Gentes, 11)*

There is a woman I know who I see receiving communion at Mass every week. She positively glows! I didn’t know who she was, so I asked a fellow parishioner about her. While she has all the ‘attributes’ of our lives – a family, a job, a mortgage – my fellow parishioner told me she has stripped her life of all unnecessary encumbrances.

Though prosperous, she doesn’t work to get rich, she works to make a living and because she has found a job she likes. Though involved in our parish and the community, she doesn’t do it for public acclaim, but because she cares about helping others. Though she is a boss at work, a parent and spouse at home, an elder sister in her family, her direction of those for whom she has responsibility is merely to share wisdom, provide guidance, and support others.

She has found happiness in the ultimate paradoxes: that totally giving over control of one’s life to God is the truest liberation, that giving up your life brings eternal life!

---

### **Questions:**

How is stewardship a part of being a disciple?

What does it mean to you to be a steward of the Church?

Do you see your baptism as creating a responsibility to follow Jesus?

---

Stewardship means I am not in control. It means the gifts I take for granted will not always be mine. It means that when it comes down to the basic gifts of life, love, faith, and relationships, what I possess and who I am makes little or no difference. *Archbishop Thomas Murphy.*