



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

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Parish Clergy: Fr Roger Burns PP.

Parish Secretary: Mrs Marie Hodges

(Local Safeguarding Children Representative: 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

8th January
2017

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



Good News: Epiphany

We believe that Jesus Christ was truly human and divine.

The Liturgy up to this point has emphasised the humanity of Jesus. We were drawn in mind to see the helpless infant in the crib. St Luke stressed the human themes of poverty and humility through the Christmas story. Then we are taken forward some years to reflect on the holy family at Nazareth, These were the hidden years when Jesus was so ordinarily human that those who knew him at Nazareth would not accept him later as a preacher.

The Epiphany, by contrast, emphasises the divinity of Jesus Christ. The Greek word, epiphany, could be applied to the triumphant entry of a king into a town to the cheers of public acclaim. Nowadays we might think of the victorious team bringing home the cup to the strains of local bands, the mayor reading the citation of

greatness and the cheering thousands responding in thunderous acclamation.

As the gospels tell the human story of the ministry of Jesus, the theme of his divinity constantly works its way into the narrative. There are several episodes which specifically manifest his divine power and glory. Technically these are called epiphany stories; epiphany here meaning the outward showing of the inner divine greatness.

Remember the day on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured in awesome light. And the day of his baptism when the voice from heaven testified to his identity as the Beloved Son of the Father. His miracles also manifested the power of Jesus. The story of the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana was developed by John unto this conclusion: "He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him" (*Jn 1:11*)

The event most associated with epiphany is today's story of the coming of the wise men who knelt in homage before the infant king and offered appropriate, symbolic gifts. This story is like a summary of the entire life of Jesus. His birth was like a new star rising in the skies to guide the people on their pilgrimage of life. He was recognized and followed by all who genuinely sought wisdom. But many of his own nation rejected him for various reasons.

The political leaders of the Jews, represented by Herod and the Jerusalem set were perturbed. They felt threatened by a child. The chief priests and scribes had access to all the right texts. But they stayed there peering into their texts and did not step out on the road of faith. The wise men, however continued their journey forward. They found the house and went into it. It represents the house of faith.

The gifts of gold expressed the inner significance of kingship; the use of incense was an outward manifestation of priesthood; and myrrh suggested the Messiah as the Suffering Servant

At the time of his writing Matthew has seen how the Jews had by and large rejected the Christian preachers. But the gentile nations had come forward to belief and were entering the house of faith, the church. That was something that thrilled the heart of St Paul. In today's second reading he rejoices that 'the pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are part of the same body, and that the same promise is made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.' (*Eph 3:5-6*)

The epiphany stories are rich in their inner significance. The outer details of the stories point to the mystery of divinity hidden in Jesus Christy. The feast of the epiphany celebrated his divinity and calls on all people to follow his star and walk in his light.

O light of God, rising for us at the birth of Jesus, shine powerfully through the darkness of this age and guide us in the ways of wisdom.

O light of God, resplendent in the teaching of Jesus, may we grow in faith and experience the delight of walking in your paths.

O light of God, implanted in our hearts by the Spirit of Jesus, may we experience what it is to fall on our knees in adoration.

Silvester O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap—the Good News of Matthew's Year.

Sacramental Preparation: the Sacrament of Penance.

Last year the course for the Preparation of the Sacrament of Penance had to be postponed due to lack of interest. This year, any young person who has received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist are eligible for the Course.

There will be a talk for the parents of the young people on **Sunday 5th February**, and the session will begin on Sunday 12th February. Enrolment forms for the Preparation are available from the Sacristy.

Training Evening for Ministers regarding Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

One of the requirements laid down in the Archdiocesan Policy, is that all ministers should attend a training session. The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer Mr Troy Tornabene has agreed to hold a session on Wednesday 8th February starting at 7.00pm with a break at 8.00 and hope to close at 9.00pm. If you have not attended a training session to date you will be expected to enrol in the next session.

Garage Sale. During the working Bee, a number of items were identified "FOR SALE". These include metal framed chairs which will be going for \$1.00 each. Also with the renovation of the Centre kitchen we have a Dish-washer for sale. A number of the chairs have already gone. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in any of the above items.

Your help required. A number of ministers have ceased to serve in the past few months. To lessen the load on the roster, we are looking for new readers, Special Ministers for during Mass and Special Ministers to the housebound. Can you please help? There will be a training session in the new year possibly on a Saturday. We are in desperate need of cleaners for the Church on a Friday and someone to clean the toilets on a Monday morning.

Parking in the Car Park during the week. As the School returns this coming week, just a reminder about parking. During School days, parking in the main Car Park is for school and parish staff. There are a number of places marked for Parish Parking. The Car Park near the Kindy is for parents dropping off and picking up **from the Kindy.** **There is no parking for the dropping off children for school at the start of the day, nor for picking up children at the end of the school day. Please use the drop off zone. Kindy parents, please use the Kindy Car Park and not the main Car Park.**

Parishioners coming to Mass, please use the Parish Parking area or arrive after 8.35am. this way teachers and school staff will be able access parking spaces.

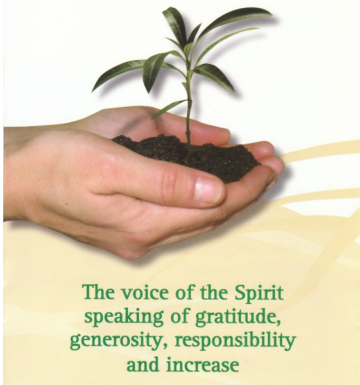
Used Nativity Cards Once again we are collecting Nativity cards to use with our Religious instruction classes in the State Schools. Last year, because of your generosity our instructors gave over 700 children a card which shared the real meaning of Christmas.

There is no need to cut the cards, as they are all trimmed and attached to cardboard before given out. Can you put them into the box is near the side door of the church ... beside the angel. Please pray for the RI in our State Schools. Thank you very much Christine Hodgkinson.

You have been baptised, but think not that you are straightway a Christian . . . The flesh is touched with salt: what then if the mind remains unsalted? The body is anointed, yet the mind remains un-anointed. But if you are buried with Christ within, and already practice walking with Him in newness of life, I acknowledge you as a Christian. (Erasmus)

New Minister's Rosters available from sacristy.

Spirituality for Life



The voice of the Spirit speaking of gratitude, generosity, responsibility and increase



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 8, 2017 - The Epiphany

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11 The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow all year long. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us

to be the most generous with that one thing that means the most to us. (Accessed on 3rd January 2017 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

THE CALL – RESPONDING TO THE CALL

Jesus' call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now – at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances. There can be no delay.

Stewardship – A Disciple's Response. A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship.

Jesus told (the rich young man), “If you seek perfection, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Afterward come back and follow me.” Hearing these words, the young man went away sad, for his possessions were many. (Matthew 19, 21-22)

A big stumbling block for me was 'impulse buying.' It wasn't buying stuff on TV, but it was walking through the big 'warehouse stores' (you know the ones). I had my shopping list (which my spouse had generously put together for me). But there were always so many things that would be *nice* to have! I'd inevitably end up spending about a hundred dollars more than I had planned. And I wouldn't use what I bought very much (and sometimes never!) My spouse says that the road to bankruptcy is paved with impulse buying. I've learned though that the road to generosity is easily followed when it is mapped out – when it is planned. So, though I still feel the desire for things I want (but don't need) now I stick to my shopping list, just like I plan my giving to the Church and charity.

Questions:

When you hear the above Gospel reading, do you feel called to 'give it all away'?

Do you feel called to give up anything?

Have you ever heard these words and actually given something away that was keeping you from following God?

Satan assembles his junior apprentices looking for fresh ideas of how to populate hell.

One apprentice raises his hand and suggests, "I have an idea. Tell them there is no heaven." Satan isn't happy with that. He says sarcastically "We've tried that, much as we try to tell people there is no God, but people understand in the deep recesses of their stupid heart that there is, so forget it." A second apprentice raises his hand and says "Well, tell them there is no hell."

Satan says, "We've tried that too, and it won't work. Sooner or later people realize that mass murderers can't wind up in the same place as Mother Teresa." Finally, a third apprentice raises his hand and says slowly, "Then tell them - there is no hurry." And Satan smiled.

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy

