The Feast of The Epiphany Year B

*Rise up in splendor, your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you*

**First Reading**: Isaiah 60:1-6. Upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.

**Psalm 83**: Lord every nation on earth will adore you.

**Second Reading**: Ephesians 3:2-5;5-6. Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.

**Alleluia Verse**: Alleluia, alleluia. We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

**Gospel**: Matthew 2:1-12. Where is the new-born king of the Jews?

**Com. Verse**: The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.


**Prayers of the Faithful**

Celebrant: We come before the Lord whose light has illumined our hearts. Led by his grace, we pray for ourselves, our Church and the world in which we live.

Leader: We pray for the Church, local & universal: (Pause).

People: May we be a light to the world by word and action, revealing the presence of Jesus among us.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all nations of the world (Pause).

People: May those countries burdened by war and hatred be blessed with signs of peace and the hope of new beginnings. (Pause)

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all who suffer abuse of any kind (Pause)

People: May they be offered healing and understanding in our Community (pause)

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for this Community gathered here (Pause)

People: May our sharing in the Eucharist inspire us to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom. (Pause).

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the faithful departed, (Pause)

People: May the Star of Hope lead them to eternal life

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your Son Jesus as light to the nations. As we pray for the people of our world, let our own light be a sign of your presence among us—who lives and reigns with Jesus in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever

**OUR POPE SAYS**: Pope Francis

On the feast of the Epiphany, may we sense the Magi at our side, as wise companions on the way. Their example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. They teach us not to be content with a life of mediocrity, of “playing it safe”...They teach us not to be deceived by appearances, by what the world considers great, wise and powerful. We must not stop at that. It is necessary to guard the faith. Today this is of vital importance: to keep the faith. We must press on further, beyond the darkness, beyond the voices that raise alarm, beyond worldliness, beyond so many forms of modernity that exist today. We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe. By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so.

Please Pray For the sick: Les and Clare Fern, Margaret Schubert, Joe & Rosemary Valle, Ardea Tramontin, Br James Maher MSC; Josephine Di Lembo; Margaret Morrissey, Margaret McDonald, Margaret Heagney (Catherine Phillip’s mother) Loretta Grimster
The Letter to the Ephesians contains a special insight not unlike Isaiah: the insight that outcasts, non-Jews, non-churched peoples are called by God and are also God’s people. The Early Christian Community took a while to realize this – not unlike us when we disregard or forget that God’s promises today include millions of Muslims and embraces all people, especially those who are different to us and even hostile to us. Without this realization, peace is not possible. Positively, we are told that God’s love and strength have no boundaries. Our responsibility is to awaken others to their insider status. There are no ‘aliens’ but ‘friends’. Like Bethlehem, at first sight, the poor and the forgotten ones are insignificant. Yet they are hugely important because it is through them that God comes to dwell amongst us!!

**PARISH NOTES AND COMING EVENTS**

- Collections: 1st Collection: $827.60 2nd Collection: $883.60
- Direct Debit: $485. Christmas: $2753.10
- Syro-Malabar $999.60

St Vincent de Paul: If you would like to volunteer with, or join, the St Vincent de Paul Society or need the Society’s help please call the Society on 8948 8100.

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

- Sunday 4th Feast of the Epiphany
- Sunday 11th Feast of The Baptism of the Lord
- Sunday 18th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday 25th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**DATES for the Sacramental program 2015:**

- Reconciliation: Thursday 26th March at 6pm
- First Communion: Saturday 13th June at 6pm
- Confirmation: Saturday 19th September

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**Living the Gospel:**

*Who is the light for?*

The story of the Epiphany answers a question for the Early Communities of The Way: could a Gentile become a Christian? Would they still need to become Jewish first? The Gospel today reminds us that the first to recognize Jesus’ divinity were these three Easterners from present day Iraq or Iran. These ‘star gazers’ [forbidden in Jewish law] knew more about navigating the way towards Jesus than did all of King Herod’s religious scholars. The story of the Magi makes the point that if the first to recognize Jesus were ‘gentiles’ then how could the Christian Community exclude anyone?

Today’s feast is less about the Magi and more about Jesus, through whom God reaches out to all people. It emphasizes that God’s light has come into our world for all people. The promise is for all, even the oppressed [indigenous peoples, gay and lesbian peoples, Palestinians, refugees and asylum seekers etc]. We are challenged today to see traces of God’s presence where it might be overlooked. Isaiah in the First Reading calls for action: ‘Rise up’. This revelation of Jesus and the freedom/salvation he brings is global and available to all people. It is good news for many people who experience estrangement from their families, from our own Church or society in general.

The oppressed need to imagine or dream of another world. Isaiah shows us a new way of being God’s people. Paul, in the Second Reading also suggests that everyone is an insider: members of the same body. The power Isaiah speaks of is not of wealth, prosperity and might but one that raises people up, that restores those who are pulled down and feel defeated. God is not God of the powerful and wealthy but of ALL people. The marginalized had life squeezed out of them. And it is these that Isaiah invites to imagine a different world; to dream of a future beyond the present harsh realities.

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**Minister’s Roster**

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<tr>
<th>DATE: 2014/15</th>
<th>MASS TIME</th>
<th>WELCOMER</th>
<th>COMMENTATOR</th>
<th>READER 1</th>
<th>READER 2</th>
<th>Children Lit Word</th>
<th>SPECIAL MINISTERS</th>
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<td>4th January SAT 6pm</td>
<td>Yvonne Ellis</td>
<td>Helen Smith</td>
<td>Jaclyn Monteiro</td>
<td>Rida Joseph</td>
<td>Armida Monteith Paul Gilbert Felicity Sharp</td>
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<td>SUN 8:30am</td>
<td>Bryan Adams</td>
<td>Marty Musco</td>
<td>Peter DeSouza</td>
<td>Estella Ega</td>
<td>Anne Davey Martha Swart Garry Blackett Joan Halvorson Bill Burford</td>
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<td>SUN 6pm</td>
<td>Joao Monteiro</td>
<td>Adrianne Furlan</td>
<td>Pauline Fechan</td>
<td>Catherine Voumaard</td>
<td>Joao Monteiro, Catherine Phillips &amp; Volunteer</td>
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<td>11th January SAT 6pm</td>
<td>Kathy Hilder</td>
<td>Helen Smith</td>
<td>Ross O’Campo</td>
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<td>Peter Liddle Julie Weber-OBryan Bob Sharp</td>
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<td>SUN 8:30am</td>
<td>Rhonda Blaser</td>
<td>Sr Lucy Kert</td>
<td>Garry Blackett</td>
<td>Emma Fleming</td>
<td>Rosama Baby Chirackal Bill Burford Yolanda Mulany Denis Franklin Daly Kelly</td>
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<td>SUN 6pm</td>
<td>Betti Knott</td>
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<td>Catherine Phillips</td>
<td>Suprabah Ginesh</td>
<td>Pat McGregor Joao Monteiro Adrianne Furlan</td>
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