



'Epiphany' comes from two Greek words meaning a 'shining forth', or manifestation. There are many manifestations or epiphanies in the gospels – occasions on which something is manifested or revealed about Jesus. The visit of the magi is the first such manifestation: the wise men from the East recognise in Jesus 'the infant King of the Jews' and come to do him homage.

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane PARISH TEAM

The Catholic Parishes of
GROVELY-SAMFORD and MITCHELTON
Western Hills Communities from Gaythorne to Mt Glorious

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Matthew's gospel mentions two sets of wise men, and there is a lesson to learn from both. We read of the magi or wise men from the East who had set out on a quest to find the infant king of the Jews – Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. But as soon as Herod heard of an infant king of the Jews he consulted his own wise men, the chief priests and scribes.

The magi, those wise men who followed a star, did take a risk. They embarked upon a journey into the unknown, not knowing where it might lead; not knowing what they might find; not knowing how it might change their lives. They have a lesson to teach us. If we truly seek God's will, we must take the same risk and step out into the unknown, not knowing where it might lead us, or how it might challenge us.

There is also a lesson to be learnt from Herod's wise men. They didn't need to follow a star or travel to faraway and exotic lands. The infant king of the Jews was already present in their midst. The lesson is clear, even if they failed to profit by it. That which we seek is too often already present in our midst. This is the insight of a story telling of a fourth wise man whose name was Artaban. When Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar set out to follow the star, Artaban was not with them, for he arrived late.

They had brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. He had brought a chest of jewels to offer to the one whom they sought. Try as he may, Artaban could not trace their steps. He became hopelessly lost and more confused as he made enquiries at one village after another. As he travelled, he was deeply touched by the poverty he encountered, and so he gave to the poor – here a ruby, there a sapphire, to another a diamond. But he would not give up the search. For ten years, for twenty years, for over thirty years he searched.

At last, as an old man, frail and close to death, he arrived at the walled city of Jerusalem, with only one jewel left to offer as a gift. The rest of his treasure had been given as gifts to the poor. As he shuffled through the narrow and crowded streets of ancient Jerusalem, he passed by the slave market and saw a young girl being auctioned. With his last jewel he bought the girl and set her free. Exhausted and close to death, he was distracted by a commotion close by. A prisoner was being led to his execution. The young girl explained that this man, Jesus of Nazareth, was to be crucified outside the city walls. The authorities had mockingly referred to him as the 'King of the Jews'.

In a moment of insight, Artaban realised that this man was the one whom he had sought all these years, but now he had arrived too late. Both he and the young man from Nazareth were soon to die. As the condemned man passed by, Artaban was startled. As he looked into the eyes of Jesus, he saw in an instant the faces of all those people he had helped during his long journey. Artaban then died, knowing that many times on his long journey he had indeed met the king of the Jews and paid him homage.

Wise women and men search for the star, and when they recognise His Light, will follow His Way. Having discovered Him who is redemption's Way – will ever proceed home by a different route.

P.S.: An extra wise man arrives in our parish to officially begin as Parish Priest next weekend, 15th January. Welcome Fr Nigel!

Frank Lourigan

LITURGY TIMES

9th January - 15th January

Grovely	St William's
Monday	9.15am Mass <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
Wednesday	7.00pm Mass
Thursday	9.00am Mass
Friday	7.00am Mass Cancelled
Saturday	7.00am Mass
	11.00am—12 noon Reconciliation
	Next Weekend Masses
Saturday	6.00pm Sunday Mass
Sunday	6:30am, 8.00am, 9.30am 5:30pm
Oxford Park	St. Joseph's
Sunday	9.30am Mass
Mitchelton	Our Lady of Dolours
Monday	8.30am Mass Cancelled 11am Funeral Mass - Andreas Ripsam <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
Tuesday	8.30am Mass
Friday	8.30am Mass
Saturday	3.45—4.30pm <i>Reconciliation</i>
	Next Weekend Masses
Saturday	4.30pm Mass
Sunday	8:00am Mass
Samford	Sacred Heart
Thursday	7.00pm Liturgy of the Word & Communion
	Next Weekend Mass
Sunday	8.00am Mass

 **MASS CANCELLED**

Our Lady of Dolours: Mon 9th Jan 8.30am
St William's: Fri 13th Jan 7.00am

 **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
Adoration before Mass in recess till resumes 25th Jan. St. William's Church

This Week's Readings
The Epiphany of the Lord Year A
Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Next Week's Readings
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

GROVELY NEWS



The Second Collection:
amounted to \$6128.55
We thank all who contributed.

Counters this week:
1st Coll: Vera Arthur, Bernadette Bowles
2nd Coll: Pat Nixon, Alexis & Wayne Lambley

Rosary will be prayed in the home of Suha & Rany Nona, 23 Rise Place, Upper Kedron, at 7pm on Tuesday

Baptism:
We joyfully announce the baptism of Charlotte Inglis and Olivia Mills, and welcome them into our faith community.

MITCHELTON NEWS



Collections:
1st Coll: \$267.00
2nd Coll: \$1631.60

Counters this week:
Group D - Dermott O'Moore
Counters next week:
Group E—Leo Brown

Family Rosary:
This week: Ross and Juliet Blackwell
Next week: Janina Lukacz

 Thank you to all the countless volunteers who contributed to our Christmas celebrations. There were so many who helped at our three communities—general helpers and welcomers, church decorators, communion ministers, readers, commentators, altar servers, musicians and singers—all who contributed their talents so that all of our ceremonies ran well and smoothly.

Many, many thanks from our three communities.

Parish Office hours: The Parish Office hours are now back to normal -
Monday: 8am-1pm; Tuesday– Friday: 8am—4pm

 **Adult Faith Education**

We start 2017 trusting in our God who tells us, "I have carved you on the palm of my hand, you are mine".

Here is a snapshot of what January holds by way of our Sunday liturgies.

Today is the feast of the Epiphany, with the wise men from the east bringing gifts to the young child. We read this story with a western mind, fashioned as it is by Roman and Greek influence, a mind that is more dualistic in its thinking – right or wrong, yes or no, black or white - the mind, understandably, of the western Roman Catholic Church.

However, all the people in this story (including Jesus) have eastern minds – they are non - dualistic thinkers. That is, they do not think "this or that" but "this and that", not "black or white" but "black and white" etc. Hence there are some interesting differences between the belief and customs of the eastern Catholic Orthodox churches and the western Catholic Church under Pope Francis. (us).

Jesus was a non-dualistic thinker. If you want to know more about this concept and the impact it can have on your own spirituality and relationship with God, read some books of Fr. Richard Rohr, the well-known Franciscan spiritual writer. The AFE book lending library has some of these and will start again towards the end of this month.

After today we start "Ordinary Time" in the Liturgy and this will continue until Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. The Epiphany is regarded as the first Sunday of "Ordinary Time" so by the start of Lent we get up to the 7th Sunday of "Ordinary Time".

Mitchelton & Grovely - Samford

Faithful Departed

Recently:
Andreas Ripsam, Sylvia Haydock (*mother of Alison Burke*), Marie Bennett, Marie Stower, Mick Silvester, Howard Stewart, John Riddle, Patrick Roche, Kath Evans, Sr Margaret Lyons SGS.

Anniversaris:
Nell Feldman, Duncan Robertson,

Prayers for the sick

We pray for:
(Please let us know when your loved one's name may be removed from the list)

Vincent Arthur, Ian Anderson, Jeannette Baker, Maureen Campbell, Patricia Carter, Daphne Cavanagh, Gerald Cavanagh, Heather Ceccato, Kellie Clayton, Fr John Dobson, Noelene Ellis, Joe Gorup, Peter Haiveta, Cheryl Heunis, John Kavanagh, Margaret Lally, Laraman Ling, Nelinda Maroni, Joanne McLean, Rita McCaskill, Madonna Moloney, Gail O'Connor, Joyce Powell, Margaret Ross, Jeffrey Saks, Leona Taylor, John Weier, Patrick Yzelman.

Funerals:

The Funeral Mass for Marie Bennett was held at St Williams Church on Friday, 6th January. Our prayers and sympathy to Peta, Mark, Rosemary and Margaret and family.

The Funeral Mass for Andreas Ripsam will be held on Monday 9th, 11am, at Our Lady of Dolours Church. Prayers and sympathy to his daughter Anne-Marie and all of his family.

A Funeral Mass will be held for Lewis Croker on Tuesday, 10th January, 11am at All Saints Catholic Church, Albany Creek. Our prayers and sympathy to his family.