



After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea', they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders
of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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A JOURNEY AND EXCHANGE OF GIFTS

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the fact that Israel's Messiah is also the Saviour of the entire world. We may take this for granted. For the earliest Christians of non-Jewish origin, it was a source of immense wonder and gratitude.

People in the ancient world believed that unusual appearances of stars and other heavenly bodies signalled the birth of future great leaders. These wise ones (magi) interpreted the new star as heralding the birth of a Jewish king who will have significance for all peoples on earth.

They follow the star to Jerusalem but they need the scribal wisdom of Israel to locate more precisely the One whose birth it announces. The natural wisdom (astronomy) of their culture and scriptural revelation come together to lead them to the Saviour at Bethlehem.

When they find the infant Lord, they fall down in worship and offer the rich gifts of their culture. In this they fulfil the vision so splendidly evoked in the First Reading: the nations of the world bringing their wealth to Jerusalem in exchange for spiritual riches.

Their journey is one of danger as well as faith. The treacherous figure of Herod looms over all, foreshadowing the Passion that is to come. But the riches of God's salvation will go to the nations nonetheless.

We walk in the footsteps of these wise ones, sharing their faith and the joy of their discovery. We worship the Lord, bringing our gifts, knowing that they, and those of every nation and culture on earth, are precious in his sight.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Isa 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come,

the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:

all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away

and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;

since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

everyone in Sheba will come,

bringing gold and incense

and singing the praise of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2, 7-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, /
to a king's son your justice, / that he may
judge your people in justice / and your poor in
right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and
peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from
sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's
bounds. **R.**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts / shall
pay him tribute. / The kings of Sheba and Seba /
shall bring him gifts. / Before him all kings shall
fall prostrate, / all nations shall serve him. **R.**



4. For he shall save the poor when they cry /
and the needy who are helpless. / He will have
pity on the weak / and save the lives of the
poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been
entrusted by God with the grace he meant
for you, and that it was by a revelation that I
was given the knowledge of the mystery. This
mystery that has now been revealed through
the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets
was unknown to any men in past generations;
it means that pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of the same
body, and that the same promise has been made
to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

We have come from the East to worship the King.

St Clement of Rome Church

Address: Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - **Phone:** 9850 3262, **Fax:** 9850 2550
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), **Parish Secretary:** Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
Communion to the Sick: Trish Atherton (9850 2746) **Clifton Centre:** Mary Hansen (9850 1860)
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

Congratulations Monsignor Franco Cavarra on turning 70 and on the 20th anniversary of your Ordination to the Priesthood. May God's bountiful grace continue to hold you and keep you for the person you are and for the great love and care you have for God's people.

**Blessings and love from
 The People of St. Clement of Rome Parish**

Morning tea will be served in the Clifton Centre after the 9.00 am Mass this Sunday to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and this milestone in Fr. Franco's life.



Important Information—Parish Office will operate with limited hours during the month of January. Please leave emergency messages on 9850 3262 (Parish Office) or 0438 590 266—Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Priest). Thank you.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena will not be held in January and will resume in February 2018.

Regular weekday (morning) and weekend Mass time table will apply during January.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am, 11am (*Italian*) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Sat 9:15am. **Eucharistic Adoration:** Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. **Weddings:** By Appointment.

Death Anniversaries : Maureen Dubock
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen

| Liturgy Roster | Sat 5.30pm | Sun 9am | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 6/7 January | <i>Sacristan</i> | Elroy De Witt | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| | <i>COMMENTATOR</i> | Jacinta De La Cruz | Rocco Gagliardi |
| Epiphany | <i>Reader</i> | Rene De La Cruz | David Mitchell |
| | <i>Special Ministers</i> | Maree Marsi | Gabriella Grande |
| | | May Teh | Eleanora Mascitti |
| | | Martin Teh | Sylvia Mascitti |
| | | | David Mitchell |
| | | | Pam Mitchell |
| | | | Gloria Ng |
| | | | Maria Papalia |

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|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 13/14 January | <i>Sacristan</i> | John Bruce | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| | <i>COMMENTATOR</i> | Rene De La Cruz | David Mitchell |
| | <i>Reader</i> | Paul Sammut | Maria Papalia |
| | <i>Special Ministers</i> | Enza Wilcox | Elsa Waters |
| | | Warwick Wright | Chris Jordan |
| | | John Bruce | Trish Atherton |
| | | | Grace Canatelli |
| | | | Anne Fusca |
| | | | Rita Gagliardi |
| | | | Gabriella Grande |

Hearing, Healing, Hope: Catholic Social Services conference

In today's rapidly changing social environment, it's more important than ever to gather together to discuss the many social challenges facing our nation. To that end, next year the Catholic Social Services national conference will be taking place from Wednesday 21 February until Friday 23 February.

Titled *Hearing, Healing, Hope*, the conference will address key issues currently facing our society and the implications these issues will have on us as individuals, for our organisations and for the social services sector at large. It will be held at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.

CEO of Catholic Social Services Fr Frank Brennan has recorded an end of year video message in which he encourages viewers to attend. 'We're delighted to be working with Catholic Social Services Victoria and we encourage you to register.' Fr Brennan expressed hope there would be a large national turnout.

Sacramental Program 2018

Enrolments for 2018 have begun. Forms can be downloaded from the parish website. Payment must be made at the enrolment.

CONFIRMATION: TERM 1

Last Date for enrolment: 31 January 2018
 Classes commence: Tuesday, 6th February 2018 @ 4.30pm -5.30pm in the Parish Office
 Parents' Information Session: Tuesday 13 February 2018 @ 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 24 February 2018
 Confirmation: 19 May 2018 @ 5.30pm (ASRE)
 Confirmation: 18 May 2018 @ 7.00pm (St Clement's School Children)

RECONCILIATION: TERM 2

Last Date for enrolment: 31 January 2018
 Classes commence: Tuesday, 1st May 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 12th May 2018 @ 5.30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 23rd June @ 10.30am

FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Classes commence: Tuesday, 17 July 2018 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office
 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 17 July 2017 @ 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 21 July @ 5.30pm
 Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 8 September 2018 @ 10.00am
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 15 September 2018 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

Please note the dates except for Confirmation may be subject to change. Families will be informed.