

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

5th Jan 2020



A King to Behold

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see Micah 5:1–3).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay Him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfilment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6, 4:6, 14).

One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and the scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

Scott Hahn



FEAST COMING UP

St Raymond of Penyafort
7th of January

Raymond of Penyafort OP was a 13th century Spanish Dominican friar who compiled the Decretals of Gregory IX, a collection of canonical laws that remained a major part of Church law until the 1917 Code of Canon Law abrogated it. Also a gifted preacher, Raymond had remarkable success evangelising Moors and Jews. He traveled throughout Spain rejuvenating the spiritual life of the Christians that the Moors had enslaved. Among his main themes were spiritual combat and standing firm in trials. St Raymond was known to be very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won over many sinners to God. He is the patron saint of canon lawyers.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Mon - Thurs: 8am, Friday: 10am, Saturday: 10am
Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

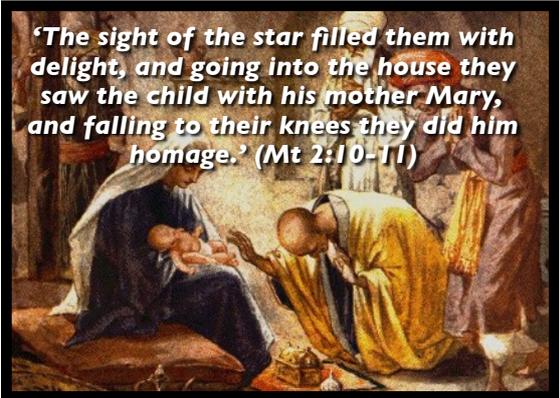
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Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



‘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.’ (Mt 2:10-11)

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill: Sr Annunciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxa, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Atkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Alison Fraser, Steven Wallace, Elaine Wallace, Richard, Miles Buntleski, Lachlan Fahy, Colin Crawford.

Feast of the Epiphany Year A

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

1st Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Once again the prophet Isaiah gives us the text full of hope that the darkness covering the earth will be lifted by the light that is to come in Jesus the Christ born in Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the King, to a King's son your justice, That He may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. 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.

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.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2nd Reading – Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

We hear St. Paul's image of the body of the Church as the body of Christ because we are always parts of Christ's body and share the promise of His Gospel.

ALLELUIA, Alleluia

We have seen His star in the East and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia

Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew used many images to remind his readers that the Christ Child has a dimension well beyond the poor meagre surroundings of His birth. This is the one that God has chosen to be.

Next week's readings:
1st reading: Isaiah 42:1-4 6-7
2nd reading: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for the leaders and wise people of every country and religious background, that they may continue to be enlightened by God's grace and realise that respect for each other and cooperation in times of trouble will be the foundation of justice and peace in the world.

Lord, we pray for the men and women who are fighting the bush fires and for those whose who are supporting them. Please keep them in your care.

Lord, we pray for Australia and its people in this time of drought, for those on farms and in rural areas deprived of harvests and livestock, livelihood and hope. We ask that you to send rain to water the earth and help for those in need.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, Elaine McKenna Evans, Mary Johnson, Bishop Joe Grech, Fr Tony Hicks, Mary Hardy, Joe Caterinich, Fr. John O'Hara, Fr. Peter Byrth.

Collections: Dec 14/15, 2019

1st Collection: \$1106

2nd Collection: \$1029

Online per week (Nov): \$350

1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.

EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul

BSB: 083 155

Account number: 515577466

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 04	Adrian			Ann & Priska
Sun 05	Janet & Ann T	Doris & Geraldine F	Denis & Olwen	
Sat 11	Adrien			Geraldine & Sue
Sun 18	Gerry & Olwen	Geraldine F & Merlyn	Colin & Geraldine	