Infant Jesus Parish

Under the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Fr. Sunny P Abraham (Parish Priest), Fr. Tadgh Tierney (Assistant Priest),
Br. James Groth, Fr. John Follent..

The Epiphany of the Lord — 6 January 2013

First Reading Is 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 your 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. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(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.

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.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

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Entrance Antiphon Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

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

Communion Antiphon Cf. Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

"The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house, they saw the child with his mother." *Matt 2:10*

Dear Parishioners,
This weekend we welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor, from Glendalough, who have come to share with us their ongoing work with the elderly in our Archdiocese and beyond. After Mass they will be in the foyer accepting donations for their work. Please give generously and support these dedicated sisters.
This weekend we celebrate the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The story of the three kings is one of journey and discovery: the wise men followed the star in a spirit of wonder and expectation, sharing their knowledge and asking questions as they went along.
This story is appropriate to us at this time of year, when so many people are travelling to new places and discovering new things about the world, about others and themselves. The opportunity to step outside our usual routine is one which we should enter into with eyes wide open; what is God revealing to us in the new experiences and new people we encounter? And how are we revealing the Christ to others as we take the journey?
If we search for Christ, in hope and expectation, we will surely find Him! - *Fr. Sunny*

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME (PREP)

The PREP programme is for parents whose children do not attend a Catholic school and who wish them to receive the necessary formation to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Our parish is happy to receive children from pre-primary age to high school.

There will be an enrolment and information evening on **WEDNESDAY.JANUARY 30, 2013.**

Please attend this evening, even if your children have been previously enrolled in the programme, as it includes some important information for you.
An information flier, which includes the PREP term dates for the year, can be found in the church foyer under the Parish Information board.

We welcome the following children recently baptised in our church:
William Robert Creasy, Chloe Chantal Andre, Paris Lara Dela Torre,
Izaija James Valles, Marco Palazzolo, Aria Anne Howell, Ryder Murray John Powell, Christian Clarke, Michael Vears, Alesio Pirone, Jesse Galvin, Jasmine Galvin, Kade Riley and Oliver Davini. Please pray for these little ones and their families.

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS— please collect your new roster from the foyer this weekend, thank you.—Annette Nathanielsz, Co-ordinator.

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased:
Anniversaries:
Deceased:
The Sick of the Parish:

Thank you to the Morley parishioners who attended Dorothy Wade's funeral Mass in Greenwood recently. From David, Paul, John & Helen.

PARISH OFFICE AND PARISH CENTRE CLOSURE

The parish centre will be closed to all groups from Christmas Day until **Monday 21st January, 2013**. The parish office will be closed from Christmas Day until **Monday 14th January.**

Pilgrim Statue: This week in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Raphael. Phone 9276 9572

Calendar of Saints:
Monday 7th January: Raymond of Penyafort, priest (1275AD)

OUR SPONSORS

HOMEHUNTERS REALTY
147 Walter Road, Dianella WA 6059
Ph: 0412 244 868 or 0412 244 866
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