

Sunday Readings

Year A

First Reading - Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

Second Reading - Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

Gospel - Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

100 Dean Rd Bateman WA 6150
Phone (08) 93101747 : Fax (08) 9310 8575
Website: www.batemancatholic.org
E-Mail: secretary@batemancatholic.org
Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday (9.00am to 2.00pm)



A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A

January 8, 2017

Chasing the light

My friend has a delightful little cat that loves to play. Her favourite game is to madly chase a laser beam of light from a torch. Regrettably, the cat never quite captures the elusive beam of light.

Humans are not unlike the little cat. We frantically chase around for the light of insight that might lead us to truth and authenticity. We search for peace and wisdom and chase the mysterious gift of enlightenment.

Today, in the gospel story, we meet the Magi – a group of wise Persian astrologers who begin a journey to find the source of wisdom by employing the tools of their craft of astrology. They follow a star and their journey leads them to Bethlehem. They chase the light and find their source of wisdom – the infant Jesus.

The star symbolises the psychological and spiritual journey they and we must make in order to be truly enlightened. A star is a source of light. It is a symbol of the human spirit seeking guidance in the dark night of ignorance. Like our little cat, we humans need to chase the light. We seek an illumination of spirit. We need a 'star' to follow, a 'star' that does not lead to an illusory, empty destination.

Today's gospel reveals that the Star of Bethlehem is the source of spiritual light to which we must hitch our wagon. Our star is the light of God, Creator and author of light. The God who spoke earth's first illumination "*Let there be light, and there was light.*" (Gen 1:3); and, as the epochs rolled by, sent his only Son into our world to

Weekly Mass Times:

Monday:	7.00 am	Tuesday:	5.30 pm	Wednesday:	8.00 am
Thursday:	7.00 am	Friday:	5.30 pm	Saturday:	8.30 am
Saturday:	Vigil 6.30 pm (Novena 6.00 pm)				
Sunday:	8.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm				

Reconciliation: Saturday: 11.00am - 12.00 noon and 5.00pm - 6.00pm



Fr. Phong Nguyen
Parish Priest



Fr. Garner Vargas
Assistant Priest



Fr. Cyprian Shikokota
Priest in Residence



Deacon Bruce
Parish Deacon

shine in our midst to radiate the light of the knowledge of God's glory.

The Star of Bethlehem reveals the divinity in its starkest and simplest form – The Son of God revealed to be a helpless infant lying in a manger. *"I, the light, have come into the world so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark anymore."* (Jn. 12:46)

To come into the Light we, like the Magi, must make our own spiritual journey out of darkness. We are given a 'star', an interior light to guide us – our conscience. Each person has, imprinted in their heart, a natural instinct for what is good and true as God sees it. Conscience is a light that, if developed and followed, will lead us to God.

The light of conscience is magnified by right choice and good actions. It is intensified by grace in the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist. It is expanded by reflection on the scriptures and the teaching of the Church. It reaches its nadir when we contemplate, love and adore the Christ in his epiphany as the Light comes into the world. The chase ends. We have 'caught' the Light!

Michael Gilbert CSsR
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Baptisms:

We welcome Lucy Alice Barton into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Deaths: Please pray for Honora Flexman who passed away recently.

Anniversaries:

Please pray for Ken Rao, Peter Liebeck, Benny Brown whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

for 15TH JANUARY

NEXT WEEK

Bulletin: Juliana Doss
Flowers: Rosemary Yeo
Counter: 1. T Tloczek 2. M Tloczek 3.

	Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 6.00pm
Acolytes	D Morais	T Basile	M Braganza	S McMahon	
Special Ministers	C Craggs M Craggs A Mourad L Morzenti V Ng	C Cox G Screen C Price P Price C Morzent	T Rudiant C Tan J Tan S Teo S Wong	Fely May A Loo J Loo J Louie R Truinta	A Phoon S Chauveau C Endris C Batchelo C Goh

Altar Servers and Readers – Please come up as required – NO ROSTERS for January 2017.

Sacramental dates for 2017: St Thomas More, Bateman

Reconciliation: 14th/21st October 2017

First Holy Communion: 24th /25th June 2017

Confirmation: 19th/20th August 2017

All children (from pre-school age on) from within the Parish boundaries who attend Government schools are warmly welcomed to attend the Religious Education after school program. Special arrangements can be made for High School children and Catholic School children who may not have celebrated their age relevant Sacrament.

Please note that Confirmation is a 2 year program.

For further information, please contact Jenny Figliomeni on 93101747 (Tues/Wed) or 0435695399

ROSTERS CO-ORDINATORS—ROSTERS FOR 2017

All Roster Co-ordinators, please take note that all new rosters for Readers, Altar Servers, Special Ministers and Children's Liturgy need to be sent to the Parish Office by 17th January 2017 as we will start the full bulletin on the 29th of January. Thank you.

Safeguarding Officer: Fatima Basilio (fatima.safeguarding@gmail.com)

MORE CARE

Do you need help or know someone who does?

- † Geraldine 9332 8795 (Visiting)
- † Monica 9364 9358 (Meals)
- † Caroline 9313 5452 (Transport/Meals)
- † Silvia 9417 7131 (Transport)
- † Juliana 9310 1747 (General-office hrs)

Rose Garden
January 2017

Section A
Sharon Vong

Section B
Craig Mdiver