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*St. Theresa’s Parish Community Newsletter*

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 16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020

 Principal: Rob Macklin



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 Blanche St., Ardeer 3022

 Principal: Assunta Iacovino

*“Do Small Things Well”*

The Epiphany of the Lord Year A 7 & 8 January 2023

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| MASSES THIS WEEK ST THERESA’SDrummartin St, Albion 9.00am Friday10.30am SundayMOTHER OF GODBlanche St, Ardeer10.00am Wednesday (Pol) 9.00am Thursday 6.00pm Friday (Polish)  5.30pm Saturday10.15am Sunday (Polish)QUEEN OF HEAVENHolt St, Ardeer  8.00am Wednesday 9.00am SundayRECONCILIATIONSaturday 14th January, 10am at Queen Of Heaven |  | FUNERAL MASS FOR - Gregoria Haber, Mother of God Church, Thursday 12th January, 10.15am Rosary, 10.30am Mass.FUNERAL MASS FOR - Angelo Del Mastro, St Theresa’s Church, Thursday 12th January, 12.00 Noon, Mass.SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE - At Christmas we raised $1835.50 Thank youCOLLECTIONS RECEIVEDThanksgiving $1174 Loose Money $500 Presbytery $424Christmas Offerings $436COUNTERS 15 January Team 3: M Poulter, A CorreyaFEAST DAYS THIS WEEKEpiphany of the Lord, 8 JanuaryBaptism of the Lord, 9 JanuaryREADINGS *Today Next Week**Isaiah 60.1-6 Isaiah 49.3,5-6**Ps 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Ps 40.1+3a,7-9,9 (R.7-8)**Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6 1 Corinthians 1.1-3**Matthew 2.1-12 John 1.29-34* |

JOSEPH'S CORNER A support service for families of Drug Addiction.

Located at 3 Birmingham St, Yarraville. Phone 9315 2680. More information is available from Fr Barry, the Parish Office, or a leaflet in the pamphlet rack.

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana

If you would like to use our Caravan please call the Parish Office on 9311 3091 to book. It sleeps up to six (very cosy) and costs $60 per night. The Caravan Park is up and running! You need to fill out an online QR Booking Form. There are some spots available over the next weeks or from February onwards.

*St Theresa’s Parish is* committed *to the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults*

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas1, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem ‘The journey of the Magi’.

‘Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,

We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,

But had thought they were different; this Birth was

Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,

But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,

With an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another death.’

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

1. While twelve days after Christmas (6th January) is the usual time for the Feast of the Epiphany, in Australia it is celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas.