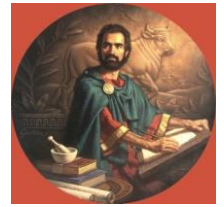


Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 6 JANUARY 2019 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR C

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE - BEING THE GOOD NEWS BY PROMOTING GOD'S HOSPITALITY

This week's readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

GOSPEL 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.

Historical Context – The Magi: In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany: The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home: The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

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

Response to the Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: We have seen his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Saint Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parish
Blackburn South**

We are Companions on the Journey ...

www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Rev Father Gerard Johnson
Parish Priest**

Sonya O'Farrell

Part-time Parish Secretary
Wednesdays, Thursdays &
Fridays 10.00am - 2.00pm

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

Website:

www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am & 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASS & ROSARY

Tues. 11.00am

Thurs. & Sat. @ 9:00am

(not Wednesday & Friday this week)

Rosary prayed after Mass times as
listed above. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am & 5.30pm

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

(in recess this week)

The Blessed Sacrament is
exposed for Adoration
Wednesday

Start: 7:00pm | End: 8:00pm

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

By appointment and
six months (6) notice, please.
*(This helps with the planning of both
celebrations and Parents usually know
nine months in advance when their
baby is to be born).*

**St Luke the Evangelist
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Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs Jackie Purcell: **Principal**

Email:

principal@slblackburnst.catholic.edu.au

Website:

stlukes@slblackburnst.catholic.edu.au

**Prayer to Saint Luke
the Evangelist**

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal
by his preaching and writings the mystery of
your love for the poor, grant that those who
already glory in your name may persevere
as one heart and one soul and that all
nations may merit to see your salvation.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen!

*Patron Saint of artists, physicians, surgeons,
students and butchers.*

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and for those Parishioners unable to be
among us this weekend. For those who died recently and for all those whose
anniversaries occur about this time, especially John Carman, may they all rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Christmas Time. **Monday:** St Raymond of
Penafort, Priest. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Epiphany, Eucharistic Prayer II. Eucharistic
Acclamation No. II.

After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient
custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first
manifestations, and this takes place in **CHRISTMAS TIME**. Christmas Time runs from
First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday
after Epiphany or after 6 January. GNYC 32-33

A VOCATION VIEW: The light of Christ shines upon you. Share that light with others.
Consider the gift of a Church vocation.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS to all Parishioners and Guests who have joined us this year
to celebrate this Festive time. Thankyou for Your faithfulness to our Weekly Parish
Stewardship and Presbytery collections. May you enjoy this festive season with those
closest to you and may the New Year pass slowly as we savour the goodness of Family
Life that has been given and shared with us, Please travel safely,
gentle regards Fr Gerard.

CHURCH CLEANING 12 JAN. 2019: Team 1 (Val's Team) Val & Jim Fogarty,
Megan McLean & Raquel Ramirez.

NEWSLETTER NOTICES: Please send to the following e-mail address by **Wednesday**
5pm - BlackburnSouth@cam.org.au

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT
THIS TIME?**

The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions
for the future. All people are invited to contribute to
the Plenary Council agenda by sharing their
experience of faith and of the Church. The Plenary
Council agenda will be developed from the stories
you share and the questions you raise. Our questions
about and our hopes for the Church will arise from
hearts that listen to the Spirit. The challenge still stands
to invite all our Parishioners to pray the Plenary Council
Prayer at the end of our Prayers of the Faithful and
especially throughout the coming week:



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

*Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and celebration
Open our ears to the songs of the angels as they tell of Good News
Give us joyful hearts as we sing and pray and celebrate
Awaken our hearts anew to your presence
Encourage us in our efforts to speak boldly and with prayerful discernment
Lead us in our work toward the Plenary Council 2020
That we may continue to proclaim 'Joy to the world, the Lord is here!'
Amen*

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS who have walked upon
and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep
spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to
this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation. *(Our sign
will be installed in our Church foyer soon.)*

SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children
and vulnerable adults in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds
the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults as central and fundamental
responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching
and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the
heart of the Gospel. <http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Policies.aspx>

Help the three wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!

