

St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Parish



Moonah-Lutana

St Therese of Lisieux Church

In the care of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC)

Sunday, 5th January, 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A

*ST THERESE OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC PARISH MOONAH LUTANA
IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE AND NURTURING CULTURE
FOR ALL PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH.*

KING HEROD AND THE WISE MEN – A CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

EPIPHANY

The Christmas story is surely one of the greatest stories ever told. It chronicles a birth from which the world records time as before or after. Moreover, it is written in a way that has inflamed the romantic imagination for 2000 years. This hasn't always been for the good. Beyond spawning every kind of legend imaginable, the story of Christmas has, in the Christian imagination, too often taken on a centrality not accorded to it in the Gospels themselves. This is not surprising, given its richness.

Inside its great narrative there are multiple mini-narratives, each of which comes laden with its own archetypal symbols. One of these mini-narratives, rich in archetypal imagery, is the story King Herod and the wise men.

We see this in the Gospel of Matthew when he tells us how various people reacted to the announcement of Jesus' birth. Matthew sets up a powerful archetypal contrast, blessing and curse, between the reaction of the wise men, who bring their gifts and place them at the feet of the new king, and King Herod, who tries to kill him.

We are all familiar with this story since it has been much celebrated in song, icon, and legend. Jesus is born inside of a religious tradition, Judaism, and his birth is announced to that faith-community in a manner that befits religion, namely, by the angels, by supernatural revelation. But those outside of that faith-tradition need another way to get to know of his birth, and so his birth is announced to them through nature, astrology, through the stars. The wise men see a special star appear in the sky and begin to follow it, not knowing exactly to where or to what it will lead.

While following the star, they meet King Herod who, upon learning that a new king has supposedly been born, has his own evil interest in matter. He asks the wise men to find the child and bring him back information so that he, too, can go and worship the newborn. We know the rest of story:

The wise men follow the star, find the new king, and, upon seeing him, place their gifts at his feet. What happens to them afterwards? We have all kinds of apocryphal stories about their journey back home, but these, while interesting, are not helpful. We do not know what happened to them afterwards and that is exactly the point. Their slipping away into anonymity is a crucial part of their gift. The idea is that they now disappear because they can now disappear. They have placed their gifts at the feet of the young king and can now leave everything safely in his hands. His star has eclipsed theirs. Far from fighting for their former place, they now happily cede it to him. Like old Simeon, they can happily exit the stage singing: Now, Lord, you can dismiss your servants! We can die! We're in safe hands!

And Herod, how much to the contrary! The news that a new king has been born threatens him at his core since he is himself a king. The glory and light that will now shine upon the new king will no longer shine on him. So what is his reaction? Far from laying his resources at the feet of the new king, he sets out to kill him. Moreover, to ensure that his murderers find him, he kills all the male babies in the entire area. An entire book on anthropology might be written about this last line. Fish are not the only species that eats its young! But the real point is the contrast between the wise men and Herod: The former see new life as promise and they bless it; the latter sees new life as threat and he curses it.

This is a rich story with a powerful challenge: What is my own reaction to new life, especially to life that threatens me, that will take away some of my own popularity, sunshine, and adulation? Can I, like the wise men, lay my gifts at the feet of the young and move towards anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even though those hands are not my hands? Or, like Herod, will I feel that life as a threat and I try somehow to kill it, lest its star somehow diminish my own?

To bless another person is to give away some of one's own life so that the other might be more resourced for his or her journey, Good parents do that for their children. Good teachers do that for their students, good mentors do that for their protégés, good pastors do that for their parishioners, good politicians do that for their countries, and good elders do that for the young. They give away some of their own lives to resource the other. The wise men did that for Jesus.

How do we react when a young star's rising begins to eclipse our own light?

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI ©

In the Heart of Jesus,
Fr Mark Hanns MSC

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Envelopes: \$ 1,384.50

Loose: \$ 1,223.30

TOTAL: \$ 2,607.80

Week's Pledged Collections:

\$ 2,538.00

Difference \$ 69.80

Thank You!

STEWARDSHIP

*"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."
(Matthew 2:11)*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to us.

NOTICES

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held each Friday after the 12 noon Mass until 4:00pm in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapel in the Parish Centre.

PARISH MEMORIAL BOOK

Our Parish Memorial Book is being updated. If you wish for your loved ones or family members to be included please give these to Deacon Michael, before the 20th January.

VOLUNTEER ROSTERS JANUARY MASSES

Volunteers for all Masses are needed for the Masses throughout January. Sheets are available in Church foyer, if you could add your name to assist it would be appreciated.

FAREWELL FOR FR MARK AND WELCOME FR KRISH

A farewell for Fr Mark and welcome to Fr Krish morning tea will be held after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, 26th January 2020. If attending please bring a plate of food to share

FAREWELL CLERGY LUNCH FOR FR MARK

A farewell clergy luncheon will be held in the Parish on Saturday, 11th January 2020. If anyone would like to help in preparing and serving the lunch, please see Deacon Michael.

PLENARY COUNCIL DELEGATES

The Archdiocese of Hobart has been asked to send two delegates to the Plenary Council General Assembly in October 2020 and June 2021. Delegates can be both from Clergy and Laity. If you wish to be considered as a delegate, please contact the Archbishop's office by email:

archbishop.assistant@aohtas.org.au by no later 25 January 2020.

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Thanh Huynh, Shirley Lehner, Olga Woods, Susan Wilson, Lise Levaque, Mary Hughes, Drina Paradzik, Jay Jennings, Tony Dalton, Elsa Bazan, Bev Murray, Kayden Edwards, Lorna Brazendale, Leo Manning, Jan Grubb, Alicia Stroud, Aileen Jones, Paddi McDonald, Peter van Loggerenberg, Joe Higgins, Gracie Manson.

Anniversaries

Oliver John (Jack) Baker, Herminio Gabriel, Nellie Cashion, Anna Catharina Stokman, Charles John Devereux, Mileva Skorajev, Eileen Hardinge, Anna Balazs, Reginald Herbert Watson, Wasyl Haluszak, Harold Vivian Halton, Jan (John) Rakowski, Susane Hansch, Jean Mary Round, Michael Duggan, Nancy Mackey, Aleksander Cisak, Pauline Sikora, Violet Monaghan, Mary Hinds, Jadwiga Wyrwa, Fr John Northey, Gladys Haney, Alicja Krawczyk, James Francis Coad, Janet Jones, Janina Sadkowski, Ante Franov, Claude James Coad, Kathleen Mary Wood, Carol Trojan, Stanko Franov, Joshua Flack, Otto Fritz, Jadwiga Dmuchowski, Marianna Gladysz, Jadran Kolega, Paul Taylor, Elizabeth Ann Rakowski, Teresita Gabriel Despacio, Fr Vincent Dwyer MSC, Fr Patrick Moloney MSC, Hedley Hodgetts, Richard Daniel Coad, Camden Cashion, Wilhelm Waiser.

Recently Deceased

READINGS

4th/5th January, 2020

The Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: (Cf. Malachi 3:1; Chronicles 29:12)

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

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 60:1-6)

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

PSALM: (Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13)

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SECOND READING: (Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6)

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (Matthew 2:2)

Alleluia!, Alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Matthew 2:1-12)

We have come from the East to worship the king.

MASS TIMES

Monday 6th to Sunday 10th January 2020

	English	Polish
Monday	9:15am	
Tuesday	No Mass	9:00am
Wednesday	12:00 noon	
Thursday	9:15am	
Friday	12:00 noon	9:00am
Saturday	6:30pm	
Sunday	9:00am 4:30pm	10:45am

READINGS/ROSTERS

11th/12th January, 2020

The Baptism of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: (Cf. Matthew 3:16-17)

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

PSALM: (Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10)

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING: (Acts 10:34-38)

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (Cf. Mark 9:8)

Alleluia!, Alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Matthew 3:13-17)

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.

Saturday 6:30pm

Readers *Volunteers*

Ministers *Volunteers*

Projector *Volunteers*

Sunday 9:00am

Readers *Volunteers*

Ministers *Volunteers*

Sick *Volunteers*

Projector *Volunteers*

Sunday 4:30pm

Readers *Volunteers*

Ministers *Volunteers*

Projector *Volunteers*

Altar *Polish Community*

Cleaning *Victoria Maty, Kieran Aherne & Monica Sianski*

Counters *Maria Rodgers, Debbie Large*