

noticeboard

SOME DATES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—9.30 AM SOLEMN MASS

At this Mass the Proclamation of the Date of Easter will be sung and the Blessing of Chalk.

Annual Epiphany Bring and Share Lunch on the lawns after Mass.

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY—PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

This Sunday marks the end of the Season of the Incarnation

9.30 am Solemn Mass and Candlelight Procession

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY—MIDSUMMA MASS

Celebrating the gay and lesbian community's contribution to Melbourne and church life. Our choir will sing at this annual liturgy.

7.00 pm—followed by refreshments served on the church lawn.

Address: Mr Tiernan Brady, Executive Director, Australians for Equality.



NEXT SUNDAY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.00 am Lauds

9.30 am Solemn Mass

Readings for next Sunday

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40;

1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Some Amazing Christmas
Decorations in Hospitals



WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Tue 10 12.00 am Mass

Wed 11 10.30 am Mass

Thu 12 7.30 am Mass

directory

Parish Priest: Fr Stuart Soley SCP T: 03 9419 5051 E: frstuart@stmarksfitzroy.com

Priests Assisting: Fr Tom Brown, Dr Cecilia Francis, Dr Graeme Garrett, The Reverend Louise Lang, Dr Brian Porter, Dr John Spring

Director of Music: Dr Geoffrey Cox

Wardens: Mr Rod Conn, Ms Ellen Green, Ms Louise McGuire **Secretary:** Ms Heather Stock

Addresses: A: Cnr George & Moor Streets, Fitzroy P: PO Box 124, Fitzroy, Vic 3065

community programs

St Marks Community Centre—250 George St Fitzroy

A Partnership with Anglicare Victoria

Hours: Mon—Fri: 11.00 am—3.00 pm

Coordinator: Ms Louise Lang T: 03 9419 3288

St Marks RECYCLED—298 Smith St Collingwood

Hours: Sun—Sat: 11.00 am—5.00 pm

T: 03 9417 2965

Manager: Mr Michael Goldwaser



8 January 2017
The Epiphany of the Lord

guide to today's solemn mass

White is the liturgical colour today. The season of the Incarnation spans the time until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February; the 40th day of Christmas. We celebrate the central mystery of the Christian Faith—the Word become flesh. The Incarnate Word—Jesus the Christ—shines light into our lives to bring wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

PRESIDING Fr Stuart Soley PP **HOMILIST** Fr Stuart
HOSPITALITY WELCOMING TEAM Robin Murray, Martin Dickenson

PROCESSION 49 Set Tune Wessex
SETTING St Mark's Setting—*De angelis*—Cox and Skinner, 1984

READINGS Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

LECTOR CANTOR Matt Hadgraft

PSALM Mode VIII.2 - GC
Lord, ev-'ry na-tion on earth will a-dore you.

COLLECTION 36 Set Tune The first nowell

COMMUNION Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

SENTENCE (Isaiah 60:1)

COMMUNION MINISTERS

COMMUNION 48 Set tune Stuttgart

THE ANGELUS See on page 14 of the booklet

RECESSIONAL Von Himmel hoch—Johann Pachelbel

HOSPITALITY Our celebration continues with morning tea in the Community Centre Hall

HOST Paul Neeson

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www.stmarksfitzroy.com

Contemplating the Gospel ...

Reflection by © Veronica Lawson RSM. Reprinted with permission.

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways: we can read the "book" of God's creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be attentive to the wisdom of our sacred scriptures. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and our kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany presents us with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" attracts the attention of the duplicitous Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews". Advised by the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, through the agency of Herod, they follow the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named as Emmanuel, God-with-us, with the entire Earth community.

There is no indication in the story as to whether the wise ones are men or women or both. Nor are we told their number. The three earth gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise "in a dream" the du-

plicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born "king of the Jews". They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with those of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

Chalking the Door

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition that on (or near) the feast of the Epiphany we pray for God's blessing on our homes, marking the door post with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made).

We mark the main door of our home with the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the new year, connected with crosses:

20 + C + M + B + 17

The initials stand for the Latin motto: *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house". In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this ritual, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes. However, the initials may also remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

I was delighted to welcome to the vicarage courtyard a apostleship of numbers to lunch last Sunday. Twelve people lingered for a relaxed lunch.



Thanks to Mother Cecilia, Ellen and Nola for helping me to assemble the lunch and to Peter who ably made sure all had something liquid in their glasses throughout the lunch time.

You may wish to use this prayer as you mark the lintel over your door:

*O Blessed Trinity—God our Father,
Jesus Christ his beloved Son,
and the Holy Spirit—hear the intercessions of
Blessed Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar,
Blessed Mary, Saint Mark
and of all the saints on our behalf.
We come before you today
to dedicate our home to you.*

*Give to those who pass through the doorways
of our home an awareness of your presence
within their hearts.*

Bless their coming in, and their going out.

*Watch over them,
wherever they may journey.*

Amen.

From: The Path of Waiting by Henri Nouwen.

Fr Stuart writes . . .

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COMMUNITY THANKS

I thanked a bevy of people who work hard to make everything so beautiful for Christmas.

Ian Robertson for the beautiful floral arrangements; Leon Warden and Rod Conn for helping prepare the church; the servers particularly some who served both at the Midnight Mass and on the Day; Jacquie Joslin who organised the refreshments afterwards and Martin Dickenson and Robin Murray who cheerfully washed dishes and tidied up.

TO BEE IS ALL THE GO!

We will be partnering with the Centre for Contemporary Photography in George Street, north of Johnston Street, to host an art installation of bees between 23 March and 8 May. Parish Council has formally endorsed this project and appointed a working group to ensure that we can stage this exciting and significant exhibition. We will run programs in parallel to it and work has commenced on planning some of these.

This exhibition affords us many opportunities to develop links with the broader community and doing something positive in advocating for the created order, human ingenuity and skill and imagination.

Be part of this exciting project.

BEE EXHIBITION INFORMATION SESSION

SUNDAY 22 JANURAY AFTER MASS

11am—12 noon.

Mark it in your diaries now!

