



SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

Feast of the Epiphany

3rd January, 2010

A Saviour For The World

The Feast of the Epiphany in the Eastern Church is **the** major Christmas Celebration. I have stood with crowds of pilgrims on the eve of this feast in the Church of Bethlehem. Only a small group of dignitaries can go below to the Cave, while above, the pilgrims from all countries listen to the prayers and add their own. At Midnight, the Patriarch emerges from the Cave holding aloft the Gospel. The Word once again is given flesh in the hearts of the faithful.

The Gospel from Matthew explains the great importance of this feast, for today Christmas has come to the world. The wise men (Magi) from the east represent the great body of people beyond Judaism who have come to faith. While Herod and the leaders of Israel are ignorant, Gentiles see the signs and learn from the prophecies where a new King is to be born. The symbolism of the star may be based on an image from the book of Numbers where a Gentile Magus (prophet) refers to the coming of a future king: "I see him but not now, I behold him but not near; a star shall come forth out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel" (Num 24:17).

Amidst a story of exotic Magi following stars, of a King and chief priests, the focal point is a simple tableau of a mother and newborn infant. The Magi see in this miracle of birth and love the presence of God and they worship. The miracle of Bethlehem, of God with us, lives on for those with eyes to see.

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



November Mass Offerings

Mass will be offered during this week for the deceased members of the Barbon, Bayford & Enright families.

Baptism Preparation

A preparation night for parents wishing to have a child baptized is held in the Parish Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on this Tuesday, 5th January at 7.30pm.

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Please pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Thomas Antonie, Emmanuel & Ethel Antonie, Jack & Irene Cahill, Linda McDermott, Tom O'Keefe

and the Sick

Martin De Koning (Maree & Tom Shelton's brother-in-law), Carmel Levitt, John Dale, Anne-Marie Corcoran, Baby Peter Kost, John Courtney, Trish Sanders, Barbara Leary, Baby Kate Cameron, Fr. Dan McMahon, Cheryl, Bill Oakes, Linda Watschur, Mary McKenzie, Noeleen Walker, Agnes Hogan, Carmel McKane, Sr. Helen Nichols, Jo Pendlebury, Leonie Bradley, Frank Butler, Anne Horton, Kylie Mazoletti, Gloria Sisson, Margaret Hill, Carolyn Royal, Diana Espino, Edward Riordan, Gillian Richards, Eve Parker, Susan Jones, Pamela Wilson, Rod Van dewert, Judy Linton, Lorraine Curtain, Laurie Pendlebury, Henrique Mendonca, Margaret Beale, Alex Kelly, Mary Lauren, Michaela Baker, Fr. Peter Robinson, Fr. Joe McMahon, Sonia Webb, Nina Lion, Baby Matilda, Robert Fitzgerald, Steven Daniels, Giovanni Lazzaro, Carol Mason and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.

The News (in brief)

St Thomas More Social Club

The first meeting for 2010 will be held in the Undercroft on Tuesday, 5th January following the 10am Mass. New members are always most welcome.

For Those Who Where Interested in the Ending of the Pre Xmas Joke....

A man was driving down the road with twenty penguins in the back seat. A police officer stops him and says that he can't drive around with the penguins in the car and should take them to the zoo. The man agrees and drives off.

The next day the same man is driving down the road – still with twenty penguins in the back. Again he is stopped by the same police officer who says, "Hey! I thought I told you to take those to the zoo."

The man replies "I did. Today, I'm taking them to the movies."

Will You Be Doing The Reflection Next Easter?

In preparation for Easter 2010, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference invites you to partake in an exciting and unique journey.

Each week during Lent, the Bishops of Australia will share their thoughts and reflections on the Sunday Gospels leading to Easter.

The Reflection, is a free, internet - based resource that will follow a *lectio divina* exploration of the Scriptures, and will commence on the 15th February 2010 - the Monday prior to Ash Wednesday.

This innovative program is a wonderful opportunity to share your Easter journey with family, friends, parish or family groups.

As the Church family welcomes its new members with open arms at Easter, let's take up the challenge and invite others to come to our table.

The website <http://thereflection.vividas.com> will go live on the 1st January 2010, keeping you informed of this exciting program. For any further information please contact Annie Carrett, Diocese Broken Bay (02) 9847 0724 or news@dbb.org.au

Mass Times this Week

Monday no Mass

Tuesday (Social Club) 10.00 am

Wednesday 9:15 am, followed by Holy Hour

Thursday-Friday 9:15 am

Saturday (Vigil) 6 pm

Sunday 8 am and 10 am

Reconciliation: Saturday 5pm - 5:30 pm

