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of Mary
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a FUNNY In a small town in Queensland there was a nativity scene which demonstrated that great skill and talent had gone into creating it.

One small feature stood out. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets.

Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, a visitor decided to ask a local what it meant. At a shop on the edge of town, he asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage: 'People these days never do read the Bible!' The visitor assured her that he did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in his face she said, 'See, it says right here, "The three wise man came from afar.'"



PATHWAYS OF ST PAUL PILGRIMAGE:

Join parishioners from Holy Innocents' on a 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, departing Monday 20th April 2015. Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul, visit the places where he lived, worked and was imprisoned. Also visit island of Patmos, where St John wrote the book of Revelation, Basilica of St John built over the tomb of "The Divine" Apostle and the "House of Mary" where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. For Itinerary Brochure and Booking Form please contact Fr. Peter Krigovsky, admin@holyc.org.au, 02 9747-4291, or download from www.holyinnocents

Life Ascending Australia, a spiritual movement for seniors, will meet in the Marian Hall, St Joseph's Church Oatley at 10 am on Friday January 9. Visitors are always welcome! Access is through the Church. Enquiries Ray Byers 9570 3507, ray.byer@bigpond.net.au

Parishes of **Mater Dei Blakehurst** & **St Raphael's South Hurstville**
The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B **BULLETIN** 4 January 2015



Entrance antiphon
Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13
R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R.**
Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! **R.**

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: John 15:4. 5
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.

Communion antiphon:
The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY by © Brendan Byrne SJ
The very ancient Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the fact that Israel's Messiah is also the Saviour of the entire world. We believers of later generations take this more or less for granted. But it is clear that for the earliest Christians of non-Jewish ('Gentile') origin it was a source of immense wonder and gratitude.

The reading from Isaiah addresses the holy city, Jerusalem. The image seems to be that of the break of dawn. All around, in the valleys, is darkness ('night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples'). But the highly elevated city of Jerusalem is beginning to catch the rays of the rising sun, a magnificent light identified with the 'glory of the Lord'. At this, the nations begin streaming to Jerusalem, bringing their riches to place before the God of Israel.

Providing the Gospel for today's Feast, the story of the coming of the Wise Men from the East (Matt 2:1-12) catches up and expands upon this vision. It is interesting that Matthew's gospel, which of the four gospels is most at pains to portray Jesus in Jewish light, lets this episode where Gentiles bring gifts dominate its story of Jesus' childhood. The gospel will conclude on the same note with the great commission, 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations' (28:16-20).

I think it is important to bring out the blend between pagan wisdom and (Jewish) scribal information that led the wise men to the Saviour. Their own natural gifts, the wisdom of their people and their scientific investigations (astronomy) have impelled their quest. With many peoples in the ancient world they shared a belief that the birth of persons destined to be great leaders and rulers was signalled by extraordinary manifestations in the heavens. So they see in their eastern homeland the 'star' that biblical prophecy (Num 24:17) indicated as the sign of a King of the Jews who would have universal significance. They have followed this star in their journey and it has brought them to Jerusalem. But they need the scribal wisdom of Israel to locate more precisely the One whose birth it announces. The chief priests and scribes tell them of the prophecy of Micah that points them, accurately as it turns out, to David's city, Bethlehem.

In a way that, I think, has abiding meaning, we see here a pattern whereby revelation springs from a combination of natural wisdom and biblical prophecy. The human gifts and learning of these representatives of the Gentile world play an essential role in leading them to the Saviour.

In a way that foreshadows the later adherence of multitudes of Gentile believers to the faith, the wise men, discovering the child with his mother Mary (Joseph at this point has faded from view), pay homage to him as their ruler. They place before him the rich gifts of their culture, gifts graciously received.

Their journey has been one of faith and risk. Their coming has caused 'disturbance' in Jerusalem; the treacherous and murderous figure of Herod looms over all, presaging the Passion that is to come. But the riches of God's salvation will go to the Gentiles. We too walk in the footsteps of the wise men, sharing their longing, their faith, and the joy of their discovery, and bringing our own gifts to the Lord.

UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL. WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS
"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES this week		
	Mater Dei	St.Raphael's
Saturday	6.15pm	5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am	8.30am
Tuesday	8.00am	
Wednesday	8.00am	
Thursday		9.15am
Friday	8am	9.00am

RECONCILIATION: (also by appointment)

EXPOSITION		
Saturday	from	4.00pm

Legions of Mary
MD: Meets 10am every Monday morning in the Piety Stall at Mater Dei.
St R's Rosary and Meeting every Friday at 9:30 am downstairs in the Hall.
St Vincent de Paul Society
 Meets second Tuesday of each month in the Kennedy Centre at Mater Dei at 7.30 pm.

HOME ROSARY
St Raphael's Parish - Mondays 7.30pm
 December - ADVENT BREAK
 Resumes January
Mater Dei Parish - Tuesdays
 December - Advent Break
 Resumes January
ALL WELCOME

Please pray for the work of this Council which has been set up as part of the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Please pray especially, too, for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and Church employees.

Please Pray For
Deceased parishioners or relatives and their families.
Deceased: Erica Bogovic, Andrew W, Pierina & Sergio Rossi (Anniversary of Pierina)

Please pray for those who are sick:
 Therese Mir, Franko Turiano Sandra Salvador, Ingolf Leuschner, Cath Spongberg, Paul Gilmore, Wally Wells, Beryl Harrington, Maria Nguyen, Evelyn Williams, Rina Ricco, Morrell, Hennie Smith, Sue McDermott, Margaret Hopkinson, Sr Vianney Hatton, Mary Krone, Ann, Sr Maree Henderson, rsc, Blaza Kursar, Howard Courtney, Ann Davies, Joanne McRea, Patrick & Sidney Yenson, Matthew Tuffin, Joanne Martin, Jack & Sylvia Wood.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND & Christmas		
TYPE	StR	MD
First	2145.40	2127.95
Second: loose	1718.35	2797.85
Envelopes	698	2538

Campion College Summer Program, 11 – 16 January 2015. There are many ways to obtain more details of this live-in experience.
Web: www.campion.edu.au or m.mendieta@campion.edu.au or info@campion.edu.au or **Tel: (02) 9896 9300 .**

HOLY HOUR AT ST RAPHAEL'S
 Continues Fridays, between 8pm and 9pm.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS
 Are now available for next year. They are \$10 each and are available from the Piety Stall at Mater Dei or from Br Ben at St Raphael's.



RCIA will resume in February 2015
 If there is anyone that is interested in learning more about our faith please contact Graeme and Dorahy on 9546 6032.

ACBC PASTORAL RESEARCH OFFICE E-NEWS BULLETIN.
 A regular bulletin profiling interesting data about Catholic life in Australia. Edition #18 features Catholics and the Environment and is now available. Anyone interested to receive this newsletter please contact the Pastoral Research Office via email: office@pro.catholic.org.au or on 03 9953 3457.

St Philomena Association Holy Mass to be held on Saturday, 30 May 2015 at Midday, with confessions from 11.30am. (Pop this in your diary!) Where: St John Vianney's Catholic Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside. A short walk north from Doonside station, one stop past Blacktown. RSVP: by phone or text to Elizabeth on 0423 154 463 or email: epeoples9@gmail.com (Please bring a snack to share)

Building Bridges: Social Justice Statements from Australia's Catholic Bishops 1988 to 2013. This book published by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to know about Catholic social teaching and this aspect of the Church's mission in the modern world. Some of the issues covered are; justice for Australia's Indigenous people, refugees and asylum seekers, environment and care for creation and family life. Now available for \$35 (incl. postage within Aus). Order via the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.acsjc.org.au or call 02 8349

2014 ADVENT CALENDAR AND APP NOW AVAILABLE. The Archdiocese of Sydney social network Xt3.com has released its 2014 Advent Calendar. The online calendar, also available as a free App for iPhone, iPad & Android devices, features daily reflections and multimedia resources to help you make the most of the season of Advent. View the Calendar online at www.xt3.com/ advent or search "xt3 Advent" in the Google Play or pp Store

Dear Friends,
 May you be blessed this day and all through the 2015 year with the happiness of knowing that God's love is always near.
 Happy New Year
 Fr. Isidore

The Wisdom of Teresa
Jan 30 – Feb 1, 2015

Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, OCD
Cost: \$220 (concessions available)

Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566

Contact: 02 8795 3400, email: retreats@carmelite.com
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Divine Friendship: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St Teresa of Avila.

Ministry	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	3/4			
January	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Vincent	Max	Sofi Payne	Jeffrey
EMHC	Moya/Ellen	Annie/Rosie		
Readers	Vincent	Max	Sonia Trevor	Gail/Luisa Angela
Altar Servers				
Music				Kim
Altar Society				
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		School Holidays	

Ministry	St Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	10/11			
January	5.00pm V	8.30am	6.15pm V	10.00am
Acolytes/SS	Daniel	Michael	Ray	Paul
EMHC	Jan/Shirley	Michelle/Mpnica		
Readers	Daniel	Michael	Ronnie Louise	Joan/Jean
Altar Servers				
Music				Kim
Altar Society				
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		School Holidays	

Youth Summer Schools Of Evangelisation 2015 – A Great Summer Retreat! What are you doing this summer? A week long retreat for young people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "Let Your Light Shine" 1 Peter 3:18. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer, music, loads of fun and new friends. Two locations in NSW – Bathurst and Paterson (11-18 January 2015). Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For more information see www.summerschool.org.au.

Free e-book for computer or e-reader:
Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year B-1
 This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader, offers the Gospel for every day of this present Liturgical Year B-1 (Sundays Year B, weekdays Year1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. It contains the Gospel passages not only for this present year but for any B-1 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their respective reflections. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of the Archbishop of Sydney.
 Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year B-1 may be accessed at the following address: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

St John of God Institute of Counselling
 The St John of God Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 3 February 2015. The cost for the course is \$450.00 for the year with an early bird offer of \$400.00 if paid in full by the end of February 2015. For enquires please contact:
 Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432;
 Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0408 705 848;
 Janelle Carlile - 0431 598 004; or
 Email: counselling1969@gmail.com

The Catholic Guy
 In life, all of us are leaders. Some of us lead others, but we all must lead ourselves.
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I LEAD 15 will provide young adults with practical and relevant leadership training in an exciting Catholic environment.
I LEAD 15 will give you the skills essential in leading other people to higher levels of achievement in their spiritual, personal and professional lives.
DATE: 4th - 7th January 2015
VENUE: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road Varroville, NSW
COST: \$159 – Includes 4 nights accommodation, food and all activities/training
REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: ilead.thecatholicguy.com or ph 1300 734 880

Both Churches have a hearing loop installed: switch your hearing aid to "T-coil".

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St Raphael's Primary 9546 4898
 Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie