

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a regular contributor to the Parish?

If so, please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office. Otherwise send an e-mail with your details to Marie at admin@stfelixparish.org.au

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:.....

Email :

WOULD LIKE ENVELOPES CONTRIBUTE WITH CREDIT CARD MAKE CHANGES TO MY DONATION

Alcohol & Drug Information Service: (Confidential) 02 9361 8000
CatholicCare: Ph:13 18 19
Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo-www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats Ph:4236 0533
Carmelites Varroville - www.carmeliteretreats.com.au Ph: 8795 3400
Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555
Vincetian Retreat Centre Somersby - www.divineretreatcentre.org.au Ph: 4372 1598
Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au

Catechist: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; Choir: Line Collet 0410 568 103;
Friendship Group: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; Youth : Alison De Sousa 0421 660 187;
Pastoral Council: John Sarkis 0400 606 297; St Vincent de Paul: John Ashe 9796 1055;
Childrens Liturgy: Marie El-Chaar 9709 3451; Cemetery Committee: Maureen Vincent 9790 4217;
Sacramental co-ordinator: Gloria Booby 9708 2871; Polish Priests: 8783 0533;
De La Salle Brothers: 9708 2692; St. Felix Primary School: 9796 7875 Lisa Wahab- Principal;
LaSalle Catholic College: 9793 5600 Mr Michael Egan - Principal;
Archdiocesan Website: www.sydney.catholic.org.au



St Felix deValois Parish
550 Chapel Road, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia

Fr Van Nguyen, Parish Priest
Marie Caldereri, Secretary (Tues, Wed, Thurs)
Phone: 9790 1933 Fax: 9796 3962
Email: admin@stfelixparish.org.au Website: www.stfelixparish.org.au

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday: 6pm (Vigil),
Sunday: 8am,
10am (Children's Liturgy),
6pm, 12noon (Polish).
THIS WEEK'S MASSES
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday & Saturday - 8.00am.
Nursing Home Masses
Nil this week
Vietnamese Mass
7 pm - 1st Thurs of each month.
DEVOTIONS
Benediction: Saturday 7.00am.
Rosary: Saturday 8.25am.
Divine Mercy Prayer:
6.30pm - 1st Wed of each month.
SACRAMENTS
Reconciliation:
Saturday 4.30 - 5.30 pm
Or by appointment.
Marriages: By arrangement with
at least 6 months notice.
Care for the Sick: Any time.
Please call the Presbytery.
Baptisms: By appointment.
Preparation classes are held in the
Presbytery on the 1st Sunday of
each month after 10AM Mass .



*Then, opening their treasures, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*
(Matt 2.11)

Responsorial Psalm
R. 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!

This weeks readings - Isaiah 60:1-6;
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.

Next Weekend: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B.
Readings: 1Samuel 3:3-10,19; 1Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20;
Gospel: John 1:35-42.

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B - 7 January 2018

Readers and Ministers Roster

The current Readers & Ministers Roster runs until the end of January. If you would like to join this roster or make any changes kindly email the parish office or let Fr Van know before 11th January

Free Mulch

We seem to have received some unwanted extra mulch in the Parish. (in front of the Cemetery) Anyone wishing to take some home to use in their gardens are very welcome to do so at their own expense.

Women in Leadership: a gift for the world

Who is this workshop for?

For women of any age and any experience. For women in formal leadership positions, and for those who exercise leadership without a formal title ... in business, schools, homes, offices, parishes, anywhere. For more information and bookings please contact below.

DATE: April 13-15, 2018

VENUE: Benedictine Abbey, 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo

TIME: Arrive afternoon of Thursday 12 April, leaving after lunch on the Sunday

COST: Cost of program is \$200. Accommodation fees depend upon type of room selected.

BOOKINGS: (02) 42360533 or cottageretreats@jamberoobbey.org.au

Mass Intentions:

Recently Deceased: Louis Zucco

Anniversary: Bernard Danh; Eugenie Thien Tai Tran; Maxime & Simone Serreti; Ines & Tomas Martinez; Phero Khoa; Phero Ngoc Phan Kim; Patricia Modafiglio.

Deceased: Marie Therese Lien; deceased members of the Edwards family.

Sick: Jason Timbs & Bart Hennely, Dau (Xuan); Gerard Go; Fatima; Catherine & Lourdes Raspanti; Tim Logue; baby Alan Dien Quan Nguyen; Monina Rodriguez Pineda; Tenshi Asriel Magdaleno Arcenas; Vaoliko Pesamino, Ethan Chau, Douglas Needham; Anne McKinlay; Jovie Casuso; Reyes & Adelle Lim.

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society: 14/1/18 Group 2: Robyn Molloy, Enid Sneddon, Teresa Neang, Jeannette Chong, Anna & Willy Gabut, Letoe Hansell, Maria Huong Nguyen (*Florist*)

St Vincent de Paul: 7/1/18 Andrew Nguyen 14/1/18 A Nguyen

Church Cleaners: 12/1/18: Charbel Karam **Children's Liturgy:** 14th Jan - HOLIDAYS

Weekend Choirs: 14/1 Saturday 6pm - St Anne's Choir.

Sunday 8am - Singing Servants of God. **10 am** - St Felix Choir. **6pm** - Youth Choir.

Readers & Ministers

	Sat 6pm	7 JANUARY	8am	10am	6pm
C	Stephen Hoang	Philip Castillo	Jennifer Nguyen	Elias Eltarraf	
R	Gloria Booby	Ligaya Castillo	Anthony Rowe	Anthony Eltarraf	
A	Joseph Bui (A)	Joseph Cao (A)	Thong Tran (A)	Thanh Vu (A)	
M	Emmanuel Icard	Mesake Mar	Ala Pesamino	Paul Ngoc	
M	Tuyen Tran	Madelyn Nicole	Jeannette Chong	Loreto Eduardo	
14 JANUARY					
C	Gabrielle Nguyen	Janice Rodrigues	Helen Vujevic	Kathleen Mezentsef	
R	Patrick Abourizk	Jeanette Rodrigues	Jessica Vujevic	Lucia Mezentsef	
A	Tuyen Tran (A)	Joseph Cao (A)	Anthony Joseph (A)	Thanh Vu (A)	
M	Cindy Hoang	An Dang	Gordon West	Phu Nguyen	
M	Gloria Booby	Robyn Molloy	Rosa House	Judy Jones	

Reflection

"The sight of the star filled them with delight."

Two thousand years have passed since those magi travelled to Bethlehem, searching for the light. Their journey cannot have been easy. The journey to Christ often isn't. They no doubt had to give up a great deal to find him, but nothing was more important to them than their spiritual quest. Moreover, they grasped the truth that, while they were searching, God has been leading them. It was God who lit the star, and God who encouraged them to set out, because God loved them, and God wanted to be found by them.

One of the things that the wise men's journey gave them was time. They reflected, they thought, perhaps they prayed. That is one great benefit of a spiritual journey or pilgrimage. There is time to ponder fundamental questions; and to realise, like the wise men, that deep down, whether we are Catholics or not, Christians of other Churches, members of different faiths, or people who are still searching to find faith, there is always something more to seek and find. It was a very significant moment when the magi fell down to worship Jesus and give him their gifts, and it is a similar moment when a person is baptised, comes into the Church or takes a new step in faith.

The Living Word.

Feasts of the week

8 January – The Baptism of the Lord. Feast.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.



In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

— Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas (*Catholicculture.org*)