



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



5th January 2020

Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



**“When you can see God in small things,
you'll see God in all things.”**

– Donald L. Hicks

Happy New Year to you all! May this year be a blessed one for everyone around the world!

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany: The visit of the Magi to Jesus. Blaise Pascal, a 17th century scientist who—among other things— invented a calculating machine that became the forerunner for the modern computer says, "There are only three types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live not seeking, or finding him. The first are rational and happy; the second unhappy and rational, and the third foolish and unhappy."



We see those three types represented in our readings at Christmas time. Among the foolish and unhappy is King Herod. He pretends to seek God, but his real concern is to defend his power - and his pleasures. But he was far from happy. Tortured by suspicions, he murdered members of his own family, including his wife, Mariamne, and two sons. This caused the Emperor Augustus to remark, "I would rather be Herod's pig (hus) than his son (huios)." Herod - in an extreme way - represents the class of people who neither seek nor find God.

At the other end of the spectrum are those who have found God and serve him. Two obvious examples are St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can also include the shepherd in that happy group.



In the middle are the Magi. They represent all honest seekers. They were not illusionists like modern magicians, but rather they studied the heavens and tried to figure out the relationship between the stars and what is happening on earth. They were part astronomer and part astrologer. The Magi are also called "Wise Men" because they followed the celestial sign, the star that led them to Christ. When they arrived at the dwelling of Joseph and Mary, they stopped being seekers. They worshipped the child, that is, they acknowledged him as God. And they gave gifts that represented Jesus' kingship, his divinity and his priesthood.



In trying to understand the meaning and the challenges of this great feast, I feel that

- Human beings should try to grasp the universality and absoluteness of God fully well
- God is beyond one's philosophy and the set boundaries of various religions in society
- He is a 'Unifying force' and never a 'dividing force'. "He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, to bring everything together under Christ as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth" (Second reading)
- God doesn't have any imprimatur. He belongs to everyone in the entire globe calling us to embrace humanity with all its diversities and uniqueness, and
- He reveals Himself to people of all nations and all ages in the daily routines of life and through the signs of the times

The greatest challenge is to be an instrument of His Epiphany in the postmodern world, to be a star (leading humanity in ways of love, peace and justice), to be the magi (seeking and finding God in faith), to offer the greatest gift of a 'Quality life', and never to be the Herod of the gospel story. Where is God to be found? "A common mistake we make is that we look for God in places where we ourselves wish to find him, yet even in the physical reality, this is a complete failure. For example, if you lost your car keys, you would not search where you want to search, you would search where you must in order to find them." - Criss Jami. Let us allow ourselves to seek and find God in all things!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

Social Justice @ St Mads

Still Listening to the Spirit: Woman and Man Twenty Years Later

Edited by Sandie Cornish and Andrea Dean, this collection of essays celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, the report on the participation of women in the Catholic Church in Australia.



Seventeen contributors present a diverse range of perspectives on issues concerning women in the Church and in society, providing food for thought and prayer in the discernment phase of preparation for the Plenary Council 2020. They offer the fruit of their listening to the Spirit as internationally recognised scholars, women in leadership roles, young women, pastoral workers and mothers.

~Sue Martin

To everyone who has expressed their interest to become

READERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, COMMUNION TO THE SICK & DYING, MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR (senior servers)

we invite you to attend the Office for Worship's **Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses** to be held beginning early February 2020. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org, or drop by the Parish Office to get a form.

Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available for \$2 each in the Piety Stall.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY
THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.



BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **1st February at 4:30-5:30pm** in the **new function centre**. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1654.40
2nd Collection (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1521
Loose = \$ 1202.30
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107
TOTAL = \$ 4830.30

If you donate to the parish and have recently changed your credit card, please phone the parish office on 96542260.
Thank you for your generosity!

Let your heart be more attentive than your head, for the Holy Spirit is love, and to take hold, it is more important to love than to understand.
-St Madeleine Sophie



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Zaren Galea, Alf Barbagallo, Philomena Beresford

For the dearly departed

Antonio Ceroli, AnnaMaria "Mary Spina, David Piper, Eileen Egan, Maria & Gerson Dias, Marion Graham, Christy & Breda Sherlock, deceased of the Sherlock, Coghlan & Kinsella families, Pietro Ceccato, deceased of the Ceccato & Ferraro families, Norman & Chahede Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, Mary Merhi, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Felician Sabellano, deceased of the Pellizzon and Turcato families, Howard Langham

For healing of the sick

Vince Luca, Tony Boffo, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Candida Irugalbandra, Sheila Cañabano, Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, June, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

THIS WEEKEND		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	John Cice	Rosa & Tony Carlino Maureen & Rick Jones	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Lesley & Rick Gangemi
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry		HJS—Tiago Gregory
	READERS	Pat Waters	Catherine Diekman Gerry McArdle	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Lidia Ceccato Dianne Millington	Eileen Sherlock Michael Parslow	Adriana Kennedy Bob Burke	Lesley Gangemi Gael Carpani
	JUN MINISTERS		Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	Hannah Tran
	MUSICIANS	Lisa J	Joan & David	Mark	NO MUSICIANS
	COUNTERS	Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	ON BREAK
FLOWERS	Mari Gregory and Maureen Meryment		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Sanders	

11/12 JANUARY 2020					
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino Doreen Siggers	Jenny & Peter Firkins Greg & Myra Lambert	Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo		Phillys Hannah	HJS—Akash Arnold
	READERS	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Simmy Cesamolo
	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Colleen Dunlop Marie Coddington	Tricia Spencer Kathy White	Sandra Tabone Roslyn Earl	Selina Calleia Jason Hatcher
	JUN MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang	Thomas Foxall Saniya Arnold
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Angela
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	ON BREAK
FLOWERS	***		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow	

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country on which we worship