

PDF version of this parish newsletter *PDF here*:

You can also access an online -web- copy of the newsletter *Webcopy here*

SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish E-Newsletter

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - *https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding*
This is Kombumerri Country - The Traditional Custodians of this region. (see here)
Parish Office (new): (07) 5671 7388 (9 am – 12 pm Mon-Fri)
Email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au | Website: www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au
Emergencies: Priest contactable via office phone (after hours follow the menu prompts)
50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Queensland, 4226
https://tinyurl.com/SPCPsite

Sunday, January 7, 2024 — The Epiphany of the Lord. Year B

Readings for Sunday, January 7, 2024 - The Epiphany of the Lord. Year B
FIRST READING- Isa 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."
SECOND READING- Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Matt 2:2). Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East and have come to adore the Lord.
GOSPEL- Matt 2:1-12

"For out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:6)



Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 1211082193 - PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC - OCTOBER 17, 2018: The fresco of Adoration of Magi the in church kostel Svatého Cyrila Metodeje by Petr Maixner (1872). Important information. Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: Renata Sedmakova

We congratulate the Pisharody, Compton, Forwood, McInnes, Williams, Russell, Sforcina and Haddad families whose children Remy, Autumn Ella, Lily Joy, Roman James & Archer James, Sophia Patty & Elsie May, Joseph Charles & Charlotte Alejandra, Elena and Sienna will be baptised in our Parish this week. Please keep the Baptism families in your prayers as they begin their faith journey.

Pastor's Post: The Light to All the Nations

The feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of the revelation to all the world of the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This feast also focuses on the fact that God's message and invitation from Jesus is for all people of all languages, nations and cultures. Jesus was born for all people, and Jesus came to be the Light of all nations.

I am impressed by the fact that the foreign wise men travelled a great way to give homage to Jesus, the King. I also like how they could discern (with inspiration from God) not to trust the words of Herod. They realised that just because Herod SAID he wanted to find Jesus to worship him, his words were mere political speak and were a pathetic sham, and that he had in his heart nothing but hatred for Christ and a shocking desire to destroy Jesus. Discernment and sobriety are needed to assess things and events around us.

I try not to sound pessimistic about the values of our broader society. Many things about our modern society are good, life-giving, and "enlightened" because they are consistent with the values of Jesus and his gospel. Having said that, many things about our modern world and society are also NOT good. Perhaps the world needs a sign such as the warning that precedes some television shows, saying: "Caution, discretion advised!"

Jesus is the true light of light and life to all, but we now live in a world filled with competing noises and lights that can easily distract us from the truth of Christ's enlightenment. Many values and practises need to be examined very keenly with the light of Christ to see how they stand up.

The Light of Christ has much to offer us when testing and evaluating our world's practices, attitudes and values.

It is why we all exercise caution, prudence and balance in our approach to life's significant events and practices. I hope that even the wider society, which does not necessarily expressly hold to the explicit values of Christ, can at least start seeing the value of tailoring its values to be consistent with the truth of Christ, who shows us the true meaning and value of all things. We all need the light, guidance, and discernment of Christ and his values more than ever as we walk through the events and situations of our earthly pilgrimage.

Fr Paul.

To tune in to The Epiphany Mass - sound podcast, please regularly visit the link below to listen to the Mass (including the homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish. Please visit this link: Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - (It is updated at intervals just before the next feast - https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks
Also found at - https://tinyurl.com/FHLpwk



Chalking the Doors

This weekend in Surfers Paradise Parish, we will be refocusing on the somewhat forgotten, ancient Catholic Epiphany practice of "chalking the doors" also known as Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year.

At masses this weekend, the priest will bless pieces of chalk. One blessed piece will be used to mark each of our church doors and at the end of mass, each family will be offered a piece of chalk to take home to mark the doors of their homes. Along with the chalk, each family will be provided with an A5 piece of paper explaining how to mark your door and a prayer ritual for your family to pray at this time of marking. We warmly invite each family to participate in this tradition of marking your doors with this sign of God's protection and in recognition of the Light of Christ present in your home.

The practice is called "chalking the doors" because priests traditionally would bless the house and then use chalk to write above the main entrance the specific year, separated by the letters C, M and B (e.g., 20+C+M+B+24, for the 2024 blessing). The inscription is applied as a prayer that Christ will bless homes so marked and that he will stay with those who dwell there throughout the year and with any guest who may cross their threshold.

The image above is of the markings on the door of St Stephen's Church in Prague. The church was visited in December 2023 by our Parish Manager, Sonya Slater. You will note that the letters on the St Stephen's Church door are the Czech equivalent and have lasted on the church door for the whole of 2023.

The letters stand for the Latin blessing, "*Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this House)," and the traditional names for the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Scripture states, "The three, going into the house, saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11, RSV Catholic edition)." To this day, many Catholics in Latin American cultures call the feast of the Epiphany *Dîa de los Reyes ("*Three Kings Day") and, instead of Christmas day, delight in the "twelfth day of Christmas" as the day for exchanging gifts in imitation of the Magi who brought their gifts to the Lord Jesus.

PILGRIMAGE WITH FR DAN RYAN -FRANCE, PARIS AND LOURDES 2024 (With Fr Dan Ryan, as he celebrates 50 years of priesthood).

Would you like to travel to France from mid-May to mid-June next year with me, Fr Dan Ryan, on a French Saints Pilgrimage, with a possible extension to Rome?

I have organised a pilgrimage with Harvest Journeys to travel through France and visit the Places of Saints.

The trip will include Paris (2nights), Rouen, Lisieux(2), Mont-Saint-Michel (2), Chartes, Nevers (1), Taize, Paray le Monial (2), Ars, La Salette (1), Avignon, Lourdes (3), Montserrat(1), and Barcelona (1), Optional Rome Extension (3)

If you would like more information, you can contact Harvest Journeys on 1800 819 156 or https://bookings.harvestjourneys.com/pv2445. If you contact Harvest Journeys, mention my name and the pilgrimage is the French Saints Pilgrimage. There are a few brochures at the back of the church. Father Dan Ryan. A copy of the brochure is available here as well:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EuOjctr5PMLmUrxxhut9-IoMAI3OMQXQ/view?usp=sharing





RCIA ...a journey in faith
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



Baptism


Confirmation


Holy Eucharist

BECOMING CATHOLIC



An INVITATION to 'COME & SEE'

John 1:39-41 They went and saw.....

An Invitation to come to Jesus and believe in Him.

It is a call to faith, a call to the kind of life that is overflowing and abundant, which can only be found in Him, in relationship with Him.

The SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH is commencing the

weekly RCIA JOURNEY to EASTER

Dates: 2024 – 21 Jan, 28 Jan, 4 Feb, 11 Feb, 18 Feb, 25 Feb, 3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, 24 Mar, Easter Vigil 30 Mar.

Time & Place: 4pm Parish Hospitality Centre followed by 6pm Mass Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters.

So, everyone is welcome:

Those who are wanting to enquire into the Catholic Church and have not been Baptised.

Those who are wanting to enquire into the Catholic Church and have been Baptised into another tradition but are now seeking to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Those who have already been through the RCIA process themselves and now would like to share with us the gift of your experience and your journey.

Those Catholics who have been away from the Church because of a hurt, in whatever form, that you have been carrying for some time and are looking to make those first tentative steps back.

Those Catholics who are wanting to know more about their faith and to renew or refresh their relationship with Jesus.

Those Catholics who know everything but want to be a part of your Parish faith community supporting others who have not been as fortunate as you.

Those who have been a Catholic from birth and need a refresher, even if you don't know it.

If you would like more information or are wanting to commence, please ring the Parish Office (new): (07) 5671 7388 (9 am – 12 pm Mon-Fri) Email: *surfers@bne.catholic.net.au* ***| Website:*** *www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au* ***– to give your name, number and email and we will contact you prior to the commencement date to have a chat. Blessings to all.***

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

To begin or to continue the journey of faith with your child, please use the information provided in the table below.

Sacrament Name (& important Sacrament Dates for 2024)	*Eligibility And Cost*	*How to enrol, or check a child's enrolment, or request information for Sacramental Preparation Groups in Surfers Paradise Parish, 2024*
Sacrament of Baptism Celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism occur most Sundays of the Year at 10:30 am in Sacred Heart Church. Bookings are linked to the online enrolment form (see info on the far right). **Baptism spaces are booked out a couple of months in advance.	Children are eligible from birth. (The cost for the Sacrament of Baptism is $130)	**To submit a Baptism enrolment for a child aged from birth to 7 years old**, Go to the parish website www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au. Use the top menu bar and hover over ***Sacraments***. Click on ***Baptism***. Please read the baptism information and then scroll down to the blue-filled box with the link to the enrolment form you need. Click on the link in the box, complete the form and then click ***Submit***. You should receive an automated response that the form has been received. **To request information for Baptisms for children from birth to 7 years**, Email the Parish Secretary at surfers@bne.catholic.net.au. **Baptisms for Children 7 years to 16 years**: Email your interest to our Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson, at andersoncm@bne.catholic.net.au.
Sacrament of Confirmation Dates: **a.) Parent Meeting either June 10 or June 11 (choose one to attend) at 5:30 pm, Sacred Heart Church.** **b.) Final Meeting and Practice either August 19 or August 20 (choose one to attend) at 5:30 pm** **c.) Celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation evening of August 29**	For Baptised Children in Year 3 or greater. (Total Cost for all sacraments other than Baptism is $150)	**To enrol,** Go to the parish website (see address above). Use the top menu bar and hover over ***Sacraments.*** Click on ***Confirmation***. Please read the information about Confirmation and then scroll down to the blue-filled box with the link to the form that you need. Click on the link in the box, complete the enrollment application form, and click ***Submit.*** You should receive an automated response that the form has been received. During Term 2, 2024, Cathy Anderson will email the families of all enrolled children. **To request information,** Email our Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson, at andersoncm@bne.catholic.net.au.
Sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion) Dates: **a.) Parent Meeting either March 20 or March 21 (choose one to attend) at 5:30 pm, Sacred Heart Church.** **b.) Final Meeting and Practice either May 13 or May 14 (choose one to attend) at 5:30 pm** **c.) Celebration of First Holy Communion either May 26 at 11 am or June 2 at 11 am**	For children in Year 4 or greater who have been Baptised and Confirmed. (Total Cost for all sacraments other than Baptism is $150)	A. If your child received the sacrament of Confirmation in Surfers Paradise Parish in 2023, they will be automatically included in the group to be contacted for Preparation for First Communion. Contact will be made via email by the Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson. The email will be sent in Term 1, 2024. B. If your child was confirmed in Surfers Paradise Parish before 2023, please express your interest in joining the 2024 First Communion Group by emailing Cathy Anderson at andersoncm@bne.catholic.net.au C. If your child was confirmed in another parish, please follow the information in the cell above to complete an online enrolment application to include your child in the 2024 First Communion Group.

IMPORTANT NOTE - THE CATHOLIC LEADER NEWSPAPER IS NOW EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE VIA SUBSCRIPTION AND DELIVERED BY MAIL TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER
Keeping Faith with You

The Catholic Leader newspaper - our official archdiocesan newspaper has ceased bulk deliveries.

The Catholic Leader newspaper is no longer available for purchase at a church (nor online) but will be sent by mail to individual subscribers.

To support the ongoing benefit of this beautiful Catholic Brisbane newspaper, published since 1929 - and to ensure that everyone who wants a copy will have their own copy - it will now be conveniently posted to your address each month. Please take an envelope and subscribe by filling out the form and posting it back post-free to the catholic leader. Please take an envelope to any housebound members of the parish so they can subscribe and receive the paper by mail.

Please consider purchasing a gift subscription for someone special. Thanks. Or subscribe by visiting www.catholicleader.com.au/subscribe

MASS TIMES: SURFERS PARADISE MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart 50 Fairway Drive Clear Island Waters, 4226	**Saturday Night - 5 pm (Note: Reconciliations from 4-4.30 pm at Sacred Heart)** **+ (Maronite Mass, 6:30 pm, Saturday Night).** ***Note: First Saturday of the month, morning Mass, Adoration and Benediction: 9 am (Next: 6th January, 2023)** **Sunday - 9 am and 6 pm** **+ (Polish Mass 12:30 pm Sunday)** **+ (Italian Mass 4 pm Sunday at Sacred Heart Church)** **Weekday Masses - Monday - Friday weekday Mass - 9 a.m.** **The Healing Mass will return on the first Tuesday of February 2024 AT 10 am (6/2/2024)** **{First Friday Night of the Month - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church - First Fridays of the Month, from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch with Me for one hour?" Mt 26:40}.**
St Vincent's 40 Hamilton Avenue. Surfers Paradise 4217	**Sunday - 8 am & 10 am** **(Hispanic Mass – 5.30 pm every Sunday)** ***Extra parking is available only metres from St Vincent's Church, King's Car Park, and entry via Beach Road. Also, in Remembrance Drive opposite the church, next to the new Essence Building.***
Stella Maris 254 Hedges Avenue, Broadbeach, 4218	**Saturday - 5 pm** **Sunday - 7 am**

Hispanic (Latino American) Mass: Fr. Syrilus Madin. 5:30 pm Mass - Every Sunday - St Vincent's Catholic Church, Surfers Paradise. Gold Coast Contact: Juan Arrieta 0406 705 349

Polish Mass: Fr Grzegorz Gaweł SChr (Bowen Hills 3252 2200). 12.30 pm Mass Sunday Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters. Gold Coast Contact: George Syrek 0411 302 802

Italian Mass: Sunday - Sacred Heart Church at 4 p.m. Please contact Fr Luis Antonio Diaz Lamus (Scalabrinian Missionary) - Email: ladl71@hotmail.com or Giovanna at 07 55395528 or email gianna52@hotmail.com for further information about the Italian Mass on the Gold Coast.

Maronite Mass: Fr Fadi Salame 0421 790 996. 6.30 pm Saturday Vigil, Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters.

"TAP `N" GO CASHLESS DONATIONS -



AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF THREE CHURCHES - tap once to donate $10, tap again (when it has re-set) for another $10, and so on.

IN OUR PRAYERS

(Please contact us so we can keep these names up-to-date, and let us know when to remove the name from the list).

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: (Alphabetical)

Jack Barretto, Nellie Bellinger, Kevin Brennan, Tim Brown, Margaret Buckingham, Diana Castro, Cecily Cellinan, Doug Chester, Jo Clark, Leslie Clarke, Tina Conidi, Margaret & George Cook, Alfonso Covino, Margaret Cusack, Geraldine Daniels, Nia Falekakala, John Fisher, Rosie May Fisher, Sally Gage, Lorraine Gallagher, Laurel Goddard, Fred Grioli, Jacob Haddad, Jenny Haines, Dion Herft, Mary Hirst, Lena Hiscock, Louise Holmes, Kim Ingram, Anna Janiek, Pat Jones, Leona Kelly, Marianne Kennedy, Kath Kiely, Betu Kim, Jan Kristenson, Bob Lahey, Diane & Steve Land, Sue Langham, Patrick Joven de Leon, Nathan Lepp, Joseph Ah Lo, Ann Marie Loder, Sarina Losurdo, John Nathaniel Maher, Maria Manuela, Andrew McPherson, Phil McWilliam, Fabiola Menzs, Joanne Mooney, Maryann Moore, Hugh Morand, Amy Elizabeth Morgan, Michael & Lesley Murtagh, Joanna Muthu, Lynn Nunan, Stephen O'Brien, Peter O'Brien, Natalie O'Reilly, Letty O'Sullivan, Joanne Parkes, Kay Pitman, Rachel Raines, Gus Reeves, Patricia Roberts, Rogelio Rodriguez, Bob Rogers, Felipe S Cataquiz (Senior), Thor Skjaerbaek, Kathy Stevens, Brenda Stewart, Jim Stewart, Rose Stewart, Betty Taylor, Liza Teo, John Thomas, Baby Samuel Timothy, Leonardo Torcaso, Denise Tracey, Rick Murphy (USA), Karen Vestergard, Billy Webb, Lois Wood.

RECENTLY DECEASED: (Chronological - Most recent first):

Allan Cupitt, Sharon Cass-Edwards, Peter Lowe, June Carnovale, Annie Scicluna, Michael Plant, Arthur "John" Robinson, Helen Bohringer, Josip Burda, Pascual Tantengco Jr., Carmel Wilkinson, Dr Frank Miau.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH: (Alphabetical)

Russell Albury, Daphne Iris Ardilley, Fr Norman Ronald Birch, Remo Bos, Fr Ray Brain CP, Christine Carberry, Mons Leo Carlton, Terry Conway, Geraldine Coyne, Melinda Craig, Lionel

Ernest Cunynghame, Carmen Callus d, Walter Leslie Davis, Veronica Frances (Frances) Dawson, Elvira Fantinelli, Rosalia Archetto Feo, Luciano Freda, John Gordon, Margaret Mary Kelly, Charmaine Jannette Leafe, Brian Mayhew, Rex Joseph McShane, Colin Meneely, Carol Ann Newman, Violet Mary Nickson, Edmund O'Brien, Doris Angela Pace-Balzan, Sergio Di Pietro, Sylvia Sciberras, Shirley Mary Selby, Trevor David Simes, Nicole Simmons, Veronica Junette Smith, Anna Snelleksz, Joseph Johannes Em van Deurse, Jeanette Louise Vial, James Woodhouse.

And Also: (Alphabetical):

Mark Addison, Victor Paul Aguggia, Santo Auteri, Jim Lepanto Avuri, Stephen James Baker, Pauline Bocking, Fr James Brosnan, Kevin Patrick Carmody, Maurie Cass and Monica Cass, Fr Patrick Coleman, Fr Reginald Copley, Ms Lesley Court, Merv Cross, Fr Michael Egan, Patricia Gado, Michael Joseph George, Kevin Gleeson, Fr Pat (Doc) Kenny, John William Maddocks, Brian J Maher, Gregory Robert Mahoney, Dalibor Novak, Barry Owens, Noreen Jessie Patterson, Trevor Ralfe, Alan James Russo, Pamela Elane Shelton, Zora Spiranovic, Dale Strode, Donald Ralph Thomas, Sally Tristram, Kenneth Alfred Walker, Fr William Whelan, Fr Cornelius Whyte, Kevin Wills, Janet Anne Winks, Margaret Wotherspoon.

HOSPITAL CALLS - AROUND THE DEANERY -

HELP THE PRIESTS OF THE DEANERY RESPOND TO URGENT CALLS EFFECTIVELY BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING PARISHES' FIRST RESPONDERS TO NEEDS WITHIN THE HOSPITALS LISTED.

To efficiently and speedily deal with the pastoral needs around the Catholic parishes of the Gold Coast, the parishes within this Deanery have the practice of having the first call for emergencies go to the priests of the parish where the hospital is located. Here is a helpful guide to the hospitals and their attendant priests. A nursing home call also follows this procedure, where the first priest to call is a priest from the parish within which the Nursing Home is located. Please help us service the region effectively and help prevent delays in response by calling the nearest parish.

- **Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish. 5576 6466**
- **Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish. 56717388**
- **John Flynn Hospital - Coolangatta-Tugun Parish. 5598 2165**
- **University & Gold Coast Private Hosp.- Southport Parish. 5510 2222**

NOTICES AND MESSAGES - Our new parish number is 5671 7388

RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOPS - SACRED HEART AND ST VINCENT'S CHURCHES.

The shops are open before and after Mass at the Sacred Heart and St Vincent's churches.

SINGLE KEY HANDED IN AT ST VINCENT'S CHURCH WITH GREEN TAG, COLLECT FROM THE VESTRY AT ST VINCENT'S

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

First Friday Adoration will be held on Friday, 5th January, at Sacred Heart Church from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch one hour with Me" Mt 26:4

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AND BENEDICTION

First Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters. 9 am 6th of January.
Followed by adoration and Benediction. {This is a votive Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary}.

THE SACRED HEART BRIDGE CLUB- RESUMES ON THE 8th JANUARY 2024.

Meets at the Sacred Heart - Parish Hospitality Centre, Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters. Playing Bridge keeps your brain active and increases your social network! So why not give us a try? Learn to play Bridge at "Our Friendly Club" - Free Lesson. "Introduction to Bridge" - **It is Easy to learn the format. No previous card-playing experience is necessary. All are welcome.** For more information and to enrol, please phone Cheryl at 5538 8821 or Mob at 0417 772 701.

YOGA AT THE PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTRE - RESUMES ON 9th JANUARY 2024.

Join us for our social class in the Parish Hospitality Centre next to the Parish Office. Classes run every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. Learn to relax yet gain greater flexibility, inner strength, body awareness and concentration while increasing your breath support and general well-being. Ruth is an IYTA-accredited instructor with wide experience and runs a caring, carefully monitored one-hour session costing $10 (new attendees, please arrive by 10:30 a.m. to prepare adequately for class). For more information, call Ruth on 0421338110.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA - MARIAN VALLEY

Please come and join us at the Marian Valley for the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on 13.01.2024. The bus will pick up passengers at 8.15 am at the Sacred Heart Church Clear Island Waters. The Cost for the bus fare is $25.00 return. You can secure your seat with contact name and phone number with Xavier Solomon 0404 843 260, Madeleine on 0405 252 367 or 5529 1573, All are welcome.

OUR LADY'S STATUE -

Praying the Rosary - Our Lady's Statue in the Parish -
Details of the Statue of Our Lady are going around the Parish.
If you want her in your home and say the Rosary,
Please contact Maxine or Pat on 0412 519 404.
Our Lady's Statue details for the next four weeks are
08/01/2024 Bernadette Hensley Arundel
Please phone Maxine Sela on 0421 051 193 if you want the Statue.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP - ST VINCENT'S CHURCH, SURFERS PARADISE.

The group will resume in the new year on Thursday 18th January.

The Bible Study Prayer Group Thursday from 5-6 pm at St Vincent's Church, 40 Hamilton Ave Surfers Paradise. Come along and read/study Break Open the Word once a week on a Thursday evening from 5 to 6 pm—For further enquiries, Ashley at 040984069.

MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP

In the Morris prayer room, Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The Meditation Group would very much like to welcome new members. Please phone Pam Egtberts at 0428090703.

ART AND CRAFT GROUP - NOW ON HOLIDAY RECESS - RESUMPTION DATE 24 JANUARY 2024

The Group meets in the Parish Hospitality Centre on Wednesdays from 9 to 12. Activities include

- art (watercolour, oils, acrylics, pen and ink drawing, etc.)
- various kinds of Craftwork (Knitting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Card making, Sewing, etc.)
- making Rosary Beads (later sent to the missions)
- and any other activities that individuals may have an interest in or you can bring in your ideas

A very relaxing and social environment - meet new friends! You are most welcome to join. For further information, phone John 0412 759 205 or the Parish Office.

PRAYER GROUP - SPANISH SPEAKER

Jesus de la Misericordia. Invites you to participate every 2nd Saturday of the month from 11 am to 2 pm. Place: Hospitality Room. Sacred Heart Church. "We praise, We praise, We grow spiritually from the Word of the Lord." For more information, please ring Grace: 0410 006 484.

EXERCISE CLASS - LOW IMPACT - FOR HEART HEALTH - NOW ON HOLIDAY RECESS - WILL RESUME ON 16TH JANUARY 2024

Join Rochelle for a fun, functional exercise class at Casey Hall. Low-impact cardiovascular exercises for heart health, improve strength and balance- an all-around fitness class for over 65's. Stretch and strengthen the whole body, make new friends and feel great. Tuesday mornings @9.30 Beginners welcome. Contact Rochelle for further information on 0438 333 308.

JOBS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires conducting working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) or vulnerable adults. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has zero tolerance for abusing children or vulnerable adults.

A VOCATION VIEW:

Even gift-bearing kings, accompanied by camels and servants, visited Jesus Christ. You, come and follow Him. Bringing the Good News to your people: Jesus is Lord of all. God is not made manifest in magnificence but in the small and the ordinary. Use your talents to manifest God's ever-faithful love for His people. (Isaiah 60:1-6)

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544.
vocation@bne.catholic.net.au and www.vocationbrisbane.com

STEWARDSHIP -

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then, they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

The vision of Stewardship speaks in every aspect of life, inviting everyone to be thankful, generous, and accountable for what each has been given.

Take Five For Faith -

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others. Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of a peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

"Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come." (Isaiah 60:1-6)

ww.takefiveforfaith.com/subscribe.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your support is needed to help our Parish continue valuable pastoral activities and to provide ongoing sustainability. To assist you in supporting the Parish, you can give here.

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store | PARISH GIVING Donate Here

If you can continue to support us, we would be most grateful. For all those who have been making payments via credit card and those who have donated directly into the parish account, we thank you. The pay-wave or tap-and-go machines on the timber stands in our Churches are also a safe and handy way to donate to the Parish. God bless you for your support. If you want confirmation of your donation or a receipt emailed, please contact me at man.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au.

To join planned giving, please contact the Parish Office: (07) 56717388 (9 am–12 pm Mon-Fri).

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE
FOR COLLECTION IN THE CHURCHES NOW

THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL -



Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 2192215135. The American church in Paris. Stained glass window. Nativity. Adoration of the Child Jesus by the three wise men or Magi. France. 02-27-2020. Important information. Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: godongphoto

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning "manifestation," or "showing" or "revelation." In ancient times, the term referred to an official visit by a King or Queen. This is a public presentation or showing to the people of a sovereign.

According to our first reading, the qualities of the Diving King are justice, right judgement, care for the poor, "a person who establishes peace", a person with great concern for the needy, and compassion for the weak. The Divine King is the saver of the lives of the poor.

When we look at the gospel, (Not every King got a "present" in today's story, and not every king got what they wanted, but they all got what they deserved.

Actually, two kings are featured in the gospel this weekend - Christ and Herod. The two are extremely contrasting kings. One is unworthy, frightened, jealous and self-interested; the other is Christ, the Lord.

The wise men met both Kings. To Herod, they gave a respectful ear, but they did not worship him, and rightly so, and did not return to inform him of what they found. They 'listened to

what the King had to say, but (through inspiration) they did not give King Herod what he wanted. Rather, they returned to their own country in a 'different way'.
We are all called to listen, reflect, ponder, and then, with God's inspiration, discern the right thing to do. Sometimes, the right thing to do is NOT to give someone what they ask or demand.

This feast of the Epiphany and the accompanying readings for this weekend reveal Jesus Christ to be the King of all heaven and the "light" to all nations and cultures.

On this feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate that God's glory has been revealed to all the nations and not just the chosen people of Israel. People from every corner of the earth, of every nation and race. Generations of people. God's revelation, God's invitation, is for all people of all times and places.

+++++
Whenever I read this gospel passage… I cannot help but be struck by the disturbing irony in it.

King Herod summons the Wise men from the East… they come to listen to him…. they don't know him,….. they know he is a King… they would probably assume he was a noble and gracious King…. but he is not! Rather, he is full of hatred, jealousy, and murderous intentions.

Herod manages to control his emotions while consulting with the Wise men….. he seems genuinely interested in the Star and the possibility of a king being born…… I almost imagine he is choking on his words when he says… "When you find him, tell me too… because I too want to go and ….. do….. him……(ahem)…. 'homage'…… We, the listeners…. The audience to this Gospel drama…. Know better…. Herod hates Jesus… and rejects his Kingship…. And wants to kill him…. He might as well have said…. " (when you find him, tell me too… because I too want to go and ….. 'do him in' !!!).

Herod wants nothing more than to kill Jesus! he is a liar! He wants to tear down, not build up! …. to destroy and blot out forever the child who is the hoped-for 'Light for all nations'….. Can there be any hatred greater than one that wants to blot out HOPE from the earth……for the sake of his own power… his own comfort???? It is fitting that the Wise Men, after meeting Jesus, 'go home by another road' – it says they listened to Herod… but it is clear that they didn't swallow everything he said…..

Instead…. they have been converted… they are different…. changed……. New men… in fact… will never again be able to go down the old paths… it is all-new, having met and discovered Jesus. …. They will not tell (hateful) Herod about what they have seen… but resolutely go home by a new pathway…. (their lives changed) to live the new reality of what they have experienced……

In the gospel today, the Wise Men from the East ultimately FIND the King for whom they had searched so diligently …….. Jesus! …. a humble baby lying in the manger… is found to be the revelation of God to the world……. the LIGHT of revelation for all.

The gospel today uses the quote from Micah…. "you Bethlehem are by no means the LEAST." This is really important. Not only is Bethlehem FAR FROM BEING the LEAST of all cities… but this humble baby in a humble manger is not by any means the LEAST of all babies. And the shepherds are not anywhere near the least of all people. There is more than one REVELATION going on here (for the eyes of faith to see!). The message is repeated in later sections of Matthew's gospel: (The wise men and us too are being shown something deeply important).

At first sight, the 'poor and forgotten' of our society are insignificant, but this is WRONG! They are, in fact, GREAT… because it is THROUGH THEM. that the Lord is coming to us.

The reaction of the Magi is interesting, too. When they enter the presence of God… revealed in his humble baby in a manger… they immediately open up treasure chests filled with gifts……

This must always be our reaction, too, in the presence of God….. when we come before the presence of Jesus… we too must open up our hearts and offer God our gifts…… the response of a person to the revelation of God's presence is one of openness, generosity and service……

The Magi… offered Jesus gifts of Gold (for Kingship)//, Frankincense (acknowledging Jesus as Priest and sacrifice)// and Myrrh (for burial- looking to the eventual death of the Lord on the Cross)//……. We, too, come before Jesus, and we, too, offer our gifts to the Lord…..

What gifts are WE laying before the Lord??……. let us think about what gifts we are presenting to Jesus. ……. Gifts God gave us in the first place.

let us take some time, at the start of this new year… to come into the presence of Jesus…… the Light to all nations….. and think about what gift (individual to each of us)…… We are called upon to present before the Lord …..for the Lord to use and transform….. that great first reading from Isaiah also shows something interesting… 'what is our response to seeing the revelation of Christ… who is a light shining in the darkness of the world……"… our response must be this… "arise… shine… for your light has come,.. and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us…"…. so when we encounter Christ.. we must become lights ourselves….. going out… to radiate Christ's light to everyone we meet……

This message reminds us… 'we must believe so that the world can begin to believe' - WE must radiate Christ's light to the world.. and all peoples…. so that people can experience Christ's light shining through us, too.

Today… we kneel before the Christ child… we bow… and open up our treasure chests… what gift is it that we lay before our Lord…????

+++++

References:

Fr Paul W. Kelly;

Celebrating the Gospels. By Gaynell Cronin;

Gustavo Gutierrez: Sharing the Word through the Liturgical Year

Vision – Praying Scripture in a Contemporary Way. Year A. Mark Link S.J., 55;

Abbot Philip: Monastery of Christ in the Desert. http://christdesert.org

Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 2192215135. The American church in Paris. Stained glass window. Nativity. Adoration of the Child Jesus by the three wise men or Magi. France. 02-27-2020. Important information. Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: godongphoto.

To listen to the Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, please visit this link: Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks
Also found at - https://tinyurl.com/FHLpwk

Fr Paul W. Kelly;

Celebrating the Gospels. By Gaynell Cronin;

Vision – Praying Scripture in a Contemporary Way. Year A. Mark Link S.J., 55;

Abbot Philip: Monastery of Christ in the Desert. http://christdesert.org

Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 2192215135. The American church in Paris. Stained glass window. Nativity. Adoration of the Child Jesus by the three wise men or Magi. France. 02-27-2020. Important information. Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: godongphoto.

To listen to the Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, please visit this link: Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) -
https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks
Also found at - https://tinyurl.com/FHLpwk

INSPIRATION FROM THE SAINTS:

- ***Jan 9 - Baptism of the Lord - Monday, Jan 09, 2024.***
  - ***Be a carrier of peace. Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove symbolises peace and hope and famously carries an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbour's fence.***

- ***We sometimes imagine it's about collecting sacraments, stockpiling mountains of prayers, and writing fat checks to charities. Or being nice to people we don't like. But the prophets relentlessly insist that what God desires from us is a just world. Where there's a privileged class, abominable wage gaps, racist systems, and deeply disproportionate outcomes for a nation's citizens, the peaceable reign of God can't gain a foothold. Contemplate categories of injustice—education, health care, employment opportunities, criminal justice—to name a few. Make one your special cause, learn all you can, and educate others about it. "A smouldering wick he shall not quench until he establishes justice on the earth." (Isaiah 42:3).***

➔ ***January 13 - m - Saint Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church.***

- ***The word is out. Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised a Christian. Able to read biblical languages. However, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defence of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high Doctor of the Church title. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?***
- ***Be gracious in your disagreements. Catholics of the 21st century profess the belief that Jesus is both human and divine every time we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. However, that profession of faith was challenged mightily in the fourth century when followers of Arius argued that Jesus was a great man—but not God. The conflict involved bishops and emperors on both sides, which went on for years. Hilary of Poitiers converted to Christianity at age 35 and was elected a bishop three years later. Hilary was a friendly and courteous man who persistently championed belief in Jesus' divinity. Even exile did not silence his voice. Saint Hilary guides us to God's grace in our own times of conflict and division. "For this purpose have I come." (John 18:37).***
- ***"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?" (Mark 2:1-12)***

POPE FRANCIS: Continuing the summary on Session One of the Synod on Synodality.



Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 402764872 - Panorama view of Saint Peter's Basilica and square on sunrise in Vatican, Italy - Photo Formats - Photo Contributor: ultramansk

5. A Church "out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation."

<u>Convergences</u>

Christians live in specific cultures, bringing Christ to them in Word and Sacrament, engaging in the service of charity with humility and joy, and receiving the mystery of Christ that already awaits us in every place and time. In this way, we become a Church that welcomes people from "every tribe, tongue, people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

The cultural, historical, and continental contexts in which the Church is present reveal different spiritual and material needs. This shapes the culture of the local churches, their missionary priorities, the concerns and gifts that each of them brings to the synodal dialogue, and the languages with which they express themselves. During the days of the Assembly, we were able to experience the diverse expressions of being Church directly and mostly joyfully.

Churches live in increasingly multicultural and multireligious contexts. This necessitates finding ways to create dialogue between religions and cultures, with which Christians should engage alongside the many groups that compose a society. Living the Church's mission in these contexts requires a style of presence, service and proclamation that seeks to build bridges, cultivate mutual understanding and engage in evangelisation that accompanies, listens and learns. In the Assembly, the image of "taking off one's shoes" to cross the threshold towards an encounter with the other resonated as a sign of humility and respect for a sacred space on an equal footing.

Migration reshapes local churches as cross-cultural communities. Migrants and refugees, many of whom bear the wounds of uprooting, war and violence, often become a source of renewal and enrichment for the communities that welcome them and an opportunity to establish direct links with geographically distant churches. In the face of increasingly hostile attitudes toward migrants, we are called to practice an open welcome, to accompany them in constructing a new life and to build a true intercultural communion among peoples. Respect for the liturgical traditions and religious practices of migrants is an integral part of an authentic welcome.

Missionaries have given their lives to carry the Good News to the world. Their commitment is a great testimony to the power of the Gospel. However, particular attention and sensitivity are needed when "mission" is a word laden with painful historical memories that hinder communion today. In some places, the proclamation of the Gospel was associated with colonisation, even genocide. Evangelising in these contexts requires acknowledging mistakes, learning a new sensitivity to these issues, and accompanying a generation seeking to forge Christian identities beyond colonialism. Respect and humility are fundamental attitudes needed to recognise that we complement each other and that encounters with different cultures can enrich the living and thinking of the faith of Christian communities.

The Church teaches the need for and encourages the practice of interreligious dialogue as part of building communion among all peoples. In a world of violence and fragmentation, a witness is ever more urgent to the unity of humanity, its common origin and common destiny, in a coordinated and reciprocal solidarity toward social justice, peace, reconciliation and care for our common home. The Church knows that the Spirit can speak through women and men of every religion, belief and culture.

Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 402764872 - Panorama view of Saint Peter's Basilica and square on sunrise in Vatican, Italy - Photo Formats - Photo Contributor: ultramansk.

Source: https://www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-universal-phase/documents.html



What is the purpose of Market On Fairway.?
A place where creativity and concern for personal income open doors to a world of dreams.
I invite you to participate without the commitment of a contract or exuberant exposure, your work has a lot of value as each discovers their talent. All applications will be emailed, I hope to hear from you. From Grace R. grace.flowers.art@hotmail.com

LINKS & RESOURCES

Liturgy for you at Home (produced by SPP): https:- soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks
Weekly Homily (produced by SPP): https:- homilycatholic.blogspot.com
Surfers Paradise Parish Facebook: https:- www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/
Breaking Parish News (SPP Blog): https:- news-parish.blogspot.com/
EthicsFinder is a free, global, digital resource; of immense value to interested parishioners. Try ACU's free digital tool, www.ethicsfinder.com.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Readings for next weekend- Sunday, January 14, 2024 (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B)
FIRST READING- 1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19
Ps 40:2+4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 - "**Here am I Lord; I come to do your will.**"
SECOND READING- 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (John 1:41+17b) "Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah. Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace."
GOSPEL- John 1:35-42

Commitment To Child Safety and Vulnerable-Adult Safety

……..See overleaf …..

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

SAFEGUARDING POLICY **"The Church loves all her children like a loving mother but cares for all and protects those who are smallest and defenceless with special affection. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community."**
(Apostolic Letter issued 'motu proprio' by the Supreme Pontiff Francis, 4 June 2016)

Purpose
To promote a culture of safeguarding within the Archdiocese and reduce the risks of abuse and harm.

Scope
This policy applies to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Brisbane and to Associations of Christ's Faithful or Public Juridic Persons that freely opt into its application and which enter into an agreement with the Archdiocese accordingly. The policy applies to all Archdiocesan workers (clergy, religious workers, employees and volunteers).

Policy
National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
The Archdiocese adopts and adheres to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The Standards apply to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

Safeguarding Commitment
The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and well-being of children and adults at risk are paramount.

Safeguarding Principles
- Safeguarding is a shared responsibility.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Prioritise the protection and best interests of children and adults at risk.
- Provide safe physical and online environments.
- Actively identify and manage safeguarding and abuse risks.
- Monitor compliance with safeguarding standards, policies, and procedures.
- Respond promptly and effectively to abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, complaints, reports, and incidents.
- Comply with all legal obligations to report suspected abuse and harm.

Compliance
Non-compliance with this policy which seriously jeopardises the safety and well-being of others, may be grounds for disciplinary action up to dismissal or termination of employment and reporting to authorities.

Document No.: AD16 ST01 ***Document Owner: Office for Safeguarding Services*** ***Version: November 2020***
Review Date: November 2023

https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/ - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

See also this video on safeguarding - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgkAZFkJkJg

Acknowledgement of Country - This is Kombumerri Country - The Traditional Custodians of this region.
We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this country. We pay our respects to the Kombumerri people, the traditional custodians of the land, waterways and seas upon which we live, work and socialise throughout this Catholic Parish of Surfers Paradise. We acknowledge Elders, past and present and emerging, as they hold our Indigenous people's memories, traditions, culture and hopes. We pay tribute to those who have contributed to the community's life in many ways. We affirm our commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. (See further: The Kombumerri People and https://kombumerritogetherproject.com/digital-resources/yugambeh-language/)

RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart Church Weekly

(50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters)

(SACRAMENT OF PENANCE)

SATURDAYS FROM 4 PM TO 4.30 PM

(PLEASE DO NOT JOIN THE QUEUE AFTER 4.20 PM).

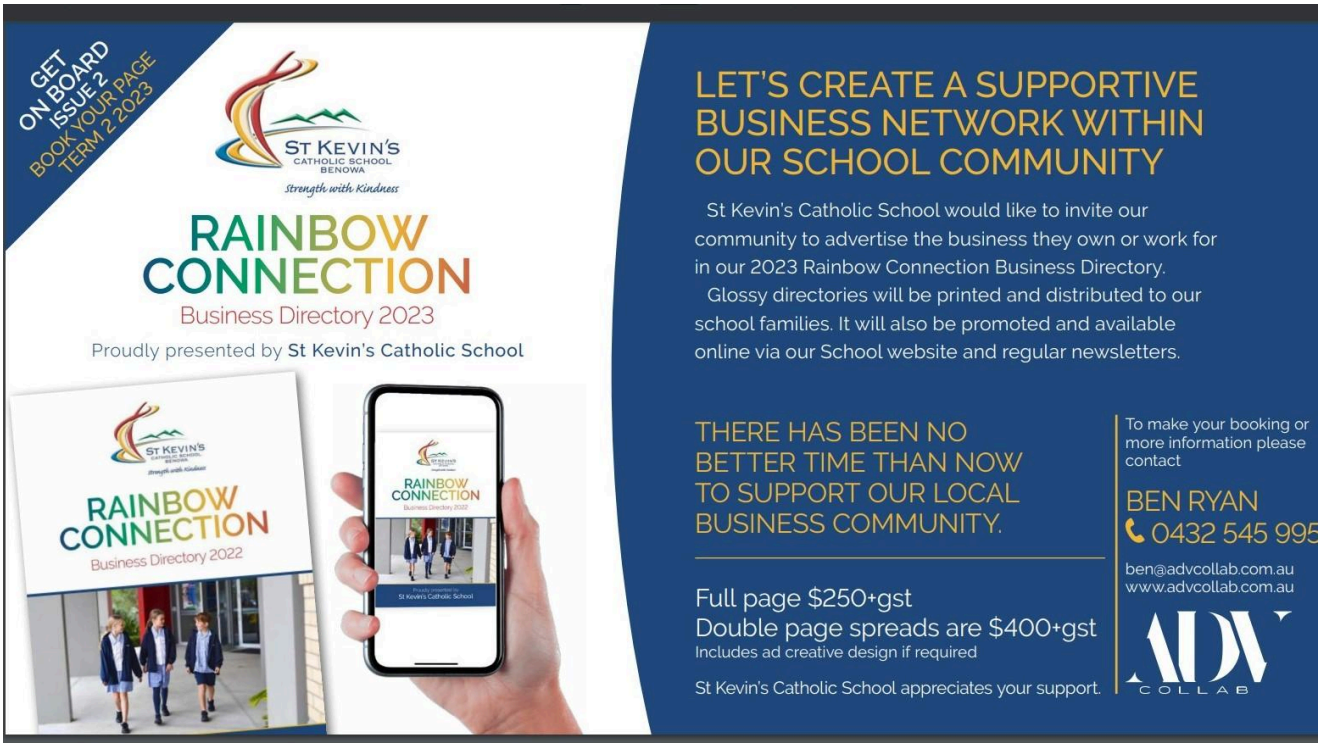


ON CONCLUSION OF RECONCILIATIONS AT 4.30 PM, WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRIEST WILL

THEN BE DOING THEIR FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS.

CONFESSIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT AT OTHER TIMES

[IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH A PRIEST FOR A LONGER TIME THAN A BRIEF CONFESSION, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE OFFICE FOR A TIME WHEN YOU CAN DISCUSS ISSUES WITH A PRIEST AT A LONGER APPOINTMENT]



St Kevin's Catholic School, Community business directory:
https://www.sk.qld.edu.au/Pages/Rainbow-Connection.aspx

A FINAL THOUGHT: Too many kings

Too many kings introduce the problem in the eternal story of powers and principalities. So doggone, many earthly authorities vie for our allegiance. We try to juggle our obedience to mortal and divine laws, splayed between church and state or personal profit and love of neighbour. We want to believe a comfortable neutral zone exists between these multiple altars at which we offer sacrifice. We try to convince ourselves we can be basically good people and still enjoy a taste of the "bad boy" and "bad girl" occasionally.

Many of us spend a lot of energy trying to differentiate who we are and who we pretend to be. We don't clean up our acts, control our excesses, or rein in self-righteousness, rage, or sloppy morality because we've swallowed the lie that what hovers at the edges of our lives has little to do with what's at the centre. We're convinced it's possible to serve a lot of little kings along with the Big One.

Let's give King Herod some credit for his purely earthly political craftiness. In today's story, He understands perfectly that there can be only one king over Israel. Right now, that's him, and he aims to keep it that way. Isaiah had an even grander perspective: He foresaw that only one power could rule the world and foretold that Israel would become the light of nations that all other kingdoms acknowledged. This was because Israel alone enjoyed the indwelling presence of God, which made her a lampstand for the divine radiance.

But back to King Herod. He is the most self-serving king ever to land in the pages of the Bible. He assassinates most of his family members to keep them from threatening his throne, according to extrabiblical accounts. Certainly, he won't allow some unknown baby to be raised, star or no star. While wise men bow in recognition to the one true King, in fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, Herod seeks the death of this rival. In the end, there can only be one king. And unbeknownst to Herod, it won't be him.

Related scripture links
We walk by faith: 2 Cor. 5:7
The role of the stars: Gen. 15:5-6; Job 38:6-7; Psalm 148:3; Luke 21:25
Journey and faith: Gen. 11:1-4; Exod. 3:10; Mark 6:8; Matt. 28:19-20
Church mission shifts to Gentiles: Acts 14:16-17; Eph. 2:11-13; Rom. 11:11-29

Alice Camille
(Prepare the Word resources).