

OUR *Lady* OF THE *Angels* PARISH

Chermside West Wavell Heights

St Gerard Majella
146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermside West

St Paschal Baylon
30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

SUNDAY 7th January 2024
The EPIPHANY of the LORD - Year B

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate **Stars and Seekers after Truth**

There is a fascination with stars: their beauty shining and sparkling in the dark canopy of the night; amazement and wonder at their number and extent.

And who amongst us hasn't stolen a furtive glance at the horoscopes, half humorously checking 'what the stars hold for me'.

The Magi, the wise men in today's gospel story, were not like the writers of our horoscope columns. They were astronomers – astrologers from ancient religions found to 'the East' of Bethlehem, perhaps modern day Iraq or Syria.

In particular, they would have thought that the birth of those destined to be great figures would be signalled by unusual constellations of events in the night sky. They really believed that stars greatly influenced and controlled the destiny of human beings.

But, *these* Magi were open to the insights of other religious traditions. And it was that combination of their own religion of astrology and their reading about Jewish expectations of a wonderful person who would inaugurate a new epoch of history, which led them to:

To what? To whom?

To Jesus, in a nondescript dwelling, in a nondescript town, hovered over by an exhausted Mary and a protective Joseph.

This would be a most unexpected culmination of their journey.

Yet, because they were genuine seekers after truth, they were open enough to see in this baby what their own religious teaching had prepared them for, even as they were led beyond that religious system.

They were the first non-Jewish people to kneel before that infant. They did homage to this baby. Why? I think it was because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant.

On the contrary: 'There is something in *this* baby which *caused* the night sky to respond. *This* baby is responsible for the movement of the stars!'

They were sufficiently filled with wonder that they preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, not reporting where they had found him.

And, then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

What does this Gospel passage hold for us today?

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the

PARISH PRIEST

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PARISH SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Angels Primary School

30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights Q 4012

P: 07 3359 9198

Leadership Team:

Principal: Mr Matthew Beacroft

APA: Mr Paul McGlone

APRE: Mrs Kirsten Karey

PLL: Mrs Liz O'Brien

MASS TIMES

St Gerard Majella - 146 Maundrell Tce, Chermside West

Mon: 9.00am **FRI:** 9.00am

Sat: 4:30pm **Sun:** 8:00am & 5:30pm

St Paschal Baylon - 30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

Wed: 8.45am (During School Term)

Thu: 9.00am **Sat:** 6:00pm **Sun:** 9:30am

RECONCILIATION is available after Parish Mass
Please approach Fr John



(Contd. P2)

(Contd. from P1.) manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

People may be trapped in the limiting language of their astrology or Buddhism, or an ideology such as atheism or whatever. Of course, those systems of thought cannot save anyone.

But, individually and personally, Buddhists and atheists and astrologers can be set on a journey towards 'the Love which moves the sun and all the stars' (Dante).

As a person responds to the (often anonymous) prompting of the Holy Spirit and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God.

This is where we differ drastically from some fundamentalists. The Catholic Church believes that the billions in China and India, who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved.

But, such persons, even leading humane lives, do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

That Truth which we have the privilege of understanding leads us to accept the claims made on us by the baby to whom the Astrologers paid homage:

We understand and accept that *He* is the Body Language of God, that *He* is 'God with us', Emmanuel, that *He* is The Answer to all the seeking after truth and the yearning of the human heart.

O come, let us adore *Him*.

© Fr Michael Tate

FRANCE—PARIS AND LOURDES 2024

with Fr Dan Ryan

Would you like to travel to France mid May to mid June with me 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, Liseux(2), Mont-Saint-Michael(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 harvestjourneys.com/pv2445. If you contact Harvest Journeys mention my name and the pilgrimage is French Saints Pilgrimage. There are a few brochures at the back of the church.



Our Lady of the Angels' Parish

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday mornings at 10:00am alternately at St Gerards' and St Paschals'. Bookings to be arranged in person at the Parish Office **Monday - Friday between 9am - 3pm.**

Please check the Parish website for documentation required when making a booking.

Baptism preparation sessions will be held on the 1st Sunday of the month at St Paschal's Church following a Welcome Mass at 9:30 a.m. During mass the family will be presented with their child(ren)'s Baptismal candle to keep for the day of their baptism.

May this new year be filled with Joy, Peace, Hope and Love. May God's grace guide and protect you, and may His light shine brightly upon your path throughout this new year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy and Blessed New Year.

2024

Weekday Masses

During January and early February 2024, there will only be ONE weekday mass on Fridays at St Gerard's. Normal weekday masses will re-commence on Monday 12th of February 2024.

Meditation Group

Monday Meditation will resume again on **Monday 8th January from 5.45pm.**

Op Shop NEWS

The Op Shop is now closed and will re-open on **Monday 22 January 2024.**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (QLD) is offering a marriage enrichment seminar for all couples - to encourage heartfelt commitment and improved connection - based on Gary Chapman's "5 Languages of Love"

Who: All couples, married, engaged, or thinking about commitment, who want to strengthen their relationship. There is always more. Come and join us.

What: Witness talks based on Gary Chapman's book "The 5 Love Languages."

When: 13th January 2024 from 9 am – 12 noon

RSVP: 10th January 2024 – formbyd@iprimus.com.au

Where: Our Lady of Mount Carmel community room, 312 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo.



VERSE FOR VINNIES

John O'Brien will be our next poet,
Father Hartigan was his real name.
He's the priest of the pioneer poets,
his *Said Hanrahan* brought him to fame.
And he captured those times in Australia,
facing bushfire, drought or a flood,
when the Irish migrated to settle,
found conditions of heat, rain and mud.
'Twas this culture that Fr. Pat captured,
as displayed in a Carey's foray,
hospitality was Casey's hallmark,
just the same as with Aussies today.
And the schooldays the kids then encountered,
when on horses they set off to school,
in those days the *Inspector* came calling,
then the nuns convinced kids to be cool.
Lindsay Gaffney, an outstanding singer,
will enthrall with some Irish loved songs,
so please come, help the battling folk battle,
give them hope, so they feel they belong.

67 Dawson Parade Grovely
1.30pm \$15 Cash Only
Sunday January 28
Book using noel@noelstallard.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 take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

(Accessed on January 5, 2024 from www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-biblereflections)

Introducing—Containers for Change



We're thrilled to introduce a meaningful way to contribute to our parish's growth while making a positive impact on the environment: **Containers for Change!**

We kindly ask parishioners to consider using the parish **Scheme ID C11176245** when lodging your return at the refund

station. Every container recycled through this program generates funds that will directly support our parish's activities, renovations, or community programs.

For more information and to find your closest return stations please visit their website:

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/>

DONATE YOUR CONTAINERS

WE RECEIVE 10 CENTS FOR EACH

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

C11176245



An Evening of Music and Reflection to Launch the Mass of the Ascension

Wednesday 8 May 2024, 6pm

Cathedral of St Stephen

This evening brings together a new composition of the Eucharist entitled *Mass of the Ascension* with other songs and pieces of music which seek to do just this: to name God in song in ways that help us to pray; to voice God in ways the generations of the future might resonate with.

We are celebrating sixty years since the promulgation of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. Such an event invites us to revisit the concerns and question, the hopes and dreams of the Church in relation to its prayer-life – that source of every other dimension of Christian life. Prayer is also the first apostolic priority of our Archdiocese. How do Catholics pray, and how might we pray, into the future? How might we "sing a new song" in our liturgies and gatherings, ever drawing from the past that brought us to life while opening pathways into the future of the Church? We need to explore these questions with, and for our young people.

Organisers: Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF, Xavier Centre for the Theological Formation and Campus Ministry, ACU, in collaboration with Brisbane Catholic Education and the Cathedral of St Stephens Cathedral, Brisbane
For more information contact xaviercentre@acu.edu.au

Celebration of the Eucharist with the Mass of the Ascension Setting

Sunday 12 May 2024, 9.30am

Chapel of the Holy Spirit, ACU

The University and Holy Spirit Seminary will celebrate the Eucharist with the Mass setting. All are welcome.

Associate Professor Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF is a consecrated member of the Verbum Dei Community and Xavier Chair for Theological Formation at Australian Catholic University. A theologian, musician, and composer, she specializes and researches into the areas of theological aesthetics, music, spirituality, ministry, and leadership. The Verbum Dei Community's charism is that of a dedication to prayer and ministry of the Word (Acts 9:4), so opening spaces to explore how to pray is one of her passions.



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WE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Margaret Schofield, Chimechefunam
Matthew Echewodo Ajah

Anniversaries: Please pray for all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of Remembrance.

Sick: Please pray for Amanda Whitfield, Pat O'Shea and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of the Sick.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

14 January 2024 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:2-10, 19

Psalm: Psalm 30:2, 4, 7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

Weekend	1st	2nd	Loose	TOTAL
24/12/23	\$410.70	\$589.00	\$1407.90	\$2407.60
31/12/23	\$319.00	\$680.20	\$1742.30	\$2741.50
Combined Christmas Masses				\$7164.25

All donations are greatly appreciated

Regular Parish Activities

1st Friday: Adoration after 9.00am Mass St Gerards

2nd Friday: Anointing Mass 9.00am St Gerards

Rosary : before Friday Mass (*but not during Lent*)
: after Friday Mass

What's on this Week: 8 — 13 Jan 2024

Mon 8/01 Christian Meditation St P 5.45pm

OP-Shop OPEN

Phone No. **0493 755 642**

Monday to Friday 9:30am to 1:30pm

First Saturday of the Month 8.00am to 12.00 noon

Piety Shop OPEN

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

STOPline Service 1300 304 550

STOPline receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by Archdiocesan workers (including priests, religious, employees and volunteers). Information can be shared anonymously.

AOB@stopline.com.au www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



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Our Lady of the Angels' Parish



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Turrbal Peoples, who have walked this Country in ages past, who walk it now and will walk it in the future. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their profound connection and respect for the land and waterways of this Country. Spirit and Creator God, may you guide us in the traditions of this land as we walk gently and humbly, in kinship with all of creation.



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