

KEDRON BROOK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

embracing the parishes of

Good Samaritan & St John the Baptist

Joined in joyfully praising and worshipping God



7th January 2024 — Year B — The Epiphany of the Lord



St John the Baptist

131 South Pine Road,
ENOGGERA

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception

18 Halle Street,
EVERTON PARK

St Carthage's

115 Beaconsfield Tce
GORDON PARK

St Columba's

170 Kedron Brook Road,
WILSTON

PASTOR

Fr Ihemelandu Uzuegbu
Parish Priest

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Thursday 9am—1pm
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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast reminds us of the first revelation of Jesus to the world after His birth. The three wise men from the east embarked on a journey, led by the star to see the newborn king, Jesus Christ, and pay Him homage. They offered Jesus gold and frankincense (signifying Jesus' kingship and priestly ministries) and myrrh (signifying that His body will not see decay).

The Magi's journey to find Jesus symbolises the spiritual journey of seeking truth and the need for persistent faith and commitment in the search for divine revelation and God. **It teaches us important lessons on our spiritual journey and the need for a faithful search of God amidst the ordinary under the guidance of the holy scripture. This search needs faith, for reason alone cannot lead one to the divine truth and God.** A notable Benedictine monk and influential theologian, St Anselm of Canterbury, in his works, "*The Proslogion*," discussed extensively the idea that faith precedes reason. For him it is not a denial of

reason and its power to know things, but that reason or intellectual knowledge cannot lead to divine comprehensive truths nor to God.

In one of his writings, a pray titled: "***A rousing of the mind to the contemplation of God***", Anselm captured his strong conviction that one can attain a deeper understanding of God and divine truth by embracing a belief in God. Part of the prayer reads: "... Lord, you are my God and my Lord, and never have I seen you. You have created me and recreated me and you have given me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you... Look upon us, Lord; hear us, enlighten us, show yourself to us... Have pity upon our efforts and our strivings towards you, for we can avail nothing without you. Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you."

Here, Anselm sees faith as the gateway to divine wisdom and truth. From this, Anselm posits that by recognising the existence of God and surrendering to His divine presence, individuals can embark on consistent journey of spiritual enlightenment.

Today's Gospel has much to teach us about our own faith journey. There will be moments when things are clear and moments when we are confused and lost, just like in the case of the Magi. What is important is that we persevered even in the dark nights of the mind and confusion, for the Lord will come to our aid even through ordinary means if we let Him guide us. Dear friends, we are called to be consistent and never give up in our search (faith journey), and to faithfully listen to the voice of the holy scripture, which is our own guiding star. In this, God speaks to us still today.

Just as the wise men went to Herod's house, we too might occasionally find ourselves searching for God in the wrong places and consequently failing to find Him. Sometimes, we are deceived and sweet talked into things that do not give true fulfilment and lasting joy - worse still into giving up on God and faith. *The question for each of us is where does one ask for direction when the way is no longer clear? Is it from the present-day Herods or God? In our search for meaning in life, for truth love, joy and happiness let us put faith and the word of God at the centre of our journey.*

Have a blessed week.

Fr Ihemelandu Uzuegbu



7th January 2024 — Year B — The Epiphany of the Lord

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1st Reading | Isaiah 60: 1-6 The glory of the Lord shines upon you. |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Lord, every nation on earth will adore You. |
| 2nd 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 | 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. |

14 January 2024—Year B—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1st Reading | 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19: Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening. |
| Responsorial Psalm | . Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10: R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. |
| 2nd Reading | 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20: Your bodies are members of the Body of Christ. |
| Gospel Acclamation | Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia! |
| Gospel | Jn 1:35-42: They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him. |

MASS INFORMATION

MONDAY

Immaculate Conception

9:00am Mass

TUESDAY

Immaculate Conception

8:30am Rosary followed by

9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY

St John the Baptist

9:00am Mass followed by adoration

THURSDAY

St Columba's

8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

8:40am Rosary

9:00am Mass

FRIDAY

St Columba's

6:30am Mass

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Columba's

5:00pm Vigil Mass

9:30am Mass (Sun)

Immaculate Conception

7:30am Mass (Sun)

Followed by 24 hr Perpetual

Adoration until Mon 8:30am

Friday after 6:30am Mass *St Columba's*

St John the Baptist

9:00 am Mass (Sun)

5:30pm Mass (Sun)

St Carthage's

8:00am Mass (Sun)

KBCC Solidarity with the Catholic Parish of St Therese, Kiritimati, Republic of Kiribati

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, I would like to inform you that our community, Kedron Brook Catholic Community, has decided to journey in solidarity with the Kiritimati Catholic Parish Project on Kiritimati. This community is one of our closest neighbours in the Pacific region. In a letter from Father Tara-jake Takakia, who looks after the church, the parish is appealing to groups and individuals to support their Parish Project on Ronton Kiritimati. The project is to erect some Eco-friendly single house units or Bungalows (called Little Flower Guest House) over the lagoon in Ronton, which will serve as guest houses for tourists or fish anglers. If this dream is realised, it will be a source of revenue for the Kiritimati Parish Catholic Church. It will also provide employment opportunities to the people who will work as tour guides, boatmen, cleaners, chefs and drivers.

The first phase of the project is to construct the first five units of the "Guest House" estimated to cost \$120,000 AUD. The Catholic Parish in Kiritimati has saved \$20,000 AUD and is seeking interested donors and supporters to come to their aid to make the dream a reality by 2024-2025. As a parish community, our combined Pastoral Council, with the support of the Finance Councils, has agreed to support this endeavour and raise at least \$10,000 AUD in 2024. As a result, all money raised in our Christmas raffles will go to this project. Also, we are looking at other ways of raising the money and would appreciate donations to the Kiritimati appeal fund.

Fr Iheme

KBCC Collections 24th December 2023

| | Direct Debit | Credit Card | Envelopes | Cash |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Enoggera | \$ 252 | \$194 | \$ 84 | \$1003 |
| Everton Park | <i>inc w Enoggera</i> | | \$ 191 | \$276 |
| Wilston | \$ 1005 | \$354 | \$ 375 | \$1089 |
| Gordon Park | <i>inc w Wilston</i> | | \$197 | \$ 80 |

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:30pm

St Columba's

Sunday 5:00pm

St John the Baptist

or by appointment

Parish Notices

- ◇ **Expressions of interest** are welcomed for those willing to provide pastoral and spiritual care for people living with mental health challenges @ Centacare's Mental Health Hub in Fortitude Valley. If you would like to put your hand up for this ministry work (providing morning tea, companionship, prayer and mass support) alongside an existing team of pastoral carers and have Wednesday morning availability (each week), please contact Judy Norris (Director – Pastoral Ministries) on Ph 3324 3193 for more information.
- ◇ **St Vincent's Brisbane** is in need of Eucharistic Ministers/volunteers for its Pastoral Care Department. Shifts would be only 1-2 hours per week. If you are able to help, please contact Volunteer Coordinator: Maureen Hansen on maureen.hansen@svha.org.au
- ◇ **Volunteers required to assist adoration** at Everton Park Church. Please contact Fiona and Roy on 0412 802 122 'You will see the change for the better in your lives'.
- ◇ **Wilston Church Morning Tea group** is searching for their next leader. Please call the Parish Office for more information.
- ◇ **CATHOLIC LEADERS:** Please note that as from January, 2024, our churches will no longer be receiving Catholic Leaders to sell. The Catholic Leader is moving to a subscribe only model. Once you have subscribed, your Catholic Leader will be delivered to your front door each month. Please collect an envelope from your church regarding subscription to the Catholic Leader so you can continue reading this valuable paper. Details on how you can subscribe are in these envelopes.
- ◇ **"Knights of the Southern Cross"** next monthly meeting will be held in the hall adjoining Our Lady's Church at Everton Park at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 February. Visitors welcome ". Thanking you ,Nev Well
- ◇ **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 9:00am-12noon
RSVP (very important) 10th January 2024 to the following email address: formbyd@iprimus.com.au
Where: Our Lady of Mount Carmel community room, 312 Cavendish Road Coorparoo.
Have a very blessed Christmas. Please encourage as many couples as possible to attend our seminar.
God Bless, Paul & Lynda Robert
- ◇ **Verse for Vinnies Concerts in 2024.** Thank you for your support for our Verse for Vinnies Concerts in 2023. With your assistance we were able to give Vinnies over \$18,000. We have our Feature Poets for our six concerts in 2024 and hope for another successful year..
67 Dawson Parade Grovely 1.30pm \$15 Cash Only Sunday January 28 Book using noel@noelstallard.com

BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED WILSTON'S RAFFLE PRIZES

The Winners are

Bernadette Vander Hout, Imelda Collins,
Cherylann Baxter, Magella Adams, Marie Louise Singson,
Kevin Treston, Juliet Blackwell, Martin ?,
Juliet Blackwell, Tarma ?, Fr QuintIn, Fr Itheme, Judith?,
Dawn Maranoa, Anthony Nolan, Susan Collie,
Louisa Coleman, Shanene Cox, Pat Brown, June Bell,
Josephine Nolan, Lorraine B, Roberta Hovey, Jean Netto,
Kathleen Maguire, Rudi Parker, Philip Jones,
Mary Phillips, Robbie Riddell, Evan Donaldson,
Paula Egan, Marcus Egan, Lavina DSousa.

Seniors' Anointing Mass and Get Together

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Everton Park
11:00am Mass Thursday 25th January 2024

Australia Day Friday 26th January 2024

9:00am St Columba's Wilston (no 6:30am Mass)



Our parish has implemented the **Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy**. For any matters relating to Safeguarding issues, please contact our Safeguarding representatives at lsr.kbcc@bne.catholic.net.au or by contacting STOP line AOB@stopline.com.au or 1300 304 550 (for anonymous reports)

The Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany (Reference: The Filipino Heritage 1977)

Epiphany, also known as the Feast of the Magi, is celebrated in many ways around the world. In Western Christianity, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi. May I share with you a little about how we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany in my culture. In the Philippines, the day is celebrated with gift giving, a holy procession and a re-enactment of the Three Wise Men's journey.

When I was a child, my siblings and I used to put out our best shoes on the evening of the 5th January, which also happened to be my Mum's birthday. We hoped that gifts of gold, perfume or clothes would be left with those shoes lined up at the door in keeping with the magi's gifts to our Lord. Many times, we received special delights and our wishes were fulfilled...I won't tell what we got but it always left us with a smile!! There is nothing like the excitement of leaving your shoes by the door on the eve of the Epiphany! It's a tradition that encapsulates the essence of giving and reminds us about the joy of simple surprises.

Epiphany, is one of those special dates in the Christian calendar that doesn't get as much limelight as Christmas or Easter. But in the Philippines, it has the glitz and drama to make it a Hollywood blockbuster! It's that time of the year when the Magi play starring roles, and the topic is their epic road trip without a GPS, following a bright star. Their destination was Bethlehem to meet the infant Jesus and shower Him with special lavish gifts. As early as the Spanish colonial era, Filipinos have been observing this day with much commitment. Our ancestors integrated the holy observance of the Three Kings with local customs, making it as traditionally Filipino as they can. From vibrant processions to special church masses, the Feast of the Epiphany became more than just a holy day; it became a cultural celebration, a testimony to our unique blend of faith and festivity. In country towns in the Philippines, the tale of the Wise Kings comes alive in lively parades with colourful costumes, the Magi on horseback and the children, dressed as angels and shepherds, join the procession, adding to the gleeful spirit. The streets energised with music, songs and dance and the vibrance of a community in celebration. The processions end up at the Church where special masses are held and the story of the Magi's visit is retold. The faithful are reminded of the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God. The scent of incense permeates, hymns resound, and prayers are lifted up. Communities gather for gratitude and worship.

After mass, there is a gathering for a Filipino foodfest. Tables are laden with traditional dishes of "pancit" (fried noodles), "adobo" (soy and vinegar stewed chicken), "bibingka" (sticky rice cake) and "lechon" (pig in a spit). Families and friends get together for a hearty meal, sharing stories and laughter. It's a time of togetherness, of food and company.

In the Philippines, the Feast of the Epiphany is not just a religious celebration. It's a quilt woven together by faith, culture and tradition, sewn by the threads of community and celebration. Also as the last residues of the Christmas season, it's a beautiful reminder of warmth and joy that defines the Filipino spirit.

Marie-Louise Singson
Pastoral Coordinator

We pray for those who are unwell

Donn Anderson, Yvonne Boyle, Christine Bunn, Kelly Burton, Wilma Burton, June Crimmen, Baby Amelia Cross, Emma Datoc, Sheila de Zilva, Biddy Dwyer, Lyn Groessler, Beryl Grunwald, Varun Gupta, Gabrielle Harris, Sherry Henricksen, Mary Hewitt, Kathleen Hicks, Colleen Jackson, Gordon Jackson, Pietro Jacuzzo, Fran Johnson, Bevan Johnson, Lesley Keleher, Troy Kemp, Raechel Mansfield, Ann Mansfield, Dawn Marano, Michael McGowan, K McCarthy, Cristina Neroni, Moira O'Sullivan, Joshua Price, Carmel Ryan, Guiseppe Santoro, Irene Savage, Thomas Savage, Bridget Simpson, Eric Spaid, Brad Tennant, Fay Tynan, Jeanette Wharton, Lynne Wilson Taylor, Kerryn Whiteside, Sr Carmel, Sr Dorothy & Zaiden.

We extend our sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one
Sr Ann Murphy, Sr Margaret Murphy, Anne Carter

We remember those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time