



St Bernard's Parish

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7th January 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord Year B

The journey of the Magi, Pope Francis suggests, should prompt us to ask ourselves: 'How is the journey of my faith going?'

As the Pope says, the Magi were infused with a spiritual restlessness born of their desire for something transcendent. It is a dynamic which is useful for reflecting on our own situation in this present age. Are we stuck in what the Pope characterises as a spiritual 'parking lot'? 'Do our words and our liturgies ignite in people's hearts a desire to move towards God' he asks, or does our worship look and sound like something that 'speaks only of itself and to itself?'

The Magi offer us, the Pope says, four useful ways of thinking about where we are and where we should go. Firstly, they 'set out,' making sure our faith is forward-looking and active. Secondly, they had the courage to 'defy Herod,' providing a model of courage that stands up to powers that would oppress and harm the poorest. Thirdly, they took 'another way,' forging new paths, trusting in God's creative power. And fourthly, they 'worshipped the Child,' making sure that our focus was on the God towards whom we journey in hope.

Nick Brodie, Liturgy Help



Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

Kathy Hughes

Frances Butler

Marion Andrew

Katherine D'Arcy

George Koch

Jennifer London

Jeanette Freijah

Melissa Bann

Lila Moorfoot

Josephine Mariah

Vanessa Eldridge

Judy Robertson

Colin & Linda Boyd

Lynette Stott

Margaret Walker

Maria Pereira

Gerry O'Donoghue

Brittany Schultz

Rev Alan Ansell

Sofia Solistyo

Joan Hepworth

Riley Swander

Andrew Pamvouoglou

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

John Orders

Frank Whyte



Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace—1st January



'Artificial intelligence ought to serve our best human potential and our highest aspirations, not compete with them,' the Pope said in his message for the January 1 commemoration.

The message, 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace', was addressed to all men and women in the world, and in particular to heads of state and government and the leaders of the different religions and civil society.

The Pope's message highlighted the 'need to strengthen or, if necessary, to establish bodies charged with examining the ethical issues arising in this field and protecting the rights of those who employ forms of artificial intelligence or are affected by them'.

The impact of any form of artificial intelligence 'depends not only on its technical design, but also on the aims and interests of its owners and developers, and on the situations in which it will be employed', he said.

Positive outcomes 'will only be achieved if we show ourselves capable of acting responsibly and respect such fundamental human values as 'inclusion, transparency, security, equity, privacy and reliability', the Pope added.

The huge advances in new information technologies, he said, 'offer exciting opportunities and grave risks, with serious implications for the pursuit of justice and harmony among peoples'.

Pope Francis said, 'We need to be aware of the rapid transformations now taking place and to manage them in ways that safeguard fundamental human rights and respect the institutions and laws that promote integral human development.'

Edited extract Cathnews

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas celebrations, especially those who prepared the Liturgy, music and the Church.



We pray for Mohammad

Please pray that Mohammad, and all asylum seekers left in limbo, are fairly reviewed in their quest for a permanent visa.

For the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & other war torn countries.

May there be peaceful resolutions.



The Wider Community.....

21-23 Feb Catholic Social Services National Conference **Commons, Commonality, Common Good.** More information on tickets, the conference theme, speakers and the program is available at: <https://css.org.au/css-national-conference-2024/>



Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did. *Liturgy Help*



Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the *Saviour of the whole world*. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment. *Liturgy Help*

Mannya Hall Fund raising :

You can make a payment *in person* at the Parish Office or via *direct bank transfer* to **BSB 083347**

ACC#358514559

Reference : **surname & hall.** Please note new account details



'In the spirit of reconciliation, St Bernard's Parish acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Custodians of country and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'

Mass Times this week

Saturday: **6pm**
Sunday: **9am & 10.30am**
Tue & Fri: **12 noon**
Wed & Thur: **9.30am**

The **Rosary** is prayed after each weekday Mass
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held
First Friday of each month after 12pm mass

To receive the **bulletin** by **email** please subscribe via the parish website:

<https://stbernards.org.au/>

Contact the Office - 52 432 739 to arrange :

**** Communion at home (Friday am)**

New volunteers welcome to assist with this ministry.

**** To receive an email link to the Passionist Fathers recorded Mass each weekend.**

**** To receive an emailed worksheet for children, linked to the Sunday readings.**

Sunday Mass on Radio :

7.00am Light FM 89.9

10.00am Pulse 94.7 FM (*St Mary's*)

Sunday Mass on TV :

Channel 10 6-6.30am

Channel 31 or 44 11am *St Patrick's Cathedral*

Parish Office hours

Mon: 9am—4pm

Tues: 10am—3pm

Wed: 9am—4pm

Thurs: 10am—1pm

Fri: 9am—4pm

*** St Bernard's Play Group** Every Tuesday of school term 9-10.30am Gold coin donation

*** St Vincent De Paul** Membership enquiries : through Parish Office

*** Men's Group - 2nd Tues** of the month 10.30am Church cafe

*** Charismatic Prayer** meeting will resume in March 2023

*** Ladies Coffee and Chat Group, 3rd Mon** of the month, 10.30am at **FULL Circle**, Belmont opposite Car Wash, cnr Roslyn Rd.

*** Mill Market donation & Book Fair drop off** Recommencement date is *January 20th*



To assist the Mannya communities :

direct bank trf to :

BSB 083347 ACC#358514559

Ref : surname & support project

i.e Hall or education or General needs.

<https://mannyacoffee.or.ug/> Thank you

Readings this week : Isaiah 60:1-6 ; Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13 ; Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 ; Matthew 2:1-12

Next Week's Readings : 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19 ; Ps 39:2.4. 7-10 ; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 ; John 1:35-42

