



Welcome to

Noarlunga/Seaford Catholic Parish

St Luke's, Noarlunga and SCC, Seaford

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B

Vol 12 : No 07

NOARLUNGA/SEAFORD CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE

Cnr Goldsmith Drive and Honeypot Rd, (PO Box 406) NOARLUNGA, SA 5168 Phone: 8382 1717

(Please leave a message outside office hours and we will get back to you as soon as we can)

Email: nswcp@tpg.com.au

Web: www.noarlunga-seafordparish.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
10.00am - 3.00pm

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

• PARISH PRIEST

Fr Josy Sebastian - (8382 1717;
in an emergency 0452 524 169;
jponnambal@gmail.com)

• ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr Dominick Okwadha
(8382 1717; okwadha@yahoo.com)

• PARISH MANAGER NEWSLETTER

Mrs Toni Fishlock - 0417 801 241;
fishlock11@tpg.com.au

(Please submit newsletter items to the Parish Office by 11.30am each Wednesday)

• SEAFORD

Sr Bernie Sontrop SGS – SCC
(Catholic Community Coordinator
- 0400 035 462)

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159

REGULAR WEEKEND MASSES

• SATURDAY EVENING

6.00pm - St Luke's, Noarlunga

• SUNDAYS

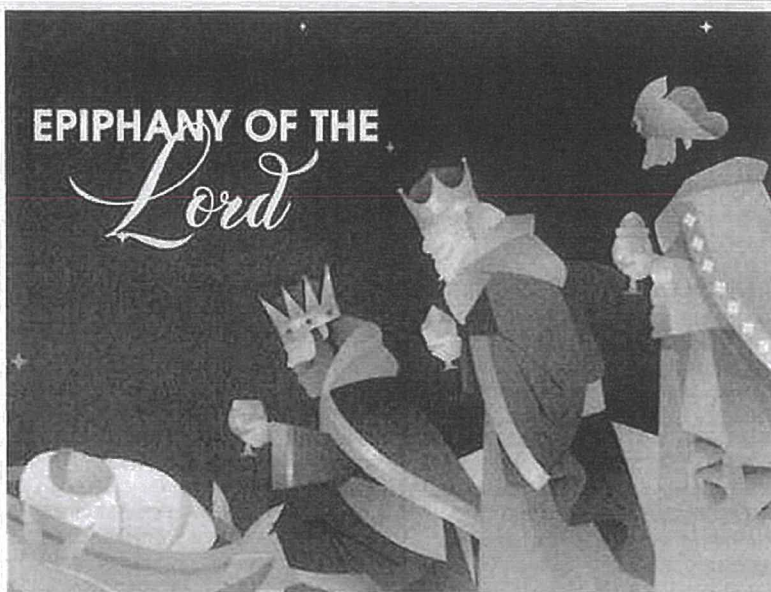
9.00am - St Luke's, Noarlunga

10.45am - SCC, Seaford

11.00am - 1st Sun - St Luke's: Spanish

2.00pm - 2nd Sun - St Luke's: Filipino

5.30pm - St Luke's: Youth Mass



FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace

he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where

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**COMPLIANCE WITH
COVID-19 REGULATIONS**
(Current from 04/01/2024)



- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 please stay home until you have fully recovered.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are also requested to stay home.
- Hand sanitiser is available at Church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands.

EXPLORING THE WORD

This is a wonderful story about who recognises Jesus and who does not. The Magi are from the East; they are not members of the chosen people of God, and yet they recognise the signs of a momentous birth and set out to find the child. The king of the Jews, Herod, as well as the chief priests and scribes, the very people who should be looking for the Messiah, have not seen the signs.

The positive and joyful response of the gentile Magi is contrasted with the opposite reaction from those who should have known better. The Magi fall in homage to a small child in an inconspicuous house. They have recognised the divine in the ordinary and bow before him as they would a king. In Matthew's community, many were struggling with the fact that the Jews reject the proclamation of the gospel while the gentiles accept it and come to faith in Christ.

SHARING THE TRADITION

This feast of the Epiphany originated in the Eastern Church and took hold in Rome some time during the fourth century. The main focus given to the feast was that of celebrating the coming to faith of the gentiles.

Over time, the Magi of the gospel became the three kings of folklore and eventually even developed names: Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar. These three are often depicted as Asian, African and European, representing the three known continents of the time. What is important in this later development is that it retains the original meaning: that Christ came to all nations and is the salvation of all people who recognise him.

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the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

A SHIRT OF FLAME

Heather King wrote a book "Shirt of Flame, A Year with Saint Therese of Lisieux". The title of the book is borrowed from T. S. Eliot's, Four Quartets, where he famously suggests that Love itself, God, is behind the torment we often feel in our fiery desires and that the burning we feel there is an "intolerable shirt of flame."

In the book, King tells of a famous incident in Therese's life when as a little girl, asked by her older sister who presented her with a velvet sewing-basket full of colour balls, to pick one thing from a basket, Therese said: "I choose all!" and took the entire basket and walked away.

King reflects upon her own struggle, as Kierkegaard said, to will the one thing: Here's the parallel she draws to her own life: "I choose all!" said Therese, and the further I progressed, the more I saw that the human dilemma is to want it all. I wanted to

be celibate, and I wanted wantonly to give myself to a spouse, I wanted dark secrets, noise, lights, mania, and the stimulation of a city, and I wanted to plant a garden, tend animals, and live on a farm. I wanted to live in the same place all my life, and I wanted to travel every inch of the globe before I died. I wanted to sit utterly still, and I was also driven to be constantly on the move. I wanted to be hidden and anonymous, and I wanted to be famous. I wanted to be close to my family, and I wanted to leave my family behind. I wanted to devote my life to activism, and I wanted to devote my life to contemplation. I wanted to give everything to God, and I didn't know how! I longed to give my undivided self, and I couldn't!"

If you are struggling with faith, with brokenness in your life, with an obsession, with an addiction, with a gnawing sense that your life is not what it should be, with the sense of being the outsider, an orphan at all the banquets of life, and, most of all, with the sense you don't love Jesus and he doesn't love you either, that you are nothing, then read this book. It's a book for those who think they might be too sick to be helped by a doctor.

Ronald Rolheiser

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(8 - 14 January)

- **Monday, 8:** The Baptism of the Lord (Is 55:1-11; Mk 1:7-11)
- **Tuesday, 9:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (1 Sam 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28)
- **Wednesday, 10:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39)
- **Thursday, 11:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45)
- **Friday, 12:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22; Mk 2:1-12)
- **Saturday, 13:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17)
- **Sunday 14:** SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8382 1717; or in an emergency 0452 524 169.