

# Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish

50 FAIRWAY DRIVE, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS, QLD 4226

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm. Tuesday 8.30am-4.30pm

PHONE: (07) 5572 5433 MASS TIMES: (07) 5595 8466 FAX: (07) 5572 5262

EMAIL: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au WEB: www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au

**ONE PARISH  
three churches**

## **Sacred Heart**

50 Fairway Drive,  
Clear Island Waters

## **St Vincent's**

40 Hamilton Avenue,  
Surfers Paradise

## **Stella Maris**

254 Hedges Avenue,  
Broadbeach

## **PASTORAL**

*Very Reverend*

*Fr Tim Harris*

*Parish Priest & Dean  
of South Coast Deanery*

*Fr Paul Kelly*

*Associate Pastor*

*Fr Nicholas Okafor*

*Associate Pastor*

*Helen Goldsmith*

*Pastoral Ministry  
Coordinator*

## **PARISH STAFF**

*Sonya Slater*

*Parish Manager*

*Marylou Ayres*

*Parish Secretary*

*Pat Kelly*

*Parish Assistant*

*Stephanie Santos*

*Youth Coordinator*

## **SCHOOLS**

*St Vincent's School*

*Clear Island Waters*

*Phone: 5572 1746*

*P: Kerry Rowlands*

*St Kevin's School*

*Benowa*

*Phone: 5539 4522*

*P: Peter Anderson*

*St Kevin's Kindergarten*

*Phone: 5564 5910*

*Director: Michelle Nelson*

*St Michael's College*

*Merrimac*

*Phone: 5530 2722*

*P: Michael Naylor*

## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7TH / 8TH JANUARY 2017—YEAR A**

*Dear Parishioners and Visitors,*

### **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR A**

The Solemnity of the Epiphany for various Christian traditions celebrates the many ways that Christ has made himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2: 1-12), the Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1: 9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2: 1-11).

So whilst an eastern feast originally, the West took up the Oriental January feast, retaining all its chief characteristics, though attaching overwhelming importance, as time went on, to the story of the Magi, the story we will hear this weekend.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, the wise men found the baby Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem. The three kings offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Symbolic in the sense that gold represents the royal standing of Jesus; frankincense his divine birth and myrrh a prefiguring of his death and embalming.

Commentators over the years on this 'Magi' story continually make the point that it was King Herod who had ulterior motives in terms of discovering where and who Jesus was. Herod had taken the title of King of the Jews to himself and perverted it by his ambitious grasp for power.

In contrast Jesus was born a powerless King of the Jews, a title that will be ironically nailed to the humble throne of his cross. Hence the Magi's presentation of Myrrh. They must have sensed that this was a special baby whose future they themselves would be bound up with.

Whatever about this 'commentary', the Magi thrill our imagination and bring wonder and excitement to the faith-filled search for Jesus that is the focus of every follower of Christ. Truly, it's a journey that needs careful attention and careful planning every single day. **Following Christ is a life long journey and we must remain focused on Him.**

The real danger for followers of Christ is that we might be tempted to just pay a 'courtesy call' at the Crib at Christmas and wheel Him away until next year or worse, put Him into storage.

Following Christ in today's world is actually hard at times because to follow Christ means to remain close to Him in good times and in bad. It's a journey of 'good' days and 'bad' because we will, by necessity, die and rise with Christ every single day.

Jesus didn't remain a baby forever in other words and on His journey He came to know the human condition in all things but sin, and yet He did not lose sight of the end goal and nor should we.

We therefore do not journey alone. He has not left us orphaned and nor will He. May 2017 be a year where we have a renewed sense of God—with us even when we hit that proverbial 'brick' wall as we will at one time or another.

I pray that our faith this year will be infectious so that we will bring others into the fold by our hope and joy by what we say and do. A fully alive Christian is both hopeful and joyful all rolled into one. We are after all a new and reconciled humanity united in Christ. Why wouldn't we have a smile on our face!

*God's Abundant Blessings, Fr Tim*



## READINGS THIS WEEKEND:

**Sunday 8th January 2017;**

**The Epiphany of the Lord;**

Isaiah 60: 1 –6;

Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

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Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January: Baptism of the Lord

## READINGS NEXT WEEK:

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ord Time**

Isaiah 49:3.5-6;

1 Corinthians 1:1-3;

John 1:29-34

**REFLECTION: Epiphany means the showing forth of the presence of God.** Isaiah's beautiful poem unfolds images that declare all of us to be coloured by the light of God's radiance. We are the image of God - a light source for others. We can direct others to God by the love that overflows from our hearts.

In the second reading Paul's letter to the Ephesians explains the mystery that was hidden for ages is now revealed. God's love is for all. For God there are no foreigners or outsiders.

Matthew tells the story of the wise ones. The wise men represent us. They follow a star; we follow Christ who is our guiding star. Like the wise men, we need to be watchful, practice interior quiet and be in tune with the world around us. God speaks to us in creation. It is like a great prayer book that is always open, revealing day after day, the glory of God.

The gifts they offer, gold, frankincense and myrrh also represent the gift of ourselves. Gold is discovered through hard work. Our gold may need refining before its true worth can be appreciated. We may overlook the gold in others because we do not look with care or because we assume none is present. Gold is also the colour of holiness according to the ancient artists. Frankincense is for a priest. It is the indication of Benediction and a symbol of prayer. Prayer brings fragrance to the world through directing our minds and hearts to God.

Myrrh is a perfume associated with death and burial. The gift of myrrh reminds us that life is fragile. We are called to hold all life sacred and live life to the full, celebrating our daily dying's and risings.

**Prayer: Lord, increase our faith so that we continue to direct our minds and hearts towards you, to direct our life journey towards you and, in full confidence, find you and be found by you. Amen.**

## CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

The blessing of the home is a popular Epiphany custom. Using chalk, many households mark their entrance door with the current year and with the inscription CMB, the initials of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the traditional names of the Magi. The inscription also stands for the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this home."

**Using chalk, write above the entry way:**

20-C+M+B-17

**Prayer:** Lord our God, bless our home and all who live here. May we be filled with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, obedience to your law and thanksgiving to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Help us love and respect one another and make your presence known by the way we care for others. May this blessing remain upon this house and upon all who live here. Amen

## PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR

It is a sacred moment to be present to either a birth or a death. At the turning of the year we are present to both at the same time - a double blessing!

"Now bless thyself: thou met'st with things dying, I with things newborn." (W. Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*). This week, as we enter into the New Year, I invite you to look back over "things dying," look forward to "things newborn," bless yourself and allow yourself to be blessed.

God blesses all that is past, all of the last dying year, the projects, the relationships, the successes and the failures. **Let us pray for the grace of open hearts to receive the blessing of all that will come to birth in the year ahead and in all the years to come.**

Blessings, Helen



## LITURGICAL RESOURCE FOR 2017 YEAR A

Free e-book for your computer or e-reader/tablet/iPhone  
Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1.

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader/ tablet/ iPhone, offers the Gospel for every day of this coming Liturgical Year A-1 (Sundays Year A, weekdays Year 1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year A-1 began on the First Sunday of Advent 2016 and will continue till November of 2017. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, given to this publication when he was Bishop of Parramatta.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1 may be accessed at the following URL address: [www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/)

**THE 2017 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR** contains some of the most beautiful images of the life of Christ and his followers. And there is a bonus month of January 2018 with the beautiful image you see here of the **Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth** — a Feast Day we celebrate on 31st May.

You will be able to keep up with all the Feast Days with this beautiful calendar.

They are available at our Religious Goods stores in both St Vincent's Church and Sacred Heart Church.

Discounted now to **only \$7 per copy**, so you can purchase more and give as gifts to special friends.







If you still have room on your list of new year resolutions, why not consider an overseas trip with a difference? At the end of this year, Catholic Mission is offering you the

chance to visit some of the vital work it supports in Cambodia, while experiencing the countryside... on a push-bike. **From Wednesday 15 November – Sunday 26 November 2017**, you could be part of a group of up to 20 people who will cycle through the cities and countryside of Cambodia, as well as participate in activities such as cooking classes and visit historical venues like Angkor Wat and a floating village, including a Catholic Church. To take part, you have to register and cover your own travel costs, as well as fundraise \$3,500 for Catholic Mission.

For more information, visit <https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/catholicmission-cambodia-2017/> or call the Brisbane office of Catholic Mission on (07) 3336 9239.

**PRAYING THE ROSARY:** The statue of Our Lady will be at the home of the family of Pauline Shamoun of Clear Island Waters for week of **Monday 9th January 2017**. There is no need to invite anyone else into your home unless you wish to do so. Please phone **Maxine or Pat Sela on 5539 9539** and invite Our Lady to your home for a week. If you are unable to collect the Statue yourself due to transport problems we can bring it to you. **Pat and Maxine Sela.**

Celebration of Fatima day on **Friday 13th January** at Marian Valley. The bus will leave Sacred Heart Church at 8.15am (Qld time). For bookings please call Viviane **5535 9623**.



**The Epiphany of the Lord**

A VOCATION VIEW:

More valuable than material gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, is the invaluable gift of our lives. There is no greater gift than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**THE FULL SPIRITUAL EXERCISES (30 WEEKS):** The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola are grounded in the life of Jesus. They are a powerful instrument to bring about significant change in a person's interior life. For this journey a person needs generosity and a readiness to pray for an hour at least five days each week and meet each week with the one giving you the Exercises. Enquiries: Helen Goldsmith on 5572 5433

[helenpastoral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:helenpastoral@bne.catholic.net.au)

Applications: Faber Centre by 28 February '17.

To contact them email to [fabercis@bigpond.com](mailto:fabercis@bigpond.com)



WHILST THE CAFÉ IS CLOSED FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WE ADVISE THAT SACRED HEART CHURCH OPENING TIMES WILL BE **8.00AM TO 5.00PM** UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY 2017.

**THIS WEEK AT VENIRÉ**

Venire will resume next year on

**Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2017.**

Have a great holidays! Stay in connected on our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/venireyouth](http://www.facebook.com/venireyouth)

**NEWS FROM THE GOLD COAST CATHOLIC LIBRARY**

Fr Tim reminded us last week of the great role of Mary as "Theotokos". Books about the "God Bearer", and how she inspires us are among the most borrowed in our Library. On display now are books about "Mary in the Christian Traditions"; Reflections and Rosary Prayers; Mary in Art; an examination of "The Infancy Gospels" and works by St Pope John Paul 11, one of the most important writers on our modern Catholic view of Mary.

On our **Read and Return Trollies** are a fresh stock of spiritual and life skill books for you to borrow anytime.



**Do you enjoy meeting people? Do you love your Cathedral? Do you revel in good art and juicy history? Do we have an opportunity for you!**

Talk with us about becoming a volunteer welcomer and/or guide at the Cathedral of St. Stephen. The commitment is three hours per month on roster; booked tours according to your availability Monday to Fridays and bi-monthly meetings. The rewards are beyond measure - a wonderful opportunity to delve into the rich history, art and significance of the Cathedral and Precinct and to share it with others. Everyone you meet, greet and guide will become an ambassador for this historic architectural gem which is the mother church of the archdiocese. Volunteering is a sure way to find friends that you didn't even know you had. **An information session will be held on Wednesday 1 February 2016 at 10.30.** A comprehensive **five day training program will begin on Thursday 9 February 2017 and continue weekly until completion on 16 March with a celebration to follow on 23 March.**



Contact the Cathedral on 3324 3030 or [cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au) by **Friday 27 January** if you'd like to share in this mission!

**CHOOSE LIFE:** Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error.



The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives.

*Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness.*

*Alveda King (niece of Dr Martin Luther King)*

**Cherish Life: Gold Coast Branch. Please contact Fiona 5578 1513 (h) or 0457 781 513 (mob)**

| MONDAY<br>9th January                   | TUESDAY<br>10th January  | WEDNESDAY<br>11th January | THURSDAY<br>12th January | FRIDAY<br>13th January                         | SATURDAY<br>14th January   |
|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 7.00am<br>ST VINCENT'S                  | 9.00AM<br>SACRED HEART<br><i>Next Anointing<br/>Mass will be on<br/>7.02.2017</i>  | 9.00AM<br>STELLA MARIS    | 9.00AM<br>STELLA MARIS   | 7AM<br>ST VINCENT'S<br><br>9AM<br>SACRED HEART | <u>RECONCILIATION</u><br>4.15pm STELLA MARIS<br>5.00pm SACRED HEART<br>5.15pm ST VINCENT'S |
| <b>NORMAL<br/>SUNDAY<br/>MASS TIMES</b> | <b>STELLA MARIS CHURCH Saturday evening 5.00pm AND Sunday 7.00am &amp; 8.30am</b><br><b>SACRED HEART CHURCH Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 9.00am &amp; 6.00pm</b><br><b>ST VINCENT'S CHURCH Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 8.00am &amp; 10.00am</b> |                           |                          |  |  |

**MIGRANT CHAPLAINS / COMMUNITIES:**

**Polish:** Sunday 11.30am Sacred Heart Church  
Fr Bernard Bednarz C/- 3252 2200

**Italian:** Sunday 4.00pm Sacred Heart Church  
Fr Michele Cagna CS 0432110468—Pastoral Support  
and General Information - Connie 5575 8882

**Filipino:** Next Mass in our Parish is on 1st January 2017 at  
12noon in Casey Hall. Fr Terence Nueva 3277 2252

**Hispanic:** 1st & 3rd Sundays 5—7pm St Vincent's Church  
Fr Ignacio Gutierrez 0481 118 521  
Email: [paterignacio@yahoo.com](mailto:paterignacio@yahoo.com)

**Maronite Rite:** Saturday 7.15pm Sacred Heart  
Phone: 3394 4994 St Maroun's Church, Brisbane.

**Art & Craft: In Recess until 25th January 2017**

**Book Club: In Recess until 17th January 2017**

**Bridge: In Recess until 23rd January 17**

**SPCL: In Recess until Tuesday 7th February 2017**

**Friendship Day in recess until Thursday 16th Feb 2017**

**Parish Choir Practice:** 8.30am 1st and last Saturdays SH

**Playgroup:** Wednesdays 9.30am Casey Hall, Fairway Drive,  
Clear Island Waters - Sarah 0410 701 515

**Playgroup is Volunteer Based— Each parent needs to sign  
an attendee sheet at each session.**

**Yoga:** Tuesday 10.45am \$10/Session. In Recess till 31/1/17

**Zumba Gold:** Friday 9.15am Casey Hall. Beginners and  
Intermediate. Susana Pozzi 0421 607 397 In Recess 6/1/17

**FOR MORE PARISH GROUPS, PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE**

**Baptisms:** Please contact the Parish Office 5572 5433 to register.

**Marriages:** Contact Parish Office 5572 5433 (Min 6mths notice required)

**Benediction:** 1st Friday 7.30am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise

**Children's Liturgy of the Word: Weekly at 9am Mass Sacred Heart Church.**

**Stella Maris Church 8.30am Mass 2nd Sunday of each month.**

**Christian Meditation:** Tuesday 10am (Youth Room) Pam Egberts  
0428090703. In recess until 7th February 2017

**Tuesday 6pm (Youth Room) continuing on. Contact Parish Office**

**Couples For Christ FFL:** Phone Butch & Mini 0424 583 168/9

**Exposition:** Monday & Friday 6am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise  
Tuesday 9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters  
Thursday 9.45am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise  
Friday 7pm Sacred Heart Church, 1st Friday 6th January - 7pm to Midnight

**Carmelite Spirituality:** 3rd Sunday of each month 10.30am PHC, CIW  
Contact: Norm Harding 0421 125 575. In Recess until 19th February 2017

**Rosary:** Sunday 7.15am St Vincent's Church  
Monday & Friday 6.25am St Vincent's Church  
Tuesday & Friday 8.25am Sacred Heart Church, before Mass  
Wednesday 8.25am Stella Maris Church, before 9.00am Mass

**Youth Led Mass: 6.00pm Sunday 22nd January 2017**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Marie Elizabeth Dobs (NZ), Pearl Behrendorff, Jean Joseph (Syd), Maria Fernandez, Sam Muscat (Melb.), Georgina Brincat, Sr Mary Whelan RSM, Sr Lorraine Barry RSM, Laurence Woods, Josie Paris, Samir Moussa.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Remo Bos, Michael and M.O. Grandie, Dr R Maxwell, R. Williams, Stepjka & Joseph Families, Ivan Grbcic, Luciano Freda.

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Anne McDonald, Irmgard (Joan) Graz, Carmelia Shamovian, Maria Nazari, Baby Ollie Hall, Andy Brown, Louie Kazzi, Edwin Ware, Nalin Sena, Mary Mullahy, Ahoi Hong, Jackie Hatfield (Wol-gong), Tony Bui, Karen Gard, Bernadette Lewis (Capetown), Daniel Farrugia, Sean Weldon, Oscar Miranda, John Traynor (UK), Werner Empen, Shirley O'Brien, Sr Mary Mullins, Patricia Sulzberger, Judy West, Michelle Coyle, Colleen O'Shannassy (Vic), Fr John Milliken PP Stanmore, Fadoul Kazzi, Pat Burton, Andreas Lunandi, Ian Finlayson, Gus Reeves, Annette Anning, Sage Amor (Canada), Brian Elsmore, Emile Van Deurse, Ron Mooney, Denise Tracey, Ron Perry, Paul Kiely, Denise Darwin (Syd), Rachel Raines, John Ashby, Dorelle Muller, Michael Kearney, Mike & Barbara Farrell, Marian Komorowski (Poland), Fr Dom Cremesco SVS, Mary Kerr, Conor Cosgrave, Anne Weston, Mary Hayes (Melb), Diep Armstrong.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT  
LEAVING A LEGACY?**  
Phone the Parish Office on  
**5572 5433**

**CONTACT FORM:** Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW?**

REGISTERING IN PARISH     SACRAMENT ENQUIRY     YOUTH

PRAYER REQUEST     ROSTER AVAILABILITY

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

to commence Parish Planned Giving Program

*Please place this completed form on the collection plate, or contact the Parish Office on 5572 5433 for further info.*