

Dear friends

Epiphany

Happy feast of the Epiphany – or ‘revealing’ – the day when we recall the visit of three somewhat mysterious visitors from the east, to the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. The ‘east’ of course, included a lot that was unknown to the people of Palestine in Jesus’ time. The idea of Herod calling together the Jewish leadership to ask a Jewish question, when the visitors arrived searching, tells us that the visitors were not Jewish. If they were, they’d have known the response from scripture that the Jewish leaders gave, concerning the Bethlehem birth. And so, a great significance of these three visitors is that they represent the intended revealing of Christ to all people from all places and all backgrounds.

Sequence of feasts

The sequence of feasts we’ve just had since Christmas really build a meaning for us when we view them together ...

- I. the Christmas feast of God born among us to draw our human identity into God’s nature ...
- II. then the feast of the ‘Holy Family’ which among other things emphasises that our nature and way of life is relational, if we are images of God who was born not into independence but into interdependence ...
- III. then the feast of Mary the Mother of God (on New Year’s Day) which honours one of us, the human Mary, as the bearer of God - and gives our human identity the dignity of being bearers of God ...
- IV. and now the Epiphany, with one of its messages being our call to be bearers and discoverers of God’s presence among all people from all places and all backgrounds.

As we celebrate the Epiphany, may we be encouraged in the many ways we will discover, live and share the presence of God in this new year, among many people and places and backgrounds.

With friendship in God’s mission, fr Paul

PARISH TEAM	CONTACT US	MASS TIMES
<p>Paul Roberts Parish Priest</p> <p>George Bryan Deacon</p> <p>Chris Rannaste Parish Secretary</p> <p>John Cowen Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson</p> <p>Jim Prendergast Finance Committee</p>	<p>Parish Office 15 Troy Street, Emu Plains NSW 2750 PO Box 27 Emu Plains Ph: 02 4735 1041 Email: emuplains@parra.catholic.org www.catholicparishemuplains.org.au</p> <div>FR. PAUL’S BLOG: paulfromifm.org.au</div>	<p>Weekend Masses Saturday 6:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am 3rd Sunday of the Month Filipino Mass 1.00 pm</p> <div>Weekday Masses Wednesday 9.15 am Thursday 8.15am & Friday 7.15am.</div> <div>Children’s Liturgy During 9.30 am Mass on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month</div>



What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God MICAH 6:8

A thanks from our parish St Vincent de Paul group

Dear parishioners – and those from OLOW school and McCarthy College (soon to be Penola College) communities – as well as those from our ‘before and after school care’ network (COSCH) of our parish. The local parish Vinnies Conference thanks all who contributed so generously to the recent Christmas appeal. The appeal provided toys, gifts and food to about forty families and individuals. Those who received hampers were so very grateful for your generosity. Know that you helped bring some extra cheerfulness, worth and belonging to their Christmas!

Fires and the Epiphany Pilgrimage – bad news and good news

With the unprecedented horror, challenge and sadness of the widespread bushfires, the Epiphany Pilgrimage, as mentioned last week, has been cancelled. As many will know, this wonderful initiative, begun a few years ago by Briony and Jesse Mowbray, is a pilgrimage walk and spiritual encounter, over several days, from Emu Plains to Bell in the mountains. Also mentioned last week was the decision to salvage a small part of the pilgrimage and so we are delighted to welcome the pilgrims to join us for the 9.30am Mass on this Sunday of Epiphany. After Mass and morning tea we will mission them off to walk, just to Glenbrook and just on Sunday. We already invited any interest to join the walk – but now also invite anyone who’d like to join them in Glenbrook church for some prayer and adoration time at 3.30pm Sunday afternoon.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to those impacted by the fires and those working tirelessly to overcome them. May God’s blessings be with them.

SACRAMENTS	Please pray for the Fitzgerald and Molloy families
<p>Reconciliation: Saturday 4.45pm-5:30 pm Baptisms: By appointment Weddings: By appointment</p> <p>First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation Please contact Parish Office emuplains@parracatholic.org R.C.I.A : The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041</p>	<p>Please pray for those who are sick in our community: Grace Perry, Kevin Rose, Karen Gulliksen, Harry Beasley, Maddison Farrugia, Leone Kirton, Vicki Wells, Mark Simmonds, Max Scott, Anita Glynn, Libby Lawson, Paul Dalton, Bernie Payne, Shirley & Les Coburn, Graham & Christine Hall, Michelle Gardam, Melissa Reardon, Jacqui Walker, Mary Berkout , Patricia Knoke, Brian Payne, Mervin McCaster, Marie Mahoney, Jeffrey Ridley, Habib Kaltoum Rahme, Michael Mercieca, Carmen Smith , Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith, Barbara Grant, Gregory Clare, Judy Chesters, Paul Cudmore, Angela Lonergan, Emma Woods, Brian O’Hara, Bruce Gillett, Denis Woodward, Chris Thompson, Ken Skillicorn, Ray Dukes, Lyn Hodder, Barbara Grant & Mavis Thompson.</p> 