Many people are probably still packing up their decorations and planning their summer holidays after the mad pre-Christmas rush and family get togethers. But the Christmas/New Year period, with all its hustle and bustle, is also a time of hope and dreams for our families and for us individually, for peace and good will among peoples, for our country and indeed our planet.

As we pop our heads above the crowd and take a broader view of our lives and events, we cannot help but long for signs of a better world. But when confronted by all the troubles the world faces, the seemingly endless violence in the Middle East and elsewhere, the unprecedented threats from climate change, the struggle against poverty and unemployment even in our own country, it is easy to feel quite despondent.

The early Christians in Matthew's gospel today must have shared such feelings. The world in Matthew's time was dark and extremely cruel, with the Roman Empire crushing Jewish revolts, with slavery and torture ever present, along with high death rates, especially among children and widespread poverty and hunger.

Into this darkness Matthew depicts Jesus appearing like a new dawn (also the meaning of Epiphany), but not to a rapturous reception from everyone. Foreshadowing his own execution by the Romans at the promptings of some Jewish leaders of the day, the powers of darkness embodied in King Herod plot to kill the child Jesus.

Enter the Magi, the wise men from the East, travelling from far away to honour and to worship the Christ-child. They are not Jews, nor are they familiar with the Jewish scriptures, but they follow the star as sent by God to guide them to this divine child. The Magi are stand-ins for us Gentiles, non-Jews who have come to recognise Jesus as the living manifestation of God in human form. With the cooperation of the Magi, Jesus escapes the clutches of Herod.

The early Christians took great comfort in this story, which encouraged them that despite their troubles the darkness would not finally overcome the light. The story assured them that even non-Jews are invited into the communities of faith to worship Jesus as the manifestation of the Father. The Magi were searchers for the truth about life and God, and God leads them to the light that is Christ.

Our world is so very different from that of Matthew's, and much more humane in many ways, yet this struggle against the powers of darkness is terribly real and still distressing for many people. The Magi remind us to defy the Herods of our world and place our hope in God to guide us and our planet at this time.

Bruce Duncan CSsR

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Want to Learn More?
The book, *Stories of Early Christianity* by vanThanh Nguyen SVD, is available from Majellan Publications for $21.95 (postage included).

We Respond ... www.majellan.org.au

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn)

Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 71)

ANTIPHON: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

RESPONSE: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

LECTOR: O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

LECTOR: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

LECTOR: The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

LECTOR: For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
(or a hymn)

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT WEEK (Baptism of the Lord Year C) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 103; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Further details and orders are available from Majellan Publications PO Box 43 Brighton Vic 3185 (www.majellan.org.au) 03 9592 2777 or office@majellan.org.au
Join us online at facebook.com/MajellanSunday and share this bulletin with your friends.

WEEK START SUN JAN 6, 2019
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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PARISH OFFICE: *TUES, WED, THURS, 9.30AM - 2.30PM*
JEANNE SCHNEIDER M: **0414 836 071**

THIS WEEK'S PARISH MASS TIMES

SUN	**JAN 6:**	**6.30AM, 8.30AM**
MON	**JAN 7:**	**6.30AM,**
TUES	**JAN 8:**	**7PM**
WED	**JAN 9:**	**6.30AM**
FRI	**JAN 11:**	**6.30AM**
SAT	**JAN 12:**	**8AM, 6PM**

Please Note in January 2019:
No Baptism talks or Children's Church;
For any Baptisms requests prior to Feb 10, 2019 please contact parish office.

Both **Baptism Talks & Children's Church** resume **SUNDAY FEB 3, 2019**;

BAPTISM TALKS -
4pm, first Sunday of most months.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH is celebrated at all 8.30am Sunday Mass (Feb - Dec)

RECONCILIATION EACH SATURDAY 5.30PM
OR BY PERSONAL ARRANGEMENT

Christmas Raffle!
1st Prize $100 donated by Joe Kelly was won by Fiona.
2nd Prize won by The Egan's
Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all that supported our raffle.

Centacare Dementia Strategy,
Become a dementia friend; Brisbane City Council funded volunteer dementia training available, Jan & Feb '19. Flyers in the foyer!
Contact: **Ann Donaghy** *3255 7789 (Centacare)*

Our ongoing **Child Protection** commitment is to ensure we have in place, as a parish, what is Archdiocese deemed necessary, &, what as a parish, we consider, we require to have documented for our own benefit & wellbeing. We hope parishioners fill in a **VOLUNTEER DATA** or a **PARISHIONER DETAIL form**. Place replies **on collection plates** or **give to parish office.** For **parishioners** who are **not volunteers, a parishioner sheet** will allow parish maintain a list of emergency contacts, should an unfortunate incident occur. **All forms available in foyer.**
Many volunteer ministries require Blue Cards and Police checks.
Please contact parish office for info.

Thank you to all parishioners assisting in any way around parish. All support, whatever it be is appreciated. We are constantly on the lookout for more helpers with **music, singing, gardening, cleaning, flowers,** as a **Sacristan, Reader, Eucharistic Minister** or **Altar Server**.
However you think you may be able to help, please let us know.
2019 PLANNED GIVING envelopes in foyer. Spare boxes available. Should preference be other vehicles for donating eg **Direct Debit, Credit Card, EFT,** please contact parish office at any time.

"Ukulele Group meets in the Parish Hall each Thursday 1pm – 3pm. Novice players welcome. You don't need to know how to play a Ukulele to come along. Enquiries ring Roger 0419 713 422"

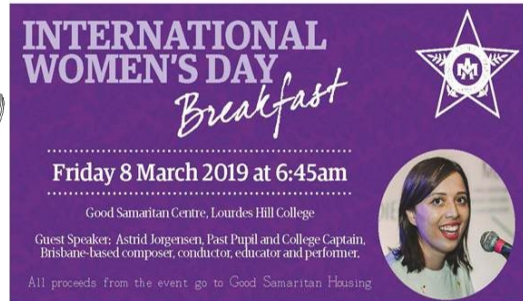
With many parishioners away over the **holiday season** extra help is needed & appreciated. If anyone is available to help, please volunteer.

If anyone is interested in our CCSG Literary Group please contact one of our keen writers below. All levels of interest in writing welcome. Don't forget to collect your poetry books, ditties, writings, newspaper clips, books, views on all things literary for review & discussion. For info & more details:
Michael Lynch 0408 751 557
Roger Brooker
0419 713 422
Mogens Johansen
0400 948 079

CCSG Literary Group

RECENTLY DECEASED: **GRAHAM ALLEN, MATTHEW AYRE, LEO BARCHAM, FR JOHN DOBSON, JOAN EDDINGTON, MARY MCNAMARA, NICK SIMPSON**
ANNIVERSARIES: **MARIA & FRANCESCA D'ALLURA & SEMENZIN FAMILIES, BRENNAN & HUGHES FAMILY, GEORGE LANGRIDGE, GIOVANA & ANTONIO MARINUCCI, JOHN RICHARDSON, ANTONIO & DOMENICA ROSSETTI, TIM STIRLING**
CHRISTMAS INTENTIONS: **JACK & JOY MCNAMARA, DIANNE MCNAMARA, JACK & PAT O'CONNOR, LEO & GAY RYAN, IVAN, NANCY & STEPHEN GARRETT, GLORIA & ANNE MARIE MCMAHON, BOB & MARIE WARD, ANNE-MARIE WARD, PETER WARD (ANNIV), RICK RANDELL, DECEASED MEMBERS OF WARD & CONELAN CLANS**

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Georgie Anderson, Zoe Barwick, David Brighouse, Ted Butterworth, May Carroll, Ruben Augusto Cesar, Joshua Chester, Veronica & Cathy Comiskey, Mark Cummins, Graeme Devine, Susan Donald, Rosa De Francesco, Vince Geraghty, Paul Heathwood, Philomena Hegarty, Allaura Hows, J Perini Jarrett, Zach Jones, Kath Keogh, Nicky Logan, Katie Loveday, Cheryl Loveridge, **Enid McCarthy,** Trish McConnell, James McKeon, Peter McLaughlin, Terry McNelly, Mark Mensal, John Morgan, Christopher Mothershaw, Marie-Louise O'Brien, Peter Reid, Wal & Joyce Smith, Mary Twomey, Zelina & family



REGINA CAELI 2018-2019
SACRAMENT PREPARATION
Please **CONTACT PARISH OFFICE**
NEXT INFORM MEETING MON FEB 11, '19 @ 7.30PM

REGINA CAELI DATE CLAIMERS: FROM JAN 2019

SUN JAN 6:	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JAN 2019:	WYD2019 PANAMA
SAT JAN 26:	AUSTRALIA DAY
SUN FEB 3:	'CHILDREN'S CHURCH' RESUMES 'BAPTISM TALKS' RESUME
MON FEB 11:	RECONCILIATION ROUND II M'TING
WED MAR 6:	ASH WEDNESDAY
SAT/SUN MAR 9/10:	RECONCILIATION PREP II, WK 1
SAT/SUN MAR 16/17:	RECONCILIATION PREP II, WK 2
SAT/SUN MAR 23/24:	RECONCILIATION PREP II, WK 3
MON MAR 25:	RECONCILIATION CEREMONY 6.30PM
SUN APRIL 14:	PALM SUNDAY
THURS APRIL18:	HOLY THURSDAY
FRI APRIL 19:	GOOD FRIDAY
SUN APRIL 21:	EASTER SUNDAY
THURS APRIL 25:	ANZAC DAY
JUNE 22/23:	CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Plenary Council:
In October 2020, the Catholic Church is gathering make plans & decisions for the future. Your voice is needed to help create the agenda.

What are your experiences of God in your life, your faith and the church?

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?

What changes do you consider important for the future benefit of the Catholic Church?

share the story shape the future ***I think God is asking us to…***

Plenary Cards available in church...
Card to PO Box 747, North Sydney NSW 2059, or, place newsletter response on collection plate.