



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021

Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR A

7 & 8 JANUARY 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Acting Mission Leader

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assisting Priests

Fr Joseph Hieu Xuan Nguyen CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P.Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
7.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun. Sudanese Mass 3pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed after Friday 23rd December 2022 and will be opened again Tuesday 17th January 2023.

SACRAMENTS: There will be no sacraments in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the 4th of February 2022.

FOODBANK: REOPENING ON FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2023 TAKING THIS TIME TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them

Above you the glory of the Lord appears 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 your 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(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore

you.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second reading Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

God sent his Son, born of a woman

It has now been revealed that pagans
share the same inheritance
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 gener-
ations; 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 Je-
sus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 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

The visit of the Magi

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem
in Judaea during the reign of King Her-
od, 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 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.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The ancient feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the whole universe is in God and that God is in us. It celebrates the presence of God who is revealed to us in wondrous ways: in creation; in our dreams; in our day to day experience; in our sacred stories. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgement of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the more-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves towards a more profound encounter with the divine. Epiphany has long been associated with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem attracts the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. They follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named in the text as Emmanuel, God with-us. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the

first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born king of the Jews. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the new-born king. They return home "by another road". The storyteller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

BENEDICT XVI: EXPLORING HIS NEARLY 8 YEARS ON THE SEE OF PETER

As the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lies in state in St. Peter's Basilica, we take a look back over the nearly 8 years of his papacy, starting with the choice of his pontifical name through to his shock resignation.

It was the afternoon of 19 March 2005 when white smoke billowed out of the Sistine Chapel chimney to announce the election of a new Pope.

Moments later the bells of St Peter's pealed loudly in celebration. And the people of Rome heard and flocked to the



square in great numbers only just in time to hear the customary announcement 'We have a new pope', in

Latin.

When they heard the name, Joseph and then Ratzinger, they cheered. They immediately recognized a prominent and familiar figure in the Catholic Church. After all he had been one of the late John Paul II's closest advisors for over two decades.

And when the new Successor of Peter appeared at the central balcony of the Basilica in his white cassock, following in the footsteps of his predecessor who had broken new ground in this respect, he addressed the crowds: "After the great Pope John Paul II", he said, the Cardinals have elected me, a simple and humble labourer in the vineyard of the Lord".

Pursuit of peace

But the real surprise came when he announced he would take the name "Benedict". The last Successor of Peter to take that name had been elected in 1914.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, one of the Cardinals to elect him explains: "It was evidently a signal... he

drew inspiration from Benedict XV, a pope who pursued peace at a time of war and from a monk Saint Benedict, patron Saint of Europe.”

Expert theologian

Who exactly was this German-born Pope?

He was born at Marktl am Inn, a small town of Upper Bavaria on the Austrian border on 16 April 1927.

His university years had been taken up with philosophical and theological studies from 1946 to 1951, and ended with a doctoral dissertation centred around the notion of the people of God in Saint Augustine and a post-doctoral work on Saint Bonaventure, a Franciscan theologian from the thirteenth century.

His theological qualifications led to a teaching position at the University of Bonn, until he was called to Rome in 1962 to attend the Second Vatican Council as an expert.

When the Council ended in 1965, he went back to Germany, once again to teach, this time at the University of Tübingen.

Then, in 1977, Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Munich. Later, in 1981, Pope John Paul II appointed him as Prefect of the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), a position he held for over two decades until his election to the papacy.

Familiar figure in the Vatican

It was during these latter years as Prefect of the CDF that he became a familiar figure in Vatican circles, in a special way at Vatican Radio, where he crossed the threshold many times.

The future Benedict XVI joined us in our studios first as cardinal to offer us a self-portrait, saying: “All I can say is I come from a very simple and humble family, and I don’t really feel like a cardinal. In Germany I lived in a small town...and there I feel at home.”

And then later as Pope, when less than a year into his pontificate he was back at his radio station once again.

It was 3 March 2006, and this time his words were of encouragement: “To help build this great family that knows no frontiers, in which we are all brothers and sisters in the multiplicity of cultures and languages and thus constitute a peace-making force”.

Gifted with words

Certainly, if one had to identify the legacy of Benedict XVI, his extraordinary ability with words both in print and in the spoken form would come to mind.

Starting from his homily during Holy Mass to mark the beginning of his Petrine Ministry, on 24 April 2005:

“The Pastor must be inspired by Christ’s holy zeal: for him it is not a matter of indifference that so many people are living in a desert. And there are so many kinds of deserts. There is the desert of poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love... The Church and all her pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert.”

Then beyond his moving homilies, there were his addresses during the weekly General Audiences and the many speeches he delivered in the public square on Apostolic Journeys.

Those to English-speaking countries stand out: the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

And in the written word there were many documents and three encyclicals: *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) in 2005; *Spe Salvi* (Saved in Hope) in 2007; *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth) in 2009; and also publications, to quote but one: the well-known “Jesus of Nazareth” trilogy.

Bearing the Cross

But this gentle, scholarly Pope also had his share of battles during the eight-year pontificate.

He had to deal with scandals both from within the Vatican with the leaking of documents and, from without, with the clerical sexual abuse issue.

He responded decisively to these scandals, becoming a promoter of justice and child protection.

Shock resignation

However, the gesture that most astonished the world was Benedict XVI’s resignation.

It took place on 28 February 2013, and left the world in shock. No Roman Pontiff had done this for almost six centuries.

Since that day he became known as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. And in the twilight years of his life, he retired within the Vatican walls, continuing to write, and leading a quiet life of prayer and meditation, until his death on 31 December 2022.

By Veronica Scarisbrick

BENEDICT XVI AN OUTSTANDING ‘WITNESS OF HUMILITY’

Speaking at a Memorial Mass in Chicago, Cardinal Blase Cupich highlights the humility of the late Pope Emeritus as a distinctive feature of his personality, as well as his deep love for Jesus testified until the last moments of his life.

Cardinal Blase Cupich celebrated a special Mass in memory of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Monday.

In his homily, the Archbishop of Chicago focused on the late Pontiff’s humility, describing him as a “brilliant mind” who “made witnessing to the Gospel’s call to-live-in-humble-service-to-all his priority.”

He remarked that he offered that witness of humility in three ways: “through his dedication to scholarship, his unwavering conviction that belonging to a community defines our lives, and his radical dependence on the person of Jesus Christ.”

A humble scholar

Cardinal Cupich noted that humility is a quality often overlooked in people who dedicate their lives to scholarship.

However, it is this very humility that allows “your mind to be formed, not by your own musings and opinions, but by others as you interact and dialogue with them.”

The late Pope Emeritus testified to this in his academic life, as he confirmed in his spiritual testament, where among other things he warmly thanks God for the teachers and pupils He had given to him.

“Joseph Ratzinger, the great theologian, was that humble scribe instructed in the kingdom of heaven, we read about in the Gospel, who “like the

head of a household (brought) from (the) storeroom both the new and the old.”

Humility of living in community

Cardinal Cupich further highlighted his “humility of living in community” which, he noted, he had learnt from his loving family, as he pointed out in his spiritual testament.



“Through this family experience, he acquired a humility that became second nature to him, leaving him with the palpable sense of being connected with others.”

“It is no wonder then,” said Cardinal Cupich, “that when he called the Church to take up works of charity in his first Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* he reminded us that ‘Love needs to be organized’.” “These words have their root in all that he learned at home, that for love to be authentic it must connect us to one another, make demands on us but also comfort us as we discover an interdependence that binds us together.”

Deep love for Jesus

Most importantly, Benedict XVI offered his witness of humility in his deep relationship with Jesus.

“With his keen intelligence,” noted Cardinal Cupich, “Joseph Ratzinger could have remained comfortable in the world of ideas and theories, but he made himself vulnerable to the point that his encounter with Jesus, rather than the safe world of ideas, gave decisive direction to his life.”

“He humbled himself to enter into a trusting relationship, to relate to Jesus not as a lofty idea or an ethical choice but as a person who remained close to Him.”

“This profound sense of being ever close to the Lord,” he further pointed out, “marked his life to the end”, as testified by the last words he uttered before dying: “Jesus, I love you”.

“May the promise of the Gospel that ‘whoever humbles himself will be exalt-

ed’ be fulfilled in him”, the Cardinal concluded. May he rest in peace knowing of our gratitude and prayers for him.”

By Lisa Zengarini

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL



It is with a heavy heart that we say a farewell to Fr Oche Matutina CSsR who has been with us almost three years. We cannot thank you enough for his ministry that he has done for us. We will miss working with him and wish him all the blessings. Fr Oche will celebrate thanksgiving Masses on the Weekend Masses 7—8 January 2023 in our church. Then he will take a short break before moving to Bourke (*Bourke is a town in the north-west of New South Wales, Australia*) to do mission over there. Please join us in thanking him.

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

During this time, weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday at 9.00am we continue to use people who normally volunteers to Read if they are available otherwise volunteers needed. Please see the priest before Mass if you wishes to do so. Weekend Masses volunteers needed if the choir doesn't have people to Reader. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 14th January 2023

* **6pm** – Tavallo Family Choir

* **Sunday 15th January 2023**

* **9am** - Charlie Schembri

* **10.30am** – Samoan

* **6pm** - Paul Fatai

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 11 January 2023 -
Group 9 - St Francis Choir - Lisi
McFarland

LET US PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased

Marko Dorinko

The Sick

Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Manel Pandithakoralege, Dominica C., Wasana Fernando, Marko Dorinko, Arnord Fernandez, Ash Dominic Marguerite, Rachel Piskon, Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Anniversaries

Ivica Krizmanic, Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Jan & Jovan Vala, Stefan Kolek, Tony Mizzi, Family Attard, Family Zammit, Family Caruana, Family Grech, Bruce McLean, Joseph Formosa, Carmelo, Mary, Henry, Giuzeppa Faraci, Sunta Germani, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Angelo Cassar, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Mary Camilleri, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Peter Do Van Tri, Inne Maria Le Thi Bien, Mollie Rise (Marie), Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

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.

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.