



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Friday: 8.30am-12.00pm

The Epiphany of the Lord 8 January 2023

Reflection

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'



And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Nev advises that there will be **NO** morning Masses at St Agatha's and St John's on 12/13 January 2023. Morning Masses will recommence on Thursday 19 January at St Agatha's and Friday 20 January at St John's.

Children's Liturgy Prep to Year 4

Children's Liturgy will resume **Sunday 29th January 2023 at the 8am Mass.**

Masks are no longer required but still recommended whenever you cannot socially distance.

Roster for January 2023

	8am	5.30pm
8 January 2023	Hannah Arkinstall	Alison Hall
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	Luke Sutton	Karen Birtles
Eucharistic Minister 8 January	George Arkinstall	
PowerPoint Clicker 8 January	Bell Family	Tom & Jess Luxford
15 January 2023	Eileen Duncan	Amelia Marino-Cebulski
<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Joseph O'Brien	Max Van Balen

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Pope Emeritus Benedict, Mary Stuart, Norm Lonn

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Craig Andrews, Len Clark

Those who are unwell:

Merlene Lisha, Pam Hayes, Ed Wright, Phil Greshan



We acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera people, the traditional custodians of the Land on which St Agatha's is built. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

POPE EMERITUS, BENEDICT XVI

Joseph Ratzinger was born in Bavaria on 16 April 1927. He was ordained priest in 1951 and taught theology. He was ordained bishop for the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising in 1977 and was appointed cardinal the same year.

After only five years, he was appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, a position he held until 2005 when he was elected pope, taking the name Benedict. During this time, he was also President of both the International Theological Commission and the Pontifical Biblical Commission. His powerful intellect shaped the direction of the Church and its priorities at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st.

From 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013, he was the pope, the Bishop of Rome. By this time his theology was generally focused on affirming the objective truths of the faith against what he saw as the relativism of Western society. He was the first pope to resign in 600 years and lived quietly in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery within the Vatican.

Biography

A biography of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is available on the Vatican website at

<https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography.index.html>

catholic encounter KIDS

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

January 19th 8.30am - 5pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
Centre, Hendra
Open to all primary school students

www.encountercatholickids.com.au/holiday-program

Parish Administration

Parish Administrator: Fr. Neville Yun

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Finance Council Chair: Jodi Sutton

Community and Mission Council

Chair: Manus Maher

Aggies Youth: Ewan McPherson

Local Safeguarding Representative:

Catrina McPherson (0456 441 717)

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School

6 Hunter Lane Clayfield Qld 4011.

Phone: 3326 9222

School Principal: Ms Anne-Marie Maw

APRE: Mr Jake Knowles

Next week's readings 15th January 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:14, 12



Support St. Agatha's Parish

Your financial support of St Agatha's Church is always appreciated.

Ways to financially support your parish:

Direct debit. Place your offerings in the collection plates during the Mass or Planned Giving Envelopes or

the Parish Giving App.

Hover the camera on your smart phone over the QR code and tap on the link to the Parish Giving facility.

If you are not part of the Planned Giving Program and would like to contribute via online internet banking, details are as follows:

BANK DETAILS

Account name: Clayfield Parish

BSB number: 064 786

Account number: 100006157



New Mass Times

**St Agatha's,
Clayfield**

Sunday 8.00am
5.30pm

**Our Lady Help of
Christians, Hendra**
Saturday 5.00pm
Sunday 9.30am

**Reconciliation/
Confession:**
by appointment

**Weekday Mass at
St Agatha's**
Thursday 9am
St John's, Northgate
Friday 9am

