



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, 89 Bond St, Ivanhoe West
Mary Immaculate Church, 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe
Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East*

Parish Priest:	Fr. Thang Vu	63 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East	9499 5440
Priest in Residence:	Fr. Thanh Tran	Parish Secretary: Mrs Ruth Villani	
Parish Office:	4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079	Phone: 9499 1515	Fax: 9499 9959
Parish Website:	www.ivanhoecatholics.com	Email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com	
Masses:			
Weekend: Saturday:	6.30pm St Bernadette's	Sunday: 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God	
Weekday: 9.15am	Tuesday: Mother of God	Wednesday: Mary Immaculate	Friday: St Bernadette's

No. 1a

1 January 2014

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: YEAR A

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: May God bless us in his mercy.

- V. 1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
- V. 2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
- V. 3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Loving God: Hear our prayer

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember those who are in need of prayer at this time and those who provide care and support for those in need.

We also remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Reflection:

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

© Dianne Bergant CSS Liturgyhelp.com.au

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: YEAR A**THE WORD**

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- V. 1. 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.**
- V. 2. 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.**
- V. 3. 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.**
- V. 4. 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!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Loving God: Hear our prayer.

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

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember those who are in need of prayer at this time and those who provide care and support for those in need. We also remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Reflection:**The Epiphany of the Lord**

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.

...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. ... 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.

© Richard Leonard Liturgy Help.com.au

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND: 11 – 12 January 2014**ST. BERNADETTE'S:**

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

Sister Frances

Special Ministers

J. Gray, Sister Carmel

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

As available

Reader

As available

Mass Coordinators

E. Ballao

Counters

E. Ballao, T. McKinley

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

A. Patterson

Lector

A. Patterson

Special Ministers

As available

Altar Society: As available

Choir Coordinator: School Holidays