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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 05/01/2025

Dear Parishioners,

At this Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. From the early days of the Church, this feast has been considered as an important feast receiving at times more attention than the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. The Greek word Epiphany means *appearance or manifestation*. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are celebrated on this Feast of the Epiphany. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church, the Epiphany event is celebrated in the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ when the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God.

In the First Reading, Prophet Isaiah consoles the people in exile as he speaks of the restoration of New Jerusalem. The Responsorial Psalm includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel. Paul's letter to the Church of Ephesus, expresses God's secret plan in clear terms: *"the Gentiles are co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."*

Today's Gospel reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that will keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate the Child, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him, and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.

Let us make sure that we belong to the third group by worshipping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration. As the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we need to choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behaviour. As we give our small, seemingly insignificant gifts to God, the Good News is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we offer what we have, from our deepest heart to the Divine Child then He offers us – Himself.

God bless you,

Fr Raju Joseph CMI



Weekday Masses

Tuesday 07 January

5.30pm Boonah

Wednesday 08 January

6.00pm Peak Crossing

Thursday 09 January

09.00am Boonah

Friday 10 January

10.00am Boonah (Funeral mass of Jim Stanfield)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 11 January

5.00pm Boonah

Sunday 12 January

07.30am Peak Crossing

09.30am Boonah

Marriages by appointment - at least six months notice is required.

Baptisms by appointment only.

Reconciliation : Saturdays at 4.30pm and by appointment.

We pray with and for those who are sick in our parish and beyond:

Suzi Pei Chen Lin, Julie Anne Rook, Edward Hayes, Graham Wright, Thomas Thomas, Jodie Dort, Courtney Ward, Bev Coates, Joe Przygoda, Yuko Shimamura, Allan Pascoe, Donna Pascoe, Liliana Toohill, David Sadlier, Suzy Collyer, Nicole Wimmer, Mary Wittman, Chris Healy, Libby Shields, Marko Babic, Max Gardiner, Bernadette Pinchin, Cate Mitten, Paula Ebrington, Lynne Nunan, Bea Bedard (USA), Lorraine Bakon, Moira Lehmann, Robert Hensen, Hans Mitterlechner, Sandra Skerritt and other sick members of parish families and those beyond our parish boundaries.



Recently Deceased: James Edward Stanfield

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year of 2025 on Christmas Eve this year. It will come to its conclusion on the feast of the Epiphany 2026. He had invited all the dioceses of the world to inaugurate the Jubilee locally on Sunday, 29 December, which was not the most convenient time in this part of the world. Nonetheless, the Dean of St Stephen's led a celebration inaugurating the Jubilee at the Cathedral, blessing the Holy Door and leading the people through it as a sign of walking as pilgrims with Christ into newness of life.

The Jubilee looks back to the first Roman celebration in 1300; and Rome has always been the epicentre of celebration, as it will be of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage which I hope to accompany in September next year. But the Jubilee Year also looks back much further to the biblical jubilee, which was celebrated every fifty years. It was a time of renewal for the people of God, a time to make a new beginning, a time to focus again on the God-given identity of ancient Israel as a community of slaves set free in a world which says that slaves can never come free.

The Jubilee Year is therefore a call to recognise the many forms of slavery, overt and covert, that are found in this culture and in our own lives – and to renew our faith in the possibility of freedom and commit ourselves anew to what freedom requires. Any pilgrimage – even the little pilgrimage of walking through the Holy Door – is a farewell to an old enslaving way of life and an embrace of a new way of life which the Lord crucified and risen makes possible.

The motto of this Jubilee Year is “Pilgrims of Hope”. Any journey we make through this year we make not as tourists or holiday-makers but as pilgrims. It is a journey of faith. And it is driven by a hope which is not mere wishful thinking but the proclamation of a true hope in a world which often seems hopeless, a hope grounded ultimately in Easter. This hope is an expectation that what God has done in Jesus he will do in the world and even the cosmos.

God will bring light from darkness, life from death. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that “there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God” (4:9). In a deeply restless world, may this Jubilee Year be a time of Sabbath which God alone can provide, refreshing our souls and putting new heart into the Church as we take the path traced by the Archdiocesan Synod and its Action Plans.

The Most Rev. Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity

Archdiocese of Brisbane's Office for Safeguarding -
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/support/safeguard/>

STOP line Service. STOP line is an external service provided for the Archdiocese to receive confidential disclosures. Disclosures can be made anonymously. Phone: 1300 304 550 | Email: AQB@stopline.com.au | Online: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the traditional owners and caretakers of the land on which the Bonah Catholic Parish is located. We acknowledge the Elders of the past, present and emerging. May we, too, be good stewards of this land.