

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

The Epiphany of the Lord

6th January 2019

Epiphany

The epiphany has been taught and interpreted by the Church as a celestial event chosen by God to call all nations together in unity in adoration of his Divine Son. The three kings from the east - who were outside of the Jewish faith and tradition – symbolise the universal significance of the birth of baby Jesus to the whole world. Salvation was available to all, and no one is intended to be excluded.

As an act of divine revelation, other terms that are synonyms with “epiphany” may well include flash, insight, inspiration, oracle, realisation, vision, sign, surprise, *aha moment*, bombshell, discovery, enlightenment, and lightning bolt. With the Epiphany, God provided – so mystically and so beautifully - the means for the human mind to have an expanded understanding of his Son’s mission to the world.



Christmas Celebration



The Christmas celebrations have been another wonderful time in the life of our parish. Masses at the Christmas Vigil, Midnight and Christmas morning were attended collectively by about 3,500 people.

Among about 900 people, the early 5:00 PM Vigil includes a very large number of young parents with their little infants (always beautiful). The chapel was over flowing as parishioners watched

Mass on the screens, and many were standing outside. And there was a guest visitor at the end of Mass as well – none other than Santa.

The sacred music at the five Masses was exceedingly beautiful. And the support from wardens, readers, special ministers, computer operators and many others were simply awesome. Our parish is blessed to have so many accomplished and dedicated people. And a special acknowledgment to all our parishioners for your attendance and financial contributions during 2018. With the grace of God, we’ll continue to grow in love and charity.



With Sincere Gratitude

This week’s celebration of the Epiphany is the final Sunday of the Christmas season although the Church continues to celebrate Christmas in prayer and sacred music until Saturday morning 12 January.

Over this time, many parishioners have extended their best wishes to the local clergy with cards, gifts and words of appreciation and endearment. Many thanks to all our parishioners for their kindness at this time.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2019 ~ 14 to 24 October



A pilgrimage is a ritual journey with a hallowed purpose. Every step along the way has meaning. The pilgrim knows that life-giving challenges will emerge. A pilgrimage is not a vacation; it is a transformational journey during which significant change takes place. New insights are given. Deeper understanding is attained. New and old places in the heart are visited. Blessings are received and healing takes place. On return from the pilgrimage, life is seen with different eyes. Nothing will ever be quite the same again.

Following the great success in 2017, Fr. Sean and Fr. Michael are conducting another pilgrimage. More details next week



New Year's Resolutions 2019

Have you made any 2019 New Year's resolutions? If not, there's still time, and Pope Francis has some ideas for you.

These are the ten resolutions that he presented to the Vatican employees to embrace:

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."
10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."

It's a good list: it's clearly embedded in Catholic teachings but presented in such a way that all Christians and people of good will can embrace. And, it certainly seems that all of us can find on this list at least one or two resolutions that speak to areas in which we really need to grow and develop. Hope this helps, and happy New Year!