



St Peter's Caversham
www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

The Pebble

5 January 2020

Epiphany

The Birth of Jesus in Matthew's Infancy Narrative

Like Luke's account of Jesus' birth, Matthew's account is also sparse, giving no information other than the historical time and geographic place...Nevertheless, it situates the event within time and history and thus outside the realm of mythology. Matthew is more interested in making known those who first recognised the significance of Jesus' birth...The principal actors are not Jews but wise men from the East. All that takes place revolves around them and in reaction to their presence. All that they do is focused on Jesus – the prophetic revealing of who he is. Fascinatingly, Matthew traced Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, and so he is unlike Luke, who traced it back to "the Gentile" Adam. Yet Matthew, unlike Luke's Jewish Shepherds, has the non-Jewish wise men from the East as the first seekers of Jesus. Even though the wise men are not of Abraham's seed, they are already experiencing the promised blessings that flow from him to all nations. And unlike the poor and uneducated Jewish shepherds, these gentiles are rich and educated. Both Matthew and Luke, each in their own unique manner, perceive that Jesus is of ultimate significance to both Jew and Gentile, whether poor and uneducated or rich and learned.

Jesus Becoming Jesus: A theological Interpretation of the Synoptic Gospels, Thomas Weinandy, OFM, CAP

Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today.
The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered at the communion rail during communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea after the Solemn Sung Eucharist

THE LITURGY FOR TODAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662)

10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

5.00 pm Evensong and Benediction

HYMNS FOR TODAY

See Service booklet

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Isaiah 60: 1-6](#)

[Matthew 2: 1-12](#)

These will be the readings at the 8 o'clock Service.

There will be a more extensive set of Epiphany readings in the Service booklet for the Epiphany Carol Service.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7](#)

[Acts 10: 34-38](#)

[Matthew 3: 13-17](#)

PARISH NEWS

Epiphany Carol Service This morning we mark the wonderful feast of the Epiphany with a 10.30 am Service in the style of Nine Lessons and Carols, thus giving us an opportunity to sing many of the hymns appropriate to the feast.

New Year and January Services Our normal cycle of Services will continue uninterrupted throughout January including Evensong and Benediction on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Frances Hodgkins Eucharist The Anglican Eucharist will be celebrated at Frances Hodgkins on Thursday 9 January at

11 am.

Hospital bed pushing Next Sunday 12 January is St Peter's turn to provide volunteers to assist hospital patients to attend the Sunday Chapel Service. Please let the Vicar know if you have helped in this way in the past or would be available to do so next Sunday.

Wendy Stocks Wendy's condition abruptly deteriorated over the past week and she was transferred to the Timaru Hospice. Fr Hugh travelled to Timaru on Thursday to hear her confession, to give her the last rites and to celebrate Mass with David and Wendy.

Numbers up at Watchnight Service The Watchnight Service got off to an uncertain start 8 years ago having to be cancelled the first year for lack of support. Since then it has jogged along with around a dozen attendees but this year attendance jumped to twenty four. Though modestly advertised it appears to be gaining traction

Warrington church visit Please sign the booking notice for lunch at Port Chalmers that will follow our Saturday 25 January visit to St Barnabas Warrington.

Visit to Church of Mary, Queen of Peace Our 22 February visit to St John's Waikouaiti will be followed on Saturday 21 March by a visit to the Polish Catholic Church in Broad Bay, which is dedicated under the title of the Church of Mary, Queen of Peace.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Malcolm Whitty. Please remember in your prayers also Asher Katene and Kasanita Tavake who are to be married at St Peter's on Saturday 18 January.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Christie, Cherry Gordon, Paul Hill, John Steele, Rosemary Stott, Gillian Gordon, Christine Flegg, Mavis Lighton, Anne Bowker, Jane Hill, Lorraine Mitchell and Wendy Stocks.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Arthur Hill, Mary Wood, Marjorie Welch and William Bloxham (Priest).

Liquid blessing from the sky Members of the Catholic parish of Cow Island, Louisiana have thought up a novel way to bring a blessing to their rural neighbours. Hiring a crop duster aeroplane they requested that its tanks be thoroughly cleansed of any chemicals from prior use, then filled it with 100 gallons of water, had their priest bless this to turn it into holy water and had this special load sprayed over the neighbouring farms. The parish church, a school and other important places in Cow Island received a light spray. Farms in this area grow wheat, rice and sugar cane and also farm crayfish around Thanksgiving. This was done on 21 December, a time when priests traditionally bless farmlands in southern Louisiana. The 70 parishioners who got in behind the project intend to make this an annual event. The crop dusting firm gave its time and services as a donation.

The rise of South Korea's mega-churches The spread of Christianity throughout South Korean society has been one of the most encouraging facets of resurgent Asian Christianity. In the era of military dictatorship the churches were seen as one of the few non-corrupt institutions and defenders of human rights. But now the mainline denominations are being eclipsed by mega-churches that promote prosperity theology - believe in the Christian God and you will become rich and successful. In part this is a reflection of the aspirations of young South Koreans. They are not interested in the ardent desire of their parents for the reunification of the country. The pursuit of comfort, pleasure and material prosperity in a highly individualised world view are their priorities. The mainline churches have a hard but truer message to sell -community matters and the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ didn't promise us a rose garden.

Parish Contacts.

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