



Mass Times

Saturday 6 January

6 pm Laidley

Sunday 7 January

7 am Glenore Gve

9 am Gattton

Tuesday 9 January

4:30 pm Rosary

5 pm Forest Hill

Wednesday 10 January

8:30 am Rosary

9 am Gattton Mass

Friday 12 January

No Laidley Mass

Saturday 13 January

6 pm Gattton

Sunday 14 January

7 am Forest Hill

9 am Laidley

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available before 6pm
Vigil Mass and other
times by
appointment.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gattton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

Email: gattton@bne.catholic.net.au

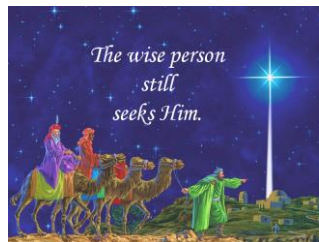
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B)

7 January 2024

Let God be revealed in our lives!

Within a few days of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, many people have taken down their decorations, Christmas merchandise is at least 50% off in the stores, and life immediately goes back to "normal". The memory of Christmas begins to fade as people look forward to ringing in the New Year.

In Catholic tradition, however, the Christmas season is not over until the Feast of the Epiphany, generally celebrated on January 6th or on the closest Sunday to the feast day. Effectively, the birthday of our Lord is not complete until the child receives his gifts.



The word Epiphany means "**manifestation**" or "**revelation.**" This Sunday the Church celebrates the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world. Jesus was first made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem. He is now revealed to the three Wise Men who have come from the East to adore Him. **These kings represent all the peoples of the earth**, and they also **represent our search for Jesus.**

The Feast of the Epiphany is an important reminder that **the journey of faith continues.** We continue to follow the light of Christ as we **progress more deeply in our relationship with God.** With the excitement and anticipation of Christmas now settled, we can take this quiet time **to praise God, to revere His Son, and to ask the Spirit to help us follow God's will** in a better way in the coming year. Let God manifest Himself in our hearts; let us be still so that we may **discover what God wishes to reveal to us** this season.

Reflection by Rach (Adult Faith Formation team)

Responsorial Psalm: Epiphany of the Lord

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 17 January **Meditation – an hour of reflection**
6:30 – 7:30pm St Mary's Church Gatton
The second session led by Fr Emmanuel.
Please register your interest with Parish office.

Coming soon... **Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark**
Fr Emmanuel will be leading this series of 8 reflections.
Details to be confirmed.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2024

The Parish Office will be closed until Friday 12th January. For non-urgent matters, please email gatton@bne.catholic.net.au or leave a phone message on 5465 3131. For **urgent matters only**, please phone 0407 132 700 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT CARINITY KARINYA PLACE LAIDLEY

In 2024, we are hoping to offer the residents of Karinya a weekly Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, and a monthly Mass and regular Anointing of the Sick. To facilitate this ministry, **we are asking for 2 to 4 people to volunteer** on a rostered basis. Training will be available. Please note you will need to complete safeguarding training and have a Blue Card and Police Check.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS IN 2024

Do you have a special wedding anniversary or milestone birthday coming up in 2024? As a parish, we like to celebrate these occasions with a special event once a year, and also acknowledge your occasion in our newsletter (with your permission). Special anniversaries are 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 years married. Milestone birthdays are 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and every year thereafter.

If you would like your special day to be recognised and celebrated, please advise Chris at the Parish Office.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY OF GOD'S WORD 2024?

Copies are still available at all the churches for only \$ 15 – a daily reflection and the readings of the day to help you journey with Jesus every day through His Word.

VOCATION VIEWS

Even gift bearing kings, accompanied by camels and servants, visited Jesus Christ. You may come and follow Him. Take the Good News back to your people: Jesus is Lord of all.



Scan the QR code to find out more, or call 1300 [133 544](tel:1300133544)

www.vocationbrisbane.com

Follow us on

@vocationbrisbane



MAY WE EXPERIENCE AN EPIPHANY

"Let the Word of God descend from your mind down into your heart," is the work of prayer according to the ancient spiritual prayer masters. That's how Scripture heals and transforms us. Lectio Divina is a method for doing this.

The four steps of Lectio Divina are to **read, reflect, respond, and rest.**

Allow yourself about 5 to 10 minutes for this weekend's Gospel.

Matthew 2: 1-12 (abridged)

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out.

And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

REFLECT, RESPOND and REST

Perhaps for a few moments to begin, let this Christmastide re-play in your mind's eye.

What do you notice?

Where did you feel closest to God?

Where did you feel most challenged?

What were the joys?

Maybe there were also moments of regret?

Eventually, turn to the text above, and read through it slowly, noticing where your attention is drawn.

Perhaps you go with the wise men to Bethlehem and witness their amazement as the star halts over a stable. Surely this wasn't what they were expecting to find? Wasn't it meant to be 'royal robes, a messiah enthroned with elegance'?

What on earth would Herod want with a child born in a place like this?

Then follow them into the stable. What do you notice now as they as they fall to their knees before Jesus, offering him their precious gifts? *Pause and ponder.* **What do we bring to lay at his feet in homage? How does this make you feel?**

As you watch the wise men begin their journey home by a different way, realise that they have been changed by their encounter. They now know that they will meet the Lord again, hidden in 'endless disguise' in people they might previously have 'ignored or criticised'. Again, *pause and ponder.*

What has touched your heart as, once again, you have witnessed Jesus's coming into this world through the eyes of those who were there? **Pray**, using your own words, **for the strength and courage to use the gifts and skills** that you have been given to help everyone you meet see that God, our Emmanuel, is truly with us.

Adapted from reflection courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK

OUR PARISH

Parish Priest:

Father Emmanuel
Ayankudy CMI
A/ Hrs: 5462 5374

Parish Manager

Christine Pingel

Parish Office:

37 John Street
South, Laidley

Days of operation
may vary – please
phone in advance.

Postal Address:

P O Box 6
Gatton Q 4343

Phone:

07 5465 3131

Email:

gatton@bne.
catholic.net.au

Facebook:

Our Lady of the
Valley Catholic
Parish

Website:

www.olv.org.au

Safeguarding:

Complaints and
Disclosures
Phone: STOPLINE
1300 304 550

SCHOOLS

OLGC Gatton
5460 2999

OLGC Kindy
5462 4810

OLGC OSHC
0487 001 722

St Mary's Laidley
5465 1240

Sophia College
5411 3400

WE PRAY FOR ...

THE SICK:

Eric Pingel, James Earley, Theresa Jones, Theresa Knight, Judy Shepherd, Jodi Thompson, Roslyn Furber, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Edilberta Parcell, Biddy Dwyer, Marilyn Didsman, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Vivian Moore, Clara Hutchinson, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade, Sienna Beutel

If parishioners would like a sick person prayed for, please ask their permission. Names will be included for ONE MONTH.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Lilian Litfin, Cecil O'Brien, Desmond Samuelsen, Vincent Ward, Ann Friend, Florence Thom, Warren Jaenke, Jessica Keep, Bridget Carmody, Gloria Pierpoint, Queenie Mehegan, Tony Bourke, Michael Falconer, Philip Pomerence, Kathleen Hauser, Kathleen Meharg, Mary Pomerence, Mary Ferrari

WORLDLY VIEWS



*"We saw his star
at its rising,
and have come
to pay him
homage."*

What personal
and spiritual gifts
can I offer
as Christ's light?

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

Christmas and the holiday season can be a difficult time for many – emotions run high, pain filled memories and suffering can be overwhelming. These phone numbers may be helpful:

Lifeline	13 11 14
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636