

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

The Epiphany of the Lord
Year A, 8 January, 2023

Embracing the communities of
Cherbourg, Goomeri, Murgon,
Proston and Wondai



Unity in Diversity ... being one in Christ through Baptism!

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Jesus Came for Everyone

The Epiphany of Jesus is the revelation of Jesus for everyone. Jesus was revealed by the Father to the world as its Saviour when the light of a star guided the wise men from the East to worship him.

These wise men were not members of the Chosen Jewish People, so the Epiphany today shows Jesus came for all people. The body language of the wise men before Jesus spoke of their attitude; they prostrated themselves before Jesus. They worshipped him, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: gold because Jesus is king, frankincense because Jesus is divine, and myrrh prefiguring his Passion.

Herod said to the wise men, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage". He was speaking to the wise men with a forked tongue; he was telling lies. The baby Jesus was surrounded in Bethlehem by those who worshipped him but in Jerusalem there was a crowd of liars. They said one thing but meant the opposite; truth was lacking.

In our own time we see this being played out in many walks of life, but it is easier to see it in the world of the media and politics.

The next step after the lies, deception, and double-speak was Herod trying to kill the baby Jesus. In the massacre of the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, Herod had all boys in Bethlehem under the age of two

killed (Matt 2:16-18). In the case of Herod, it was only one further step from his double-speak to persecution and murder.

Today in some places we hear the preaching of Catholic moral norms being described as hate crimes; Catholic moral norms that were normal until just recently are now being labeled as hate crimes by some. It has taken just a small number of years for this development, and we might wonder if we are heading back to a persecution of the Church and martyrdom like the early Church.

Jesus came for everyone; but some have rejected Jesus and his Church. Herod's problem was not Jesus but he was not truthful; and the truth is compromised in many ways today also. On the other hand, the response of the magi to Jesus is a model for our reflection:

"they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matt 2:11)

Fr John Fowles CCS

Parish Finance Meeting

is on 2 February 2023 at 3.00pm
in Parish Office

January is the month for Educators

Pope's Prayer Intention –
For educators:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Mass Times Next Week

Tuesday, 10 January

Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 11 January

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 12 January

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 13 January

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 14 January

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 15 January

Murgon, 8.00am

Gayndah, 10.30am

Goomeri (No Mass)

Today's readings

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6;
Matthew 2:1-121

Response:

Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star
in the East; and have come to adore the
Lord. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 49:3,5-6;
1Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI



by (abridged) Edward Pentin NCR

Benedict's pontificate — which began with his election in April of 2005, succeeding Pope Saint John Paul II, and ended with his almost unprecedented resignation in February of 2013.

With Joseph Ratzinger's death, the Catholic Church loses one of the greatest minds in its 2,000-year history. A leading German theologian who took part in the Second Vatican Council, he rose to worldwide prominence after his 1981 appointment as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).

The role earned him the disparaging moniker 'God's Rottweiler' from the media for his uncompromising defence of Catholic teaching in the face of open dissent within the Church and growing indifference to the faith.

Those who knew Joseph Ratzinger well, however, regarded him as a gentle and modest man of the Church who was blessed with a scholarly encyclopedic mind and defended the truths of the faith with clarity and power.

Pope Benedict was a prophet, unafraid to challenge the perils and emptiness rampant in a world that had thrown aside the Truth revealed by God. The pope emeritus was capable of deeper theological reflection than his critics.

Born on Holy Saturday, 16 April, 1927, in the Bavarian town of Marktl am Inn, Joseph Alois Ratzinger was the youngest of three children

whose father was a policeman and mother was a hotel cook. Joseph and his two older siblings, Georg and Maria, remained remarkably close throughout their lives.

He was only 6 years old when the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, and his staunchly Catholic parents were hostile to the regime. He entered the seminary at age 12, but two years later, in 1941, he was compelled to join the Hitler Youth, serving in an anti-aircraft battery and setting tank traps in Hungary before deserting with his brother in April 1945 and continuing with his priestly formation.

Ordained in 1951, he earned a doctorate in theology at the University of Munich in 1957. Several teaching posts followed, and his striking gifts as a theologian drew the attention of Cardinal Josef Frings of Cologne. At the cardinal's invitation, he served as theological expert at the Second Vatican Council and was influential in the development of the Council's dogmatic constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*.

He had been critical of the closed, conformist elements of the pre-conciliar Church and was considered one of the more progressive figures in the Council. His desire to try to reconcile perennial teachings of the Church with modernity, in a 'hermeneutic of continuity', remained throughout his life.

In 1966, he accepted Swiss theologian Hans Küng's invitation to lecture at the University of Tübingen, remaining there until 1969, when he moved to the University of Regensburg, where he later became vice president.

At Tübingen, his students remarked on his practice of celebrating Mass before he began his lecture, thus encouraging them to speak "with" God before they spoke "about" him.

His lectures at the university served as the foundation for his 1968 book,



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Safeguarding

If you have experienced abuse or misconduct, you can ring the help line, **1300 304 550**. Information can be shared anonymously.

Collections (25 December 2022 and 1 January 2023)

Loose..... \$856.30
Planned Giving..... \$729.00
Total:..... \$1,585.30

Direct Debit BSB 064-786
Account 100011987

We pray for those who are sick:

Bevan Barsby; Cira; Renee Elliott;
Justine Forde; Val Iacono; Jill Maclure;
Annette McCorry.

Introduction to Christianity, an instant classic that offered a brilliant defense of biblical Christianity grounded in the Creed and is still included in the syllabi of Catholic seminaries and university theology departments.

But as his progressive-minded peers evoked the 'spirit' of the Second Vatican Council, which had concluded in December 1965, to demand sweeping changes to Catholic doctrine and discipline, the Bavarian theologian judged that the ensuing confusion had left many of the faithful adrift. He said, that: "The kind of priest who is no more than a social worker can be replaced by the psychotherapist and other specialists". He warned in 1969, "that Christian communities would shrink in numbers, while growing in purity".

(Part Two continued next week)