

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST BARNABAS, CARLISLE-RIVERVALE  
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD  
3 JANUARY 2021

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant, that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life be led to the vision of your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH, Chapter 60, verses 1-6:**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of midian and ephah; all those from sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 72, verses 1-7, 10-14:**

Give the king your judgement, O God:

**and your righteousness to the son of a king.**

That he may he judge your people rightly:

**and the poor of the land with equity.**

Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:

**and the hills also with prosperity for his people.**

May he give justice to the poor among the people:

**and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures:

**and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.**

May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:

**and as showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall righteousness flourish:

**and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:

**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

All kings shall fall down before him:

**and all nations do him service.**

He will deliver the needy when they cry:

**and the poor that have no helper.**

He will pity the helpless and the needy:

**and save the lives of the poor.**

He will redeem them from oppression and violence:

**and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

**A READING FROM ST PAUL'S 1st LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS, Chapter 3, verses 1-12:**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable

you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew, Chapter 2, verses 1-12:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION**  
*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

One of the Greek kings the middle east before the time of Jesus called himself *Seleucius Epiphanes* meaning God manifest or revealed. He was one of the most oppressive and hated of all the kings of the Greek East. - Quite a different revelation here! The Epiphany as the Showing of the Christ to the Gentiles (i.e. us).

If we deal with the text and not the Christmas postcards, we have an undisclosed number of wisemen, who represent the Gentile world; and 3 gifts - and what symbolic gifts they are! Gold for a king; frankincense for the divinity of Jesus and myrrh suggesting preparing for burial. Like all good Christmas theology, we see the birth of Jesus in the shadow of the cross.

We pray for Christians throughout the world, that we may live out our baptismal promises in our own life situation.

Give thanks for the work and witness of all those who prepare others and their godparents or sponsors for baptism

Pray for all those who will be baptised today and on other days later this year.

Text: The Very Rev Phillip Saunders, Dean of Canberra and Goulburn © Anglican Board of Mission, 2020



Please pray for – Enid, Alem & Helen his mother, Gail & family, Jackie & family and Chris, Sonia & Adam, Dita, Bernie & June, Bp Jeremy and Lynne, Beryl & John, Evelyn, Brenda, Wicke.

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH:**

**Friday** 9:30 Craft group at church

**IN THE NEAR FUTURE:**

Rev John away 4-18 & 21-27 January

**\*\*\* PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL VALUABLES AT CHURCH**

**PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PROPER HYGIENE**

**World Day of Prayer here 5/3/21.**

- Sunday, 22 August 2021, 10:00am Commemoration Eucharist - Bishop Kate Wilmot presiding**
- Wednesday, 25 August 2021, 10:00am - 12:00pm - Barney’s Free Coffee - 50th Birthday Edition**
- Thursday, 26 August 2021, time TBA - Parish Soup Evening for Barney’s Family and Friends**
- Saturday 28 August 2021, 10:00am - 02:00pm Barney’s Community Fair**

**Food offerings** to Ascension Church are still being taken – see list on notice board.

*The St Barnabas Parish Prayer:*

*Lord, may the people of this Parish be never ceasing in prayer, so that we all may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Help us to lead lives worthy of God, fully pleasing to him while bearing fruit in every good work. May we all be made strong in the power of God who rescues us from the powers of darkness and transfers us to the Kingdom of his Son in whom we have the forgiveness of sins. Amen. (Colossians 1:9-14)*

**ST BARNABAS' CHURCH**

**239 ORRONG RD, RIVERVALE 6103**

**Rev JOHN MADDOCKS 0480197917**

**www.saintbarnabas.com.au**

**[ domestic violence is not OK ]**

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**DOES THE CHURCH CARE ABOUT THE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE  
IN ITS OWN PARISHES?**

*(From page 13 of the Messenger magazine December 2020)*

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