



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK'S DROMANA

"LIVING FOR JESUS; LOVING LIKE JESUS; LEADING TO JESUS"

5 JANUARY 2025

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

REFLECTION

The twelve days of Christmas finish with the Feast of the Epiphany which we celebrate on 6th January. Why 12 days of Christmas? They are simply the number of days between the 25th December and 6th January. The carol which goes with the days has many interpretations, most of which have very little to do with Jesus, but the origin of it seems to be to teach about what the gift of Jesus has brought to us, the 'true love' being God and the gifts being things of the faith. For example, the partridge is Jesus, the 5 rings the Pentateuch and 10 lords 10 commandments. The word epiphany means a great revelation. The Feast of the Epiphany is the revelation or revealing of the Son of God to the gentiles. It celebrates the coming of these wise men from the east who travelled to find the child that their studies revealed was born to be King of the Jews. Understanding that the unusual star they had seen might be a sign, they come looking for the child. The point of the celebration is in the fulfilling of prophecy as Isaiah 60 tells us that nations and kings will come to the light which dawns from God and they will bring gold and frankincense and will proclaim and praise the Lord. (Isaiah 60:3-6) This revealing of the Lord to those who are not Jewish is about bringing the nations to know the Lord and worship him along with the Jewish people. The wise men are the first of many gentiles to worship Jesus. They leave to go back to their homeland with the good news of Jesus' birth on their lips and pave the way for the light to go out into every nation to call all people to worship him. From the moment the Lord chose them, Israel was always a nation set apart. This was not so they could be the only ones saved, but so that they could be the means of bringing the entire world to know that God exists and loves his creation, and that the one true God wants to save all people from their sins. Through Israel God the Father set the scene for the birth, life and death of Jesus, his resurrection and the gift of Holy Spirit. We celebrate now because this news is now ours. This Saviour is for everyone, and we are the ones now charged with carrying the light of Jesus to all nations.

Janice

READINGS FOR TODAY	First Reading:	Isaiah 60:1-6
	Psalm:	72:1-7,10-14
	Second Reading:	Ephesians 3:1-12
	Gospel:	Matthew 2:1-12

THIS WEEK : 29 DECEMBER - 5 JANUARY

- TODAY:** **Holy Communion, 8.45am**
Family Holy Communion, 10.30am
The the Scripture Union team from the McCrae Beach Mission will be joining us at 10.30am and they invite us to join them for their service on the beach at McCrae today at 4pm.
- MONDAY:** **Prayer Group, St Mark's, 9.15am**
Contact: Janice
- WEDNESDAY:** **Holy Communion, 10.00am**
- FRIDAY:** **JANICE'S DAY OFF**
- SUNDAY:** **Holy Communion, 8.45am**
Family Service, 10.30am
Fellowship Meal, 6.00pm
Cheryl & Graeme

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Monitored contact points: 0493 280 691
contact@stmarksdromana.org.au

Pastoral Care Coordinators: Kevin and Anne
(0438 234 457 Kevin)

Parish Web Address: www.stmarksdromana.org.au

Facebook page: stmarksdromana

For Parishioners Only Janice's contact number: 0401 717 435

Please call Kevin if you need to contact Janice on her day off (Friday)

NOTICES

*Please remember that our kitchen doors and drawers are soft-close, so please don't force them shut.
Thank you.

The SUFM McCrae team will be joining us today for our 10.30am service and they invite us to join them for their service on the beach at McCrae at 4.00pm today.

Fellowship Meals in January

Everyone is welcome to come along to the January Sunday Family Meals at 6pm with their own meal and drink.

Meals will be hosted at the homes of:
12 January - Cheryl and Graeme
19 January - Janice

PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE CONCERT AT ST MARK'S

Bookings are now open for the Philharmonia Cologne concert at St Mark's on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm (Not 8.00pm).

Tickets are only available through: www.trybooking.com?CXATM (not through the Information Centre).

If you wish to book but have difficulty accessing the website, please see Janice.

We are yet to have someone step forward to be our second People's Warden.
If you have been considering this position, please speak to Janice.

Set up an online Direct Debit for your weekly/monthly offering
St Mark's banking details: **633-000 140772872**

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

In our country and the world:

- ❖ For everyone suffering after natural disasters.
- ❖ For all women in Afghanistan now banned from hearing each others voices.
- ❖ For all in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine and Myanmar.
- ❖ For those facing homelessness, hardship, anguish and despair amid rising costs.
- ❖ For families affected by violence.
- ❖ For those affected by natural disasters in around the world.
- ❖ For King Charles III, the UK and the Commonwealth.
- ❖ For peace and unity in countries around the World.
- ❖ For aid agencies such as "Save the Children", Oxfam, CARE, UNICEF, World Vision.

In our community:

- ❖ For teachers and students.
- ❖ For doctors, nurses, paramedics, Coast Guard, the CFA & SES.
- ❖ For local community outreach groups such as the Dromana Community House and "Food for All".

In our Diocese and beyond:

- ❖ For Archbishop Geoffrey Smith's ministry as Primate of Australia.
- ❖ For Archbishop Philip Freier's ministry in the Diocese of Melbourne.
- ❖ For the ministry of Bishop Paul Barker in the Jumbunna Region and Archdeacon Rev'd Sam Bleby, in the Frankston Archdeanery.
- ❖ In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of Holy Trinity Hastings and their Vicar, Rev'd Tim Anderson.
- ❖ For the work of the Church Missionary Society and Wei-Han the Victorian Director.
- ❖ For Anna Radkovic our CMS Link Missionary in Watamu, Kenya.
- ❖ For Christian churches around the world to be free to worship and be witnesses of the love of God shown through the coming of His Son.

In our Parish:

- ❖ For our leadership and ministry teams.
- ❖ For our Vicar Rev'd Janice O'Gorman.
- ❖ For the finances of our Parish.
- ❖ For our Parish, its people and those we reach out to every week.
- ❖ For the success of the new Family and Children's Ministry.
- ❖ For the Alpha program, the leaders and all who attend.
- ❖ For the 9am at home prayer time for the Parish, Dromana, & Mornington Peninsula.
- ❖ For all members of the Parish Council.
- ❖ For Hope25. That the Good News of Jesus will be known in Dromana.
- ❖ For Richard and Alyson McNeill at the loss of their daughter Sallie, Nikki, Jason, Bernadette & family, Annie, Noel and family, Joan R & family, Rhiannon, Richard, Pat, Lorna & Peter, Keith S, Harry, Jen, Mike, Chloe, Ted, Monica, Jessica, Audrey, Backy, Fred, Robert, Jan, David, Guy.

Please send items for Pew Sheet to Maggie Dodu by Wednesday:
margaretdodu@me.com