

## Notices

**Please note:** throughout January, there will be one combined service at 9:30 am.

The Thursday morning service will resume on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Holiday details:** Rob & Shirley will be away from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January and return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Rev's Graham and Maree Vines will be the locums on the three Sundays Rob is away.

### Expressions of thanks and gratitude

- Rob and Shirley thank the Ladies Fellowship for the Christmas card, flowers and movie voucher.
- Beth & Alan would like to thank everyone for their loving enquiries & prayers during their rather unusual Christmas & New Year time.
- **Liz Helmond** wishes to thank you all so much for your kind wishes, cards, etc. Your thoughts and prayers are really appreciated. I am home from rehab now thankfully, but it's a long road; walking with the Lord.

### Prayers of the people

Prayer requests –Please let Beth Gibbs or Liz Helmond know.

- Peta Foote recovering from pneumonia and recurring shingles.
- Alan Gibbs is recovering from the fitting of heart pace maker and has developed a few additional health issues.
- Pauline Robertson is now at home but still recovering from a very painful back.
- Liz Helmond is now at home following her hip operation and rehabilitation. Pray for a good recovery and for Robin and family.

**Please pray for the work of** Michael, Melanie & Aaron Viljoen – Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon. They are currently back in Melbourne on a holiday and deputation.

## Welcome to St Edward's

Who were the Magi and where they came from remains an elusive part of the story of Christ. The biblical account of Matthew 2:1-12 simply states they came from the east to acknowledge the birth of Jesus. They may have come from Babylon or even further east, from Persia. In both these eastern locations, Babylon and Persia, there was a large Jewish diaspora, so it is not improbable that the Magis' had a knowledge of Jewish literature including the Old Testament. Their contact with Jewish teachers may have provided them with the background to draw the conclusion that the star they saw in their homeland was associated with the fulfilment of Jewish expectations of the birth of the Messiah/King.

But how many Magi came to visit the child Jesus? We don't know. The text only records that three kinds of gifts were offered: gold, frankincense and myrrh. We assume there were only three but there may have been more. Another detail overlooked is that Jesus was not a baby when the Magi visited. The Christmas cards might show the stable scene of cattle, Magi and baby in a manger, but Jesus is described in the text as being a child, not a baby. This explains why Herod sought to have every boy child under the age of two killed in Bethlehem after he discovered he had been outwitted by the Magi and the parents of Jesus had fled to Egypt.

What we do know is these Magi saw, bowed and worshipped. They recognised Jesus was the king and divine and they saw what many miss.

## St Edward's Anglican Church

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

### Address

59 Edinburgh Road  
Blackburn Sth  
Victoria 3130  
Office: 9877 3665

### Minister

Rev Rob Culhane  
rculhane@optusnet.com.au  
Mobile: 0412 832 328

### Service times

Normally: 8 & 10 am.  
During January: 9:30 am

### Wardens

Jenny Lynch 9877 6338  
Mobile 0490 951 549  
Stephen Smith 9898 4945  
Chris Ross-Stubbs  
0438 353 340

**Website: [stedwards.org.au](http://stedwards.org.au)**

**Gathering in God's name**

**Verse of the Day**

"They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him."

(Matthew 2:11)

**Hymn:** OHP MP 465 "Meekness and majesty"

**Prayer of Preparation** (APBA, p. 119)

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord God of the nations,  
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor:  
may the brightness of your incarnate Word  
pierce the night that covers the earth,  
signal the dawn of justice and peace,  
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, you Word made flesh,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
in the splendor of eternal light,  
God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ministry of the Word**

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| New Testament | Eph 3:1-12  | (p. 1174)   |
| Psalm         | 72:1-14     | (APBA, 294) |
| Gospel        | Matt 2:1-12 | (p. 966)    |
| Sermon        |             |             |

The Nicene Creed (APBA, p. 123)

**Hymn:** OHP MP 767 "Who is he, in yonder stall"

**Notices**

**Prayers of the people** (p. 124)

Lord's Prayer

**Confession and Absolution** (pp. 125-127)

**Hymn:** OHP TIS 526 "Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us"

**Holy Communion** – Thanksgiving 1 (APBA, p. 128) +

Epiphany Preface (APBA, p. 150)

**Prayer after communion:** p. 150.

**Hymn:** OHP MP 749 "What child is this" (Tune: Greensleeves)

**Sending out of God's people**