

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

## *Bulletin Highlights*

### *The Epiphany of the Lord*

*5th January 2020*

#### *Prayer in Time of Drought*

O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be. Look upon our parched land, we pray, and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks, may

#### *Epiphany*

Three men of sovereignty and dignity, who were outside of the Jewish faith and tradition, came to pay homage and bring gifts to the baby Jesus. The message is clear that God sent his Son to all of humanity. And no one is ever excluded from the Son's love and redeeming grace.

This week, being the Feast of the Epiphany, begins to bring to conclusion the Christmas season for 2019/2020. At the 5:00 PM Vigil Christmas Mass of a few weeks ago, many children of the parish participated in re-enacting in a child-like way the story of Christmas. From across the parish, there were 30 little children who were involved. They all looked like angels and shepherds in the parish costumes and finished the pageant with Silent Night.



#### *Christmas Masses ~ Wrap Up*

In keeping with expectations, all our Masses were either overflowing or rather full. Over the course of the five Masses, around 3,500 people were estimated to have come to our parish church. At a time when religion has declined in many ways, it's so encouraging that so many people still regard the spiritual part of Christmas as so essential. Special gratitude is extended to the substantial number of people who were involved. The church was wonderfully prepared and adorned. Organisation was superb and the sacred music was again outstanding. Everything proceeded with the precision of a Swiss watch. So thankful!

## *Mass of Anointing*

Parishioners are advised that the Mass of anointing is celebrated on the first Tuesday of every month. It's a long-standing tradition in the parish that stretches back many years. Father Joseph is keen to continue the tradition.

Accordingly, parishioners who are quite unwell or seriously ill are invited to attend Mass and receive the sacrament of Anointing. Also, this sacrament is intended, additionally, for those about to have surgery.



## *Parish Community News*

Because of the public holidays between Christmas and the new year, and because of the subsequent reduced office hours, and because clergy were rather fatigued after a big build up towards Christmas, and because this weekend is usually very quiet with so many parishioners away on holidays, there was no PCN last weekend.

Upon entering the church, some parishioners were seeking out the weekly publication. With the weather so hot this time of year, and in keeping with previous years, Father Michael wondered whether parishioners might have been looking for something from which to make a fan. Just a fleeting thought! ☺



## *Position Vacant ~ Cleaner and Gardiner*

Our parish church receives considerable attention every week of the year, both inside and out. Because the church is always preserved with such care and dedication, it's easy to presume that such attention to detail happens as a matter of course.

The reality is that the church is cleaned professionally inside every week, and is cleaned professionally outside every week with the inclusion of the toilets. The gardens also receive professional care. In addition, a group of dedicated parishioners contribute voluntarily to the enhancement and upkeep of the church, internally and externally. A portion of the financial offerings from our parishioners are used to meet wage costs and other ancillary expenses.

The external work for the past three years has been looked after by Mario. His official job has been formulated in terms of two three-hour shifts per week. The first is on a Monday to clean-up after the weekend, and the second is on a Friday (or Saturday morning) to prepare for the weekend. It's especially necessary that the gardens are in good appearance for weddings. However, there has been plenty of scope for variations.

After three years of excellent service, Mario has tendered his resignation, and the search is underway for a new recruit. If interested, please see Father Michael as soon as possible. The position is obviously suited to someone who loves our parish

