



OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 8.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 8.30am - 3.30pm
Friday: 8.30am - 12.30pm

Address: 100 Mayfield Road
Carina Qld 4152

Postal: PO Box 305,
Carina Qld 4152

Phone: (07) 3398 2977

Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au

Website: www.carinacatholicparish.org.au

Facebook: Our Lady of Graces Catholic
Parish, Carina

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am & 5.30pm
10.30am (Italian)

Weekday: 6.30am & 9am
Monday - Friday
8am Saturday
& Public Holidays

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 8.30am - 9.00am
5.30pm - 6.00pm
or by appointment

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Alex Vickers O.P.
Assistant Priest: Fr Maurice Keating O.P.
Pastoral Associate: Shelly Stone
Email: sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Chris Larter
Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Finance Officer: Chris Larter
Email: fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Italian Chaplain: Fr Luis Antonio Diaz
Lamus CS
Phone: 0403 948 967

Spread the Word

Vol. 39 No. 1 The Epiphany of the Lord 7 January 2024

The community of Our Lady of Graces acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish stands.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.



In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

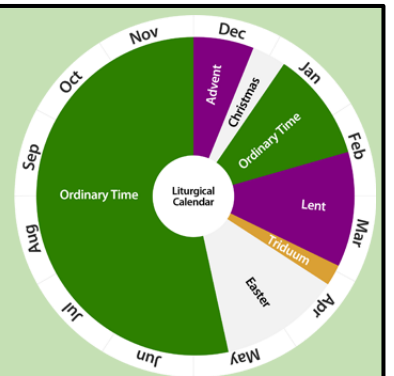
The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

Ordinary Time

This Tuesday we begin the 1st Week of Ordinary Time. For those who follow the readings in their Weekday Missals, we are in Weekday Cycle 2.

Ordinary Time is devoted to celebrating the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.

Ordinary Time will continue until the Season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on 14 February.



PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday 10 January

- 8.45am Novena: OLPH – Church
- 6.30pm Legion of Mary – Library

Friday 12 January

- 7.00pm 500 Card Group – Aquinas Room

Sunday 14 January

- 9.00am Baptisms in Mass – Church

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick
Fr Antonio Rosseberg, Thomas Antony, Olivia Campbell, Michael Dalton, Jocelyn Bonney, Ciaran Ayres, Caroline Massa, Marie Atkinson, Elliott Jones-Perrin, Pamela O'Reilly, Noah Riley those whose anniversaries occur around this time Sean Duffy, Annette Robinson, Samuel Privitera, Lyle Watson, John Ward, Robyn Mallon, Michael O'Mara, Bill Cummins, Paula Gregg and the recently deceased Et Tu, John McDermott.

Christmas Masses: Thank you to all those who helped in anyway with the Christmas Masses at Our Lady of Graces. From set-up, to assisting at any of the Masses, to pack-up, it is all much appreciated.

Weekday Masses

A reminder that Weekday Masses continue for one more week at the time of 8.00am.

The Weekday Masses will return to the times of 6.30am & 9.00am on Monday 15 January.

Transport – Sunday 9.00am Mass

We have a long-time parishioner, living in Fursden Road Carina, who is looking for transport to and from Sunday 9.00am Mass each week. If you are able to assist or for further information, please contact the Parish Office.

500 Card Group

The Parish 500 Card Group will meet at 7.00pm this Friday, 12 January, in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). All are welcome.



Are you someone aged 18-25 who is curious about life, purpose and faith? Then ALPHA Young Adult is the program for you.

Our parish has successfully completed ALPHA Youth in 2021 and 2022 and we are currently preparing for ALPHA Young Adult in January 2024.

When you're available, come join us every Thursday for free food, fellowship, discussions and question-asking. We hope to see you for our first session on **Thursday 18 January, 6.00pm-8.30pm, in the Parish Library.**

For further information, contact the Parish Office on 3398 2977 or carina@bne.catholic.net.au.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for the Epiphany and then people are invited to take some chalk home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 24

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this Abode).

Words to be Said at Home

Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. **Amen.**

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

The 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 they saw that the star has 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE THREE WISE MEN

- C** CASPAR
- M** MELCHIOR
- B** BALTHASAR

FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE AMONG US

- 20** TWO THOUSAND
- 24** AND TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO.
- +** MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY
- +** AND REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Let us pray,
God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome.

May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.