

# THE PARISH OF LONG POINT BAY



PORT ROWAN ♦ PORT RYERSE ♦ TURKEY POINT ♦ VITTORIA ♦ ST. JOHN'S WOODHOUSE

Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022



## **Opening**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

## **Sentence**

Glory to Christ who is preached among the nations, and believed on in the world. See 1 Timothy 3.16

## **Collect**

God of power and life, the glory of all who believe in you, fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **Readings**

JEREMIAH 31:7-14 OR SIRACH 24:1-12;

PSALM 147:13-21 OR CANTICLE 11 (WISDOM OF SOLOMON 10:15-21);

EPHESIANS 1:3-14;

JOHN 1:(1-9) 10-18

## Reflection for Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup> from Fr. Enrique

Today's Gospel should fill us with immense joy. A few weeks ago, we talked about how the love of God in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ brought us Joy and that spread to all who listened to the message of the Virgin Mary. Matthew shows us that the three wise men *“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.”* Matthew 2: 10 The Evangelist wants us to focus on the joy that fills us when we receive the message of the birth of our savior.

Joy goes hand in hand with the faith that these wise men from distant lands show a King Herod who was, full of selfishness. God sends these messengers not only to worship his beloved son, Jesus Christ, but to reach the people of Israel represented by their king and who is invited to worship the king of kings and Lord of Lords, but instead this king and many of his people would prefer to kill Him, to destroy every trace of God's love for humanity.

The three wise men had faith and knew how to discover in the brightness of that tiny star, which at times eluded them, the passage of God through their lives. It is that, which is necessary to have very clean inner ears to hear the voice of God. King Herod, through these wise men, also received an invitation from God to join those who would worship the Child. But the inner garbage and the selfishness and the noise of the power accumulated in his ears, did not allow him to listen. He stayed in his palace with all his earthly riches and filled his soul with hatred; which filled his soul with filth. including all those who supported him.

Jesus may be a little child, but we learn what Matthew wants to reveal to us in his gospel, God was in charge of his Son's life and of all those who would dispose of his life so that God's love reaches each and every one of his children who seek him.

The gospel tells us that the star came to stand on top of where the child was. Therefore, the wise men, seeing the star, were filled with immense joy. Today more than ever in a world full of countless problems, global warming, a pandemic that seems to never end but that ends up filling us with uncertainties, fears, sadness, distrust, and that takes us away from all that we want and from those we love be near. But at the same time, it makes us think that one day we will be together to love each other and thus that love of God in Our Lord Jesus Christ will enliven all creation again.

Let us also receive with that immense joy and much faith in our hearts this announcement of salvation that shines despite all the dark and difficult moments that humanity is experiencing. It is the same joy that the Virgin Mary brought in the Visits Elizabeth and that was transmitted to Zechariah and later to many more who shared this first announcement of the Gospel of Salvation. It is the same joy that the angels announce to the shepherds and that they themselves felt when they proclaimed *“suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”* Luke 2: 13

Let us worship with the Magi, give glory to the shepherds, dance with the angels, because today a Savior has been born: the Messiah, the Lord. The Lord is God: He illuminates us, and fills our lives with the heavenly light that the Father has sent to all humanity, so that they may live the warmth of God's love.

This is a great feast, which we celebrate today as the Church of Christ, as the body of the Savior. Epiphany is the day of gifts.

Christ received splendid gifts and shows us how to offer our gifts to God. Saint Augustine says that the Magi brought him gold as a king; incense as God; myrrh as a man.

This offering can also have another Spiritual meaning. According to Solomon, gold means heavenly wisdom: «[Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise,](#) » [Proverbs 21:20](#) According to the psalmist, incense is a symbol of pure prayer: « [Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice](#) » (Psalm 141,2). Because if our prayer is pure, it makes a perfume purer than the aroma of incense reach God; And in the same way that this aroma rises to heaven, so our prayer also reaches God. Myrrh symbolizes the mortification of our flesh. Thus, we offer gold to the Lord when we shine before him in the light of heavenly wisdom. We offer incense to him when we direct a pure prayer to him. And myrrh, for abstinence « [And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.](#) » (Galatians 5:24), and we carry the cross-following Jesus.

Today we are called to live the joy of salvation proclaimed to all of us by these wise men, by the angels, by the Virgin Mary and all those who announce the good news of God's love.

Let us never say that we do not have something very great to give him, to offer him to God. Let's never think that our life is full like Herod's and we don't need to worship our Savior; We must understand that there is greater joy in giving than in receiving and that is what God offers us today the opportunity to offer as an offering, as a pleasant sacrifice “[The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.](#)” [Psalm 51:17](#)

We are called to receive this great joy, that we were overwhelmed with joy in our hearts, but by keeping it to ourselves, we will be doing the same as King Herod. We, as living children of God, and brothers through the blood of Christ, our Savior to carry, to donate this joy to all our brothers, and all those who are far from God's love and who many times feel full of many material things. However, it is just a void empty of God's love that ends up causing a lot of harm to themselves.

May God bless you today and always. And may this new year be filled with many blessings to you and your entire family.

Happy New Year

Fr. Enrique



Prayers of the people from Colin Clarke [cmrclarke@gmail.com](mailto:cmrclarke@gmail.com)

Heavenly Father, through your mercy and grace we awake to another day, and another opportunity to grow closer to you through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the gifts of laughter in times of sorrow, hope in times of despair, and faith in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Thank you for the joyous memories of loved ones no longer with us, and the happy memories we are making with those who remain.

We ask for the Holy Spirit to bind us together in fellowship and love. Fill us with the courage to do what is just and right. Give us the strength to forgive others and forgive ourselves. And in all things, grant us the peace to abide by your will, O Lord, to Let Go and Let God.

In the name of you son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We now pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

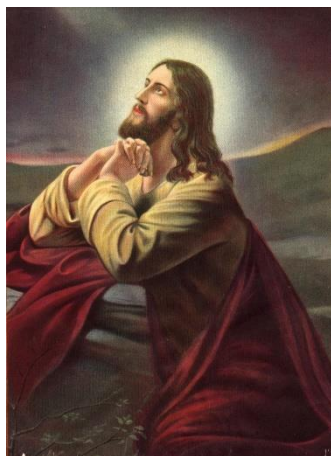
For the week beginning 2 January 2022, we will be praying for the **Rev. Rosalyn Elm** and the people of the Parish of the Six Nations.

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.  
June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale F, Rose G, Julie, Barbara S., Carol M., George F., Carol H., and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

**It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at [lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or Enrique at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com)**

**If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list**



### **Prayer of Confession**

Search us O God and know our hearts today  
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,  
see if there are any hurtful ways in us  
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

### **Words of Assurance**

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.  
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others  
Amen

### **Closing Prayer**

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

### **Doxology**

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video**

<https://youtu.be/QCYydexQUTQ>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be no in person church services during the month of January due to the rising cases of COVID-19. We will update as soon as there are any changes.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in January – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.

## Sing along to this mornings Hymns

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022 – Hymns 325 and 622

### 325 – Angel-Voices, Ever Singing

1. Angel-voices ever singing, round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps forever ringing, rest not day nor night;  
Thousands only live to bless thee, and confess thee, Lord of might!
2. Yea, we know that thou rejoicest o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices for thy praise design;  
artist's craft and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine.
3. In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer, in humility,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices, in our choicest psalmody.
4. Honour, glory, might, and merit, thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity!  
Of the best that thou hast given, earth and heaven render thee.

### 622 – How Bright Appears the morning Star

1. How bright appears the morning star  
with mercy beaming from afar;  
the host of heaven rejoices.  
O righteous Branch of Jesse's rod,  
true Light of Light and God of God,  
we, too, will lift our voices.  
Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy, yet most lowly,  
ever near us, great Emmanuel, swift to hear us.
2. Though circled by the hosts on high,  
You looked on us with pitying eye  
and saved your sinful creature;  
the whole creation's  
head and Lord, by highest seraphim adored,  
you took our very nature.  
Amen, amen, alleluia, alleluia,  
praise be given evermore by earth and heaven.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.**

**Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com) or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays**

**Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at [lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or by phone @ 519-586-7034**

**Please visit our website [parishoflongpointbay.com](http://parishoflongpointbay.com) and Facebook page**