

# Beneath the Whitewash

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There is a story told in Holland about an old church. For many years, upon entering it, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a whitewashed wall. Nobody knew exactly why anybody did that, but everyone had been doing it for such a long time that nobody questioned it. It was tradition. It felt right.

One day, the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint and whitewash off the old walls. They discovered traces of a painting on the wall that everyone bowed to. They gently peeled off the whitewash so as not to damage what was beneath it. Slowly, a very beautiful, centuries-old painting of Christ emerged. Nobody alive was old enough to have actually seen it before. It had been hidden for at least a century. Yet everyone had been bowing to it, not knowing why, but sensing that there was a good reason for the reverence.



There is a Christmas lesson in that. Western culture still bows toward the crib of Bethlehem. Like the people in that church in Holland, many are unclear why we are doing what we are doing. There is not much conscious faith left in secular Christmas celebrations, just a habitual response to a tradition.

But—as the story of the recovered painting can teach us—that’s not all bad. It’s better than not bowing to the wall at all. At least we still have the sense that there is something special beneath the whitewash. If we are among the ones who know that there is a painting of Christ behind the whitewash, our response should not be one of cynicism. Our task is not to stop the bowing or the celebration. Our task is to help peel off the whitewash, to help restore the painting beneath it, and to tell the story of who did the painting and why.

The best way to help our culture to celebrate Christmas properly is not by criticizing how it celebrates, but by celebrating in a better way. Let our joy exceed that of the commercial world! Let our bow be deeper and more aware of the marvelous gift that’s behind the whitewash: the gift of the Incarnation of our God! ✚

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, available at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org). *Daybreaks* authors include Fr. Daniel Horan, Sr. Dianne Bergant, and John Shea.

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Commit Fully” by Patricia Livingston

When my granddaughter was four, she wasn’t completely over the flu when her preschool Christmas pageant came around. Though no longer contagious, she was still pretty weak. “I have to go,” she said. “They need me. I’m the star.” I assumed she meant she had the lead role. But later, I discovered she was literally the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. Sick or well, we each have a part to play in the pageant of life. All parts make a difference. We have to go. The world needs us. We shine to light the path to God. ✚

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Lord Jesus, so that all believers may dwell in the light, walk in the light, and be witnesses to the light, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 8–13

**Monday**, Baptism of the Lord:  
Is 55:1–11 or 1 Jn 5:1–9 / Mk 1:7–11  
**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 1:9–20 / Mk 1:21–28  
**Wednesday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20 / Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 4:1–11 / Mk 1:40–45  
**Friday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a / Mk 2:1–12  
**Saturday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home  
the Word ✚  
January 7, 2024

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# Bringing Home the Word ✚

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)  
January 7, 2024

## Do You See What I See?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Today’s Gospel answers this question quite definitively: No! Not everyone saw the guiding star in the sky. Not even those who, presumably, knew the prophecy found in the reading from Isaiah. That ancient prophet announced to the people of Jerusalem: “Your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1). In fact, he promised them they would be so embraced by that light, they themselves would shine brightly with its radiance. But when the time came, not everyone saw it. Or, having seen it, they did not recognize it.

The people of Jesus’ time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They

knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not excited about the star? A new king meant a rival king, and those who had power weren’t eager to relinquish it.

We know that not everyone in Israel rejected Jesus. Shepherds had already thrilled at this birth. Someone in Bethlehem had opened his stable to this Child and his parents. Now we add the stargazers from another country. It seems the invitation to come to him is extended to all: political and religious leaders, the unsophisticated and marginalized, the established homeowner, the foreigners in our midst. They are all asked: “Did you see what I saw? What do you think of him?” ✚

## A Word from Pope Francis

The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God. They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor. Their prostration is the sign of those who place their own ideas aside and make room for God. It takes humility to do this.

ANGELUS, JANUARY 6, 2022



## Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2:1–12

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The invitation to come to him is extended to all:  
political and religious leaders,  
the unsophisticated,  
everyone in our midst.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How open are you to new thinking?
- God’s invitation is offered to all. Have you marginalized any group of people?



## Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's  
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 Jan. 7, 2024 website: [stvincentconnell.org](http://stvincentconnell.org)

Fr. Lutakome Deo Nsubuga

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

### Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Jan. 7, 2024

Lector: Danny Holt

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Stacy F. & Eloisa M.

#### Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Mike & Jeannie Reimers

#### Altar Servers:

Isabella & Nadia Holt

### 2nd Sunday of ordinary Time

Mass Jan. 14, 2024

Lector: Stacy Kniveton

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Maria G. & Greg H.

#### Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Greg & Julie Hart

#### Alter Servers:

Giselle & Aubriel Shawver

### Pope's Prayer Intentions:

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH;

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of  
different charisms within the Christian community and to discover  
the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic  
Church.

### Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia

10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)

12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

2:00 pm @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - [secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com](mailto:secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com)

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917; 12 pm – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like  
on the all-parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact  
Maria Goade @ 539-5354 [wmgoade73@gmail.com](mailto:wmgoade73@gmail.com)

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández [secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com](mailto:secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com) by  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday  
bulletin. Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please  
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ [jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com](mailto:jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com)

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also  
see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on  
Facebook, please email Onna Pollock at [olpollock@yahoo.com](mailto:olpollock@yahoo.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Altar Flowers

Jan. – Guadalupanas

Feb. – Altar Society

#### NO CONFESSIONS

This Wednesday Jan. 10th

@ St. Vincent Parish

And this Friday Jan. 12th

@ San Juan Diego

### Confession Schedule

@ St. Pat's –Pasco

Wednesdays

5 pm – 8 pm

@ Sacred Heart- Othello

Wed. @ 5 pm

### Connell Food Bank

#### Banco de Comida

#### Seniors: Tuesdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Edad- Tues. / Martes

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wed. / Miércoles

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

### Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Nov. 5, 2023

10:30 am - \$908.75

12:00 pm – \$695.00

Basin City – \$1065.06

Nov. 12, 2023

10:30 am - \$1412.25

12:00 pm – \$552.54

Basin City – \$1128.00

Nov. 19, 2023

10:30 am - \$864.00

12:00 pm – \$737.25

Basin City – \$1099.30

Nov. 26, 2023

10:30 am - \$1734.00

12:00 pm – \$641.00

Basin City – \$1043.37

### High School Rel. Ed

Meets this Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>.  
See everyone on this Wednesday!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Meets this Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>  
See everyone tomorrow Monday!

### Women's' Small Group

Meets this Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>  
@ 9:30 am

@ Jeannie Reimer's home.

### NEW OFFICERS FOR

#### GUADALUPANAS

President: Beatriz Villagomez

Vice-President: Fidelina Villalobos

Secretary: Maria Lopez

Treasurer: Alicia Amezola

### FR. LUTA'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS:

Jan. 7, 2024 – Jan. 14, 2024

Mon. Jan. 8:

Fr. Luta is on Vacation

There are no daily activities.

Tues Jan. 9:

Wed. Jan. 10:

Thurs. Jan. 11:

Fri. Jan. 12:

Sat. Jan. 13:

5:00 pm class Adult Sacrament Prep  
@ Basin City

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. Jan. 14: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

2:00 pm Mass @ Basin City