

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH / B

31 DECEMBER 2023

SEE THIS CHILD! Many parents have looked at their newborn child and wondered: what will this child turn out to be? Parenting is always a journey in faith in which there will be occasions of joy, and also times of pain, as Abraham and Sarah, and Mary and Joseph, discovered. On this feast of the Holy Family, let us pray for all families.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lk 2:16

**The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.**

### GREETING

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

**R. Amen.**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

### GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

### COLLECT

P. O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the

bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

*Your own son shall be your heir.*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless ...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### RESP PSALM

Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

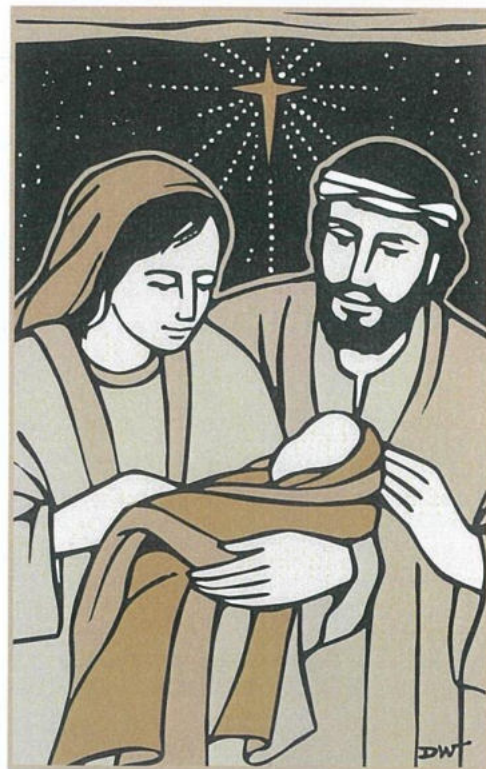
**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, / make known his deeds among the peoples. / O sing to him, sing his praise; / tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

2. Be proud of his holy name, / let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. / Consider the Lord and his strength; / constantly seek his face. **R.**

3. Remember the wonders he has done, / his miracles, the judgements he spoke. / O children of Abraham, his servant, / O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever, / his promise for a thousand generations, / the covenant he made with Abraham, / the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**



### SECOND READING

Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 1: 1-2

**Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!**





# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon, Tues & Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

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Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil



**'The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom' ... Luke 2**

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Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-3pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

Acting REC: Cindy Ronzini

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

## Vision:

**Welcoming  
Eucharistic  
Transformed by the Word  
Full of Grace  
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please  
continue  
to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church  
Poor Boxes.*

## Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit  
Inspired by St Martha  
We Celebrate & Witness  
God's love  
Using our Gifts & Talents**



## MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month:**

8.30am Adoration followed by Mass

## RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

## SYDNEY MALAYALEE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.



## BAPTISM:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am  
(One months' notice is required).

Baptism Preparation by appointment only.  
Contact the Parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment only.  
(6 months' notice is required).

## ROSARY:

Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am

7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian Movement of Priests  
Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.



## PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Resumes February 2024



**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50 are available  
at the Church Entrance.**



**GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY  
CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO  
RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE  
CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE  
SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.**

## SAFE GUARDING

A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side entrance contains various resources for children regarding Safeguarding.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org)

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

### Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese of Sydney is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children and Adults at Risk, and it acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility for Children and Adults.



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.**

**ALTAR SERVERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.**

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, SAFE AND PEACE-FILLED  
NEW YEAR. May the Blessings of God be showered over you and  
your family in 2024.**



**Father Liem will be away from the Parish until the end of January. We wish him & his family safe travels to Vietnam.**



### **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honouring them, we also honour all families, big or small. And in honouring all families, we honour the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more. The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of

wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfil all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way. This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family. Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.

*Reflection by Carol J. Dempsey*

As 2023 draws to a close, we recall major events that have happened this year in our church and world. In Rome, Catholic clergy and laypeople gathered at the Vatican Oct. 4-29 for a synod to discuss synodality, with an emphasis on communion, participation and mission. As Carolyn Weir Herman wrote for America, the synod working document underscores the problem of sexism in the church and highlights the need for women to have meaningful roles in ecclesial life. In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, heads of state, ministers and negotiators, along with climate activists, mayors, civil society representatives and CEOs met from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 for the United Nations climate change conference, known as COP28, the largest annual gathering on climate action. The summit began as new reports showed that the planet is set to breach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming sooner than expected. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Russia, Ukraine, Africa and many other parts of the world conflicts and wars rage on. Against this backdrop, the post-Christmas liturgical season invites us to celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The readings for this Sunday's feast day are as varied as this year's events, and yet, when read in the context of our present world, we see how they provide us with insight and challenges. Two of the readings today are about family. The first reading from Genesis sets the stage for the flourishing of the Israelite community. The story's main characters, Abraham and Sarah, are about to start a family, the fulfilment of a promise made to them by the Divine One. Interestingly, the storyline features prominently the two male characters: the deity and Abraham. The male deity singles out another male out for a divine vision; he converses with him, makes him a promise, grants him a son whom the woman bears and whom Abraham names. Even though the woman, Sarah, has a major role in the development of the Israelite ancestral line, she remains in the shadows as the deity "takes note" of her and allows her to become pregnant so that the divine promise can be fulfilled. Never once do we hear the woman's voice. Embedded in many biblical stories is a culture that was patriarchal, patrilineal and male dominated. This culture embedded in most biblical texts continues to be reinscribed into today's cultures, especially when a story like this one from Genesis is proclaimed during liturgical celebrations. Without a critical hearing of the text that beckons the preacher to preach on it in new ways that call out the story's embedded cultural sexism, stories like this one will continue to shape our theological imagination and our experience of church. Sarah, like many women today in our church and world, needs to be recognized and esteemed for the significant role she had — and the new roles today's women need to assume. Unfortunately, Sarah's role as a child bearer was a traditional role in biblical times, but this was millennia before synodality. The time has come for the church to move forward with its teachings about Scripture and its preaching on texts like this one. The second story about family is heard in today's Gospel reading from Luke. In this story, Mary and Joseph are careful to follow the law of Moses. They fulfill the demands of the ancient purity laws and then fulfill further prescriptions of the law that required them to present their new child to God. For this family, the Jewish laws were important and they kept them as was the custom of the day and not because of legalism. From a Christian perspective, as the Gospel stories develop, we see a shift from the Mosaic Law to the new covenant grounded in an emphasis on love and right relationship, which was also at the heart of the Law of Moses. The theme of covenant is central to the responsorial psalm where the refrain reminds us again and again that the Divine One remembers forever the covenant made with the people. In biblical times, to be remembered by the Holy One was to be favoured and blessed. All creation shares in the divine covenant and remains graced. The question is this: Have we who are believers forgotten the Holy One and in doing so, have we forgotten who we truly are? If we are remembering as we are remembered, then our engagement with the world takes on a very different tone than what is often experienced today. Finally, the reading from Colossians beckons us, as holy and beloved people, to live differently in our world — to embrace compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and above all, love. Thus, the readings for the feast of the Holy Family invites the world's people to turn the page of history, to embrace a new vision for 2024.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY	TUESDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> JANUARY	THURSDAY 4 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	FRIDAY 5 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY
PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSED	9AM - 3PM Larissa	CLOSED	9AM - 5PM Nicolle	CLOSED
MONDAY 8 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	TUESDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 10 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	THURSDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	FRIDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY
9AM - 5PM Nicolle	9AM - 5PM Nicolle	CLOSED	9AM - 5PM Nicolle	9AM - 3PM Larissa



## **In World Peace Day message, Pope warns of risks of Artificial Intelligence for peace** **By Lisa Zengarini**

In his message for the 57th World Day of Peace, Pope Francis reflects on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on world peace, and urges the international community to adopt a binding international treaty that regulates its development and use. New technologies must always be directed to “the pursuit of peace and the common good, in the service of the integral development of individuals and communities.” In his annual Message for the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis urges world leaders to ensure that progress in developing forms of artificial intelligence “will ultimately serve the cause of human fraternity and peace.” The message, dedicated to the theme ‘Artificial Intelligence and Peace,’ was released by the Vatican on Thursday ahead of the 57th World Day of Peace, 1 January 2024.

### **Inherent ambivalence of techno-scientific advances**

In it, Pope Francis draws attention to the “ethical dimension” of these new technologies which are revolutionizing humanity in all spheres of life, highlighting the ambivalence inherent in any progress in science and technology. On the one hand, he says, it can lead to the betterment of humanity and the transformation of the world if it “contributes to greater order in human society and greater fraternal communion and freedom”. On the other hand, techno-scientific advances, especially in the digital sphere, “are placing in human hands a vast array of options, including some that may pose a risk to our survival and endanger our common home.”

### **No technological innovation is “neutral”**

The message recalls that no scientific research and technological innovation is “neutral”: “As fully human activities, the directions they take reflect choices conditioned by personal, social, and cultural values in any given age. The same must be said of the results they produce: precisely as the fruit of specifically human ways of approaching the world around us, the latter always have an ethical dimension, closely linked to decisions made by those who design their experimentation and direct their production towards particular objectives.” This also applies to AI, for “the impact of any artificial intelligence device – regardless of its underlying technology – depends not only on its technical design, but also on the aims and interests of its owners and developers, and on the situations in which it will be employed.” Therefore, we “cannot presume a priori that its development will make a beneficial contribution to the future of humanity and to peace among peoples. That positive outcome will only be achieved if we show ourselves capable of acting responsibly and respect such fundamental human values as ‘inclusion, transparency, security, equity, privacy and reliability’”, Pope Francis writes.

### **Ethical issues**

Hence the need, “to establish bodies charged with examining the ethical issues arising in this field and protecting the rights of those who employ forms of artificial intelligence or are affected by them.” “We have a duty to broaden our gaze and to direct techno-scientific research towards the pursuit of peace and the common good, in the service of the integral development of individuals and communities.”

“Technological developments that do not lead to an improvement in the quality of life of all humanity, but on the contrary aggravate inequalities and conflicts, can never count as true progress,” the Pope says. The message goes on to highlight the many challenges posed by AI which are “anthropological, educational, social and political.”

### **Risks for democratic societies**

The ability of certain devices to produce coherent texts, for example, “is no guarantee of their reliability.” This, the Pope says, “poses a serious problem when artificial intelligence is deployed in campaigns of disinformation that spread false news and lead to a growing distrust of the communications media.” The misuse of these technologies can also have other negative consequences “such as discrimination, interference in elections, the rise of a surveillance society, digital exclusion and the exacerbation of an individualism increasingly disconnected from society”, all of which are threats to world peace. Pope Francis then warns of the risks to democratic societies and peaceful coexistence of the dominant technocratic paradigm behind AI and the cult of unlimited human power: “By proposing to overcome every limit through technology, in an obsessive desire to control everything, we risk losing control over ourselves.”

### **Algorithms must not determine how we understand human rights**

He insists on the “burning” ethical issues posed by AI, including discrimination, manipulation, or social control: “Reliance on automatic processes that categorize individuals, for instance, by the pervasive use of surveillance or the adoption of social credit systems, could likewise have profound repercussions on the social fabric by establishing a ranking among citizens.” “Algorithms must not be allowed to determine how we understand human rights, to set aside the essential human values of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness”, the Pope stresses, also highlighting the impact of new technologies on the workplace.

### **Weaponization of artificial intelligence**

Pope Francis expresses particular concern for the “weaponization of artificial intelligence,” citing in particular Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), drawing attention to the risk of sophisticated weapons ending up in the hands of terrorists. “The most advanced technological applications should not be employed to facilitate the violent resolution of conflicts, but rather to pave the way for peace.” On the positive side, Pope Francis notes that artificial intelligence can be used to promote integral human development, by introducing “important innovations in agriculture, education, and culture, an improved level of life for entire nations and peoples, and the growth of human fraternity and social friendship.”

### **Challenges for education**

The message goes on to highlight the challenges posed by AI to the education of the new generations who are growing up “in cultural environments pervaded by technology.” In this regard, the Pope points to the urgent need to educate young people in the use of artificial intelligence. This education, he says, “should aim above all at promoting critical thinking.”

### **Need for an international treaty to regulate AI**

Pope Francis therefore urges the global community of nations to work together to adopt a binding international treaty that regulates the development and use of artificial intelligence in its many forms: “The global scale of artificial intelligence makes it clear that, alongside the responsibility of sovereign states to regulate its use internally, international organizations can play a decisive role in reaching multilateral agreements and coordinating their application and enforcement.” “It is my prayer at the start of the New Year” the message concludes, “that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today’s world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family.”





### Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative. Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth. According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering. Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor. Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, Nunc Dimitis, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.



**Family Connection:** Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad. Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together or you can use the prayer below.

"Heavenly Father, we come before you as a family, seeking your divine guidance. Help us to love and support one another, and may our family be a source of unity and strength. We ask for your blessings and grace to be upon us always."

**The New January to July Roster is now available from the side entrance of the Church and on the parish website.**

## 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> January

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Elias Family
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Elias Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Greg Glass	Emmanuel Nathan	Elias Family
	Marianna Soo	Maria Yu	Michael Quinlan	Elias Family
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Aiden L.	Liam D.	Emilio A.	Elias Family
	Beatrix A.	Shannon D.	Aidan M.	Elias Family
	Collin A.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil / Linda	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

## MASS OFFERINGS

### Recently Deceased: Repose of The Soul:



### Anniversaries:

### Sick Intentions:

### Special Intentions:

George Bugeja, James Coughlan, Tony Grace, Les Maley, Tony Grace, Sam Galluzzo, Bill O'Riordan.  
Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William & Dorothy Starr, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Henry & Lorriane Laus, Roberta & Les Young, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Rex Fernandes. Cecilia Bailey.  
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Damien Gleeson, Dareth Flavell, Rudy Raeburn, Carmine Tiberio, Theo McLean, Joseph Akkary, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Kevin O'Connor.  
Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. The Bowden Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, Sofie & Jerome Druart.



## GOSPEL

Lk 2: 22, 39-40

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Longer form Lk 2: 22-40*

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

### PREFACE I, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

### LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### FAMILY TREASURE

What a treasured gift is a child, especially one longed for. In the story of Abram and Sarah we see how bereft they are to have no heir, no child, yet God gifts them Isaac. The Gospel tells us of another couple, Mary and Joseph, who also have a child gifted by God, Jesus. They "stood and wondered about the things that were said about him [Jesus]." While both of these sets of parents and their sons had a much larger role than many, let us not lose sight of the sacredness of family: the ability to bring a life into the world and to nurture that life to fullness.

The invitation on this feast of the Holy Family is to reflect on family – our own family, those around us and in our world. Families come in all shapes and sizes. The Holy Family is centred on Jesus and our families, centred on Christ, grow in holiness and love, face challenges together and are held in God's care. Parents and carers can identify with Mary and Joseph wondering and worrying about their son. A child raised in a loving environment has the opportunity to thrive and to grow into their full potential. The treasure of a family is not limited to the nuclear family but to the extended relationships through all of its members, centred on Christ, forming a community where all can thrive in faith and love whatever might come.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

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