

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Cycle B

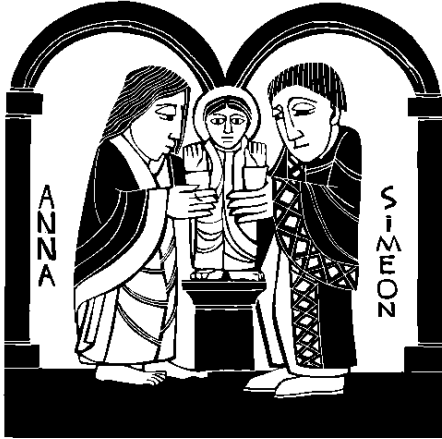
Sunday 31 December 2023



*Readings for this week:*  
Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3  
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Luke 2:22-40



*Readings for next Sunday:*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Celebrated within the Christmas cycle, this feast commemorates the saving truth that Christ grew up nourished by human love and subject to human authority, yet was destined, in the Spirit, to be oriented to God the Father's will and word in a way that relativised all fleshly ties (cf. Mark 3:34–35).

The Feast was introduced as an optional memorial in 1894 on the third Sunday after Epiphany then moved to 19 January and again to the first Sunday after the Epiphany and finally as a universal feast to the Sunday after Christmas or the 30 January, Pope St John XXIII, in particular, desired to foster family groups and associations to protect and promote family life and values.

#### The Collect at Mass:

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.

### Looking at the Readings

While the Gospel for this feast tell us about the family life and events of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the accompanying readings follow themes not connected to the Holy Family but rather connected to the purpose of the Feast Day (see the column on the left). The Gospels relate three separate difficulties the Holy Family experienced together: their escape into Egypt and return (A: Matt 2:13, 19-23); the prophecies of Simeon and Anna concerning suffering and sorrow at the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (B: Luke 2:22-40 [today]) and account of losing and finding 12 year old Jesus in the Temple (C: Luke 2:41-52).

The first reading from the book of Genesis gives a very abbreviated account of the promise to Abraham that he will be a father and a beginning of a new line of descendants. Then we skip six chapters to hear the fulfilment of God's promise with Sarah giving birth to Isaac. Our response is: "The Lord remembers his covenant forever." A praise of God's faithfulness to his people for 1000's of generations. The second reading is a praise of the faith of Abraham and Sarah. The faith of parents: Mary and Joseph, Abraham and Sarah is the faith we find from God to be parents in a tough world, in difficult times and in uncertain futures our our sons and daughters, and their children.

### Pope Francis of the Family

To protect harmony in the family, the dictatorship of the "I" has to be fought - when the "I" inflates. It is dangerous when, rather than listening to one another, we blame one another for mistakes; when, rather than showing care for each other, we become fixated on our own needs. It is sad to see a family at dinner, with everyone on their mobile phone. In the evening, when everything is over, always make peace. Never go to bed without making peace.


### Prayer for the Day

O God, you cradle us at the beginning of life and embrace us at our journey's end, for you love us as your own. Bind our families together and deepen our faith, that, like the Holy Family of Nazareth, we may grow in wisdom, obedient to your word. Amen.

### On the Lighter Side

Mary and Joseph, Abraham and Sarah easily chose names for their sons. But I heard one family put more effort into determining their username and password for their Wi-Fi than naming their first child. But it should be easy naming your kids: you don't have to add extra digits and special characters for that greater security.



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Gillian Taylor, Marg Normington

## Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 1 January

### Weekday Mass

Mon 1 January	No Mass
Tue 2 January	No Mass
Wed 3 January	9:15 am Mass
Thur 4 January	No Mass
Fri 5 January	9:15 Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 6 January	6:00 pm Mass
Sun 7 January	10:30 am Mass

### Weekday Mass

Mon 8 January	No Mass
Tue 9 January	No Mass
Wed 10 January	9:15 am Mass
Thur 11 January	No Mass
Fri 12 January	9:15 am Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 13 January	No Mass
Sun 14 January	10:30 am Mass

### Reconciliation

Sat 6 January	11:30 am
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## Christmas Plate Collection and Envelops

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of our Parish. May God bless you always.

**Collection for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent was \$534.25**  
**Collection for Christmas Eve/Day was \$857.00**

## Rosters

### Saturday 6 January – 6:00 PM

Commentator: – Carol Coulston  
Reader: – Peter Crombie  
Gospel Procession: - Shelia Gregg  
Gifts: – M Vraca & C Alexander  
Special Minister: – Not Required

### Sunday 7 January – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Mary Gale  
Reader: – Dean Filgate  
Gospel Procession: - Steve De Lai  
Gifts: – A Basile & M Sgammotta  
Special Minister: – Ross Kelly

### Sunday 14 January – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Rob Miller  
Reader: – Denice Bourke  
Gospel Procession: - Domelina Phelan  
Gifts: – De Lai Family  
Special Minister: – Debbie Turvey

## Beyond Biology: Embracing the Church as Family

<https://young-catholics.com/3090/the-feast-of-the-holy-family-year-b/>

The Feast of the Holy Family Year B invites us to a deeper contemplation of family, urging us to look beyond our biological connections. The Gospel of Luke (2:22-40) presents the Holy Family not merely as a model of domestic virtue, but as an icon of the larger spiritual family God calls us to be part of. This narrative, where Jesus is presented in the Temple, symbolizes the integration of the individual family into the broader religious community.

The Temple, as a place of gathering, teaching, and worship, prefigures the Church. In this light, the Church emerges not just as a place of worship, but as a familial space where we, like Jesus, are presented and nurtured in faith. The interaction with Simeon and Anna demonstrates this connectedness. This redefinition of family challenges us to see our relationship with the Church in a new, familial light.

As we celebrate this feast, it becomes imperative to nurture both our biological families and our spiritual family – the Church. Just as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived their lives centered around the Temple, signifying their commitment to the wider community of believers, we too are called to invest in our church community.

The Church is a place where spiritual bonds are not just formed but deeply nurtured, where we learn to live out the virtues of faith, hope, and love in community with others. By strengthening these bonds, we mirror the Holy Family's commitment to God's plan and become active participants in the manifestation of His love and mercy in the world. In this way, our celebration of the Holy Family extends beyond admiration of a holy household to active participation in the expansive, spiritual family of the Church.

*Happy New Year God's blessings for 2024*