

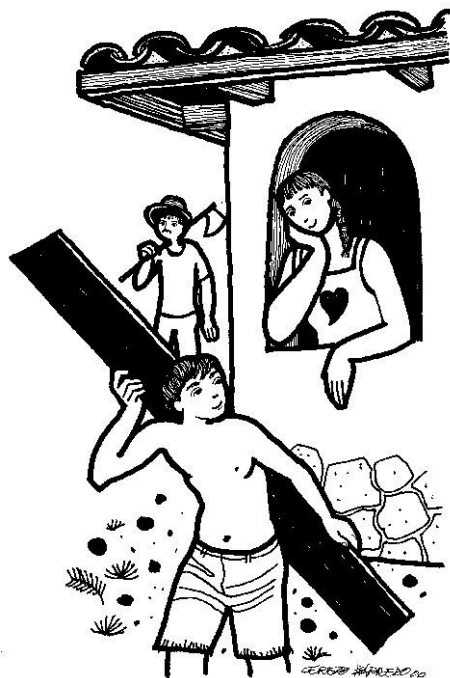
Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday 26 December 2021

1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
1John 3:1-2,21-24 or Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52



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



Liturgical Jottings

Holy Family Hymns

Search through indices of hymnals very little is found listed for this feast. Catholic Worship Book (CWB) has four psalm tones (pp 86-88), Gather Australia has "Once in Royal David's City" which is in CWB II but unlisted. Our Australian composers have several for families; perhaps the best known is "We Are Family" by Michael Herry FMS.

Prayer for the Day

O loving God,
we come to you in thanksgiving,
united by your eternal Word.
Teach us to ponder the mystery
of Nazareth,
that we may always find in you
the source of our strength
and the unity of our families.
Amen,

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Looking at the Readings

We sometimes misinterpret the title "The Holy Family" as the perfect family for each family to imitate. We cannot imitate the culture and times, the structures and personalities of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. On the other hand we recognise the relationships between parents and child and between them and their God. The trust and faith of Joseph and the prayer and quality of reflection of Mary among other human values give us inspiration and hope.

The Gospels for the three years of this feast between Christmas and Epiphany are narratives of hardship and wonder. In Year A, The holy family had to flee from their homeland to escape a violent and power hungry king (Matt 2:19-21). In Year B, Simeon prophesied that their son will be opposed and to Mary that a sword will pierce her soul (Luke 2:34-35). In Year C (today's Gospel) the last account of Jesus' childhood and Joseph's appearance we read that the twelve year is separated from his family. Mary and Joseph frantically search for him in Jerusalem.

I find most people have childhood memories of being lost or separated and parents have accounts of anxiety, fear and desperation searching for lost, wandering and missing children. Yes we can relate to the Holy Family in our difficulties and ponderings about children.

The Readings from the first book of Samuel and the first letter of John recalls motherhood and childhood of desire, love, thanksgiving and faith.

Quote for the Day

We can be sure the Holy Family had their moments of conflict and crisis as all families do. But we can also be sure that their love and faith helped them to survive such conflicts and grow stronger because of them. The church holds the Holy Family up as a model of respect, compassion, love, and faith in family life. How does your family express love and respect for one another? What crises and conflicts have you and your family survived? What can you do to bring the qualities of the Holy Family more fully into your family's life? *Catholic Youth Bible Notes*

On a Lighter Note

The fifth decade of the joyful mysteries of the rosary is "Finding the Lord Jesus in the Temple" The search is over; anxiety is replaced by joy. I noticed the original Microsoft Windows search program was called "Find" soon to be replaced by "Search". The first implies a positive result; the second gives no promises. The top ten search engines also give no guarantees. MAC OS equivalent program is called Finder.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Bartolo Lo Piccolo (4 Months)
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Mary Catherine Dixon, Mary & Jack Dixon
	Our sick and their carers	Phillis Newman

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 27 December

Weekday Mass

Mon 27th Dec No Mass
Tue 28th Dec No Mass
Wed 29th Dec No Mass
Thur 30th Dec No Mass
Fri 31st Dec No Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 1st Jan No Mass
Sun 2nd Jan 10:00 am Mass (Cuppa after Mass)

Weekday Mass

Mon 3rd Jan No Mass
Tue 4th Jan No Mass
Wed 5th Jan 9:15 am Mass
Thur 6th Jan No Mass
Fri 7th Jan 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 1st Jan No Mass
Sun 2nd Jan 10:00 am Mass (Cuppa after Mass)

Reconciliation (1st Saturday of the Month)
No Reconciliation in January

Enrolment to the Guild of St Stephen

On Sunday 2nd January, Bishop Shane will be here to celebrate Mass and Enrol Ryerson De Lai into the Guild of St Stephen.

The Guild of St Stephen is an international organisation of altar servers founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London.

After Mass, we will be having a cuppa in St Mary's Hall – so please bring a plate to share.

"We can learn from St Ignatius about seeing God in this pandemic"

FR QUYEN VU SJ

This week on the Journey (Ep 438)

On the Journey this week: Bishop Brian Mascord's Christmas reflection and his story of the old Rabbi's observation, "the Messiah is among you". Mother Hilda's story on children providing a safe environment for one of their own, and more of the Spirit of Christmas and year in review from Fr Mike Delaney, Michelle Vass, Deacon Josh Clayton, and Fr Quyen Vu SJ. Plus, more great music for Christmas!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](https://www.itunes.com/artist/jcr-1000000000) where you can listen anytime

Parish Pastoral Associate – Wangaratta and King Valley

An exceptional opportunity exists to be an integral member of the parish pastoral team for the parishes of Wangaratta and King Valley. For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website or click

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant/pastoral-associate-wangaratta-parish>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00 p.m. 24th January 2022.

