



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit

www.moyneatholic.org.au



Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th December, 2020



The twelve days of Christmas, which begin on 25th December (the Nativity of the Lord) and conclude on 5th January (Vigil of the Epiphany), dates back to the 6th century. Mediaeval devotion extended the season to forty days of Christmas, which concludes on 2nd February (the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas).

The feast of the Holy Family is much more recent. In 1921 Pope Benedict XV instituted the feast on the Sunday after Epiphany. In 1969 Pope Paul VI moved the feast to the Sunday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

FIRST READING Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his

old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

RESPONSORIAL Ps 88(89):2-5,27,29

*R/. He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.*

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/.)

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/.)

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/.)

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 Colossians 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a

quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb1:1-2

V/. Alleluia! *R/.* Alleluia!

V/. At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

R/. Alleluia

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

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, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's

comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

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 FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We pray for **Norm Brooks, Noreen Dalton, Maureen Healey, Tess King, and Joyce Lane**, all of whom died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they, and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.





Reflection on today's Mass

by Fr Francis Fernandez

THE MISSION OF PARENTS

“In the family, The parents by word and example are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children.” (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, §11.) In the case of the Holy Family this was achieved in a most singular manner. Jesus learned the meaning of the things around him from his parents.

The Holy Family would have devoutly recited the traditional prayers which were said in every Jewish home. In that house, however, everything that referred particularly to God had a new meaning and content. How keenly and fervently, and with what a spirit of recollection, would Jesus have repeated the verses of Sacred Scripture which all Hebrew children had to learn. He would often recite these prayers learned from his parents' lips.

When they contemplate these scenes, parents should frequently consider the words of St Paul VI:

Mothers, do you teach your children the Christian prayers? Do you prepare them, in conjunction with the priests, for the sacraments that they receive when they are young: Confession, Communion and Confirmation? Do you encourage them, when they are sick, to think of Christ suffering, to invoke the aid of the Blessed Virgin and the saints? Do you say the family Rosary together?

And you fathers, do you pray with your children, with the whole household, at least sometimes? Your example of honesty in thought and action, joined to some common prayer, is a lesson for life and an act of worship of singular value. In this way you bring peace to your homes: *Pax huic domui*. Remember, it is thus that you build up the Church. (Paul VI, 11th August 1976.)

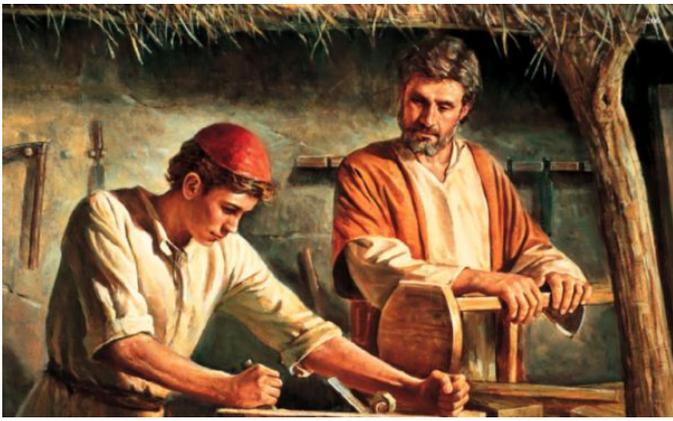
If Christian homes imitate that home formed by the Holy Family of Nazareth,

they will be bright and cheerful homes because each member of the family will struggle first of all to get to know God and, with a spirit of sacrifice, will endeavour to make life more pleasant for others.

The family is the ordinary place for us to find God. Husbands and wives achieve this aim by exercising the virtues of faith and hope, facing serenely all the great and small problems which confront any family, and by persevering in the love and enthusiasm with which they fulfil their duties. They learn to smile and forget about themselves in order to pay attention to others. They listen to each other and to their children, showing them that they are really loved and understood. They will forget about the unimportant little frictions that selfishness can magnify out of all proportion.

The family is the simplest and most basic form of society. It is the main school of all the social virtues. It is the seedbed of social life. For it is in the family that we learn to practise obedience, a concern for others, a sense of responsibility, understanding and mutual help, a loving coordination of essentially different characters. This becomes a reality, particularly in large families, which have always been praised by the Church. Indeed, it has been proved that the health of a society is measured by the health of its families. This is why (as happens with ideological legislation) direct attacks against the family are direct attacks against society itself, whose results are not long in making themselves felt.

“May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of *the Church of the home*. Thanks to her motherly aid, may each Christian family really become a ‘little Church’ in which the mystery of the Church of Christ is mirrored and given new life. May she, the Handmaid of the Lord, be an example of humble and generous acceptance of the will of God. May she, the Sorrowful Mother at the foot of the Cross, comfort the sufferings and dry the tears of those in distress because of the difficulties of their families.” (John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, §86.)



THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

In her liturgical tradition, the Church has ascribed to each day of the week particular focal points for reflection:

Sunday: The Holy Trinity
The Resurrection of the Lord

Monday: The Holy Spirit
The Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday: The Holy Angels

Wednesday: St Joseph

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist

Friday: The Holy Cross
The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday: The Blessed Virgin Mary

In the five day working week, Wednesday is the lynchpin. Joseph, a worker and bread-winner, is the lynchpin of the Holy Family.

The seven day week goes from Sunday (the Day of the Lord) to Saturday (Our Lady's day). Wednesday shows St Joseph to be equally close to Jesus and Mary.

Pope Francis' Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES (Solemnity of Mary, Mother Of God)

New Year's Eve: 10:00pm, Port Fairy
Late night Vigil Mass

New Year's Day: 10:00am, Koroit

MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Fr Michael's retirement takes effect on New Year's Day, and a few weeks are needed to finalise the reduction of Warrnambool Masses. So in January, local Mass times are:

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm, Koroit

Sunday morning: 9:00am, Port Fairy

COVID-SAFE PROTOCOLS

- Masks are recommended but optional.
- Everyone in attendance is obliged to record their first name and a phone number, to facilitate contact tracing.
- Fonts are empty of holy water.
- We won't 'pass the plate,' so please leave offerings in baskets at the doors.
- No sign of peace.
- No communion from the chalice.
- Every second pew is roped off to assist the 1.5m social distancing rule.

KOROIT PARISH SCHOOL WORKS

Searl Bros. Construction will begin work in mid-January at St Patrick's School, Koroit. A new and very attractive building and facade will replace the current admin office and two classrooms. The library resource centre will also be refurbished.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Second Sunday of Christmas

FIRST. *Sirach 24:1-2,8-12.* From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom.

SECOND. *Eph 1:3-6,15-18.* Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ.

GOSPEL. *John 1:1-18.* The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.