

Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Holy Family Year C (Luke 2:41-52)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is just over two months since the Synod on the Family was brought to a close. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass without due reflection. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention.

For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy."

Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the Gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and not joined the extended family group or *synodia* for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the picture. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.

BULLETIN for the FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 28th DECEMBER 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	No Mass
FRIDAY:	No Mass
SATURDAY:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

READINGS - The EPIPHANY of the LORD, YEAR C

First:	Is 60:1-6
Second:	Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel:	Mt 2:1-12

RECENT DEATHS: Ian Bartlett.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .Team 4: C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: .Team 5: J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,317.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit card:	\$ 3,794.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>712.00</u>
		\$ 6,123.00

PRESBYTERY: \$ 698.00

EVENTS

- Wednesdays **Rosary** in the Chapel of Visitation at St. John of God Hospital at 12.45 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday afternoons **Legion of Mary** meets at Nazareth House, Mill St. Ballarat, at 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 5332 8624 or 5332 7227.
- **Legion of Mary Prayers:** Prayers of Petition to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral from 11.15 am - 11.45 am on 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE: VOLUNTEERS WORKERS WANTED

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks - administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning, etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. For further details, and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr, ph. 08 9192 1060, email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org web: www.broomedioocese.org or mail: PO Box 76 Broome WA 6725.

GORDON PARISH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

On Sunday, 28th February, 2016 the Gordon Parish Pastoral Council is running a Community Festival at the Wallace Recreation Reserve. Many fun family activities planned with special guest appearances, along with a variety of stalls. Please keep this date free.

ST. ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS

Are available for collection this weekend.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Are available at the Piety Stall—\$9.00 each, or if multiple copies are purchased \$8.00 each.

MERCY WORKS

Has launched a campaign to raise funds to provide relief for the drought in PNG. The campaign is in direct response to a request from the Bishop of Daru-Kiunga who has requested funds to be able to supply fresh drinking water. People can donate by:

- The campaign is live on <https://chuffed.org/project/let-mercy-rain>
- Is on the Mercy Facebook page with a direct link to the crowd funding site
- Via the Mercy website - special donate button at www.mercyworks.org.au
- Paper campaign (see forms on notice board)

FREE E-BOOK FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR E-READER

(Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-2)

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader (or tablet), offers the Gospel for everyday of this Liturgical Year C-2 (Sundays Year C, weekdays Year 2), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year C-2 has now begun and will continue till November of 2016. The e-book contains the Gospel passages not only for this present but for any C-2 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their reflections. www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with an interest in life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or you are welcome to submit items for publication to: enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au. News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese and include photos where possible.

ADVANCE NOTICE - DATES FOR 2016

- Rite of Election: Saturday, 13th February at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
- Mass of the Oils: Monday, 21st March at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat