

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – December 31st FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eva Morgan, Kevin Flynn, Margaret Grundy, Hugh Briody, Agnes Hocking, Mick Mulcahy, Anne Pearce, Louis Franc & Terry Ryan.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, Wilma Tiley, and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Bernadette Franc

Jan 7th: Angela Gerrard

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Bernadette Franc

Jan 7th: Charlie Franc

Assembly Leaders

Today: Sue Mahony & Carita Clancy

Jan 7th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Today: Therese Jess

Jan 7th: Gail Hall

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Dec 31st: Genevieve Johnston

Jan 7th & 14th: Colleen Briody

Church Grounds:

Dec 31st: Clarrie Johnston

Jan 7th & 14th: Gerard Briody

Newsletter:

January: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

MASS TIMES

Jan 7th LLA 10.00 am. The Epiphany of the Lord

UPCOMING DATES for 2024:

Rite of Election 2024: Saturday, February 17th at 12.30 pm at St Pat's with lunch.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

Mass of the Oils 2024: Monday, March 25th at 11.30 am at St Pat's with lunch & displays.

Jan 28th: Reconciliation preparation commences.

Diocesan e-News see the below link

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

New Year Message

As the year draws to a close, we wish everyone a
Bright, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Special thanks again to all members of our
community who have helped in any way at all this
year. On this special feast of the Holy Family may
God's Blessings be on you and your Families.

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts
as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people,
each of us loved by You and called to live in peace
and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of
property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring
healing to this ancient place. Help your people
find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye,
and embrace each other as sisters and brothers,
as they find your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser
and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

THE HOLY FAMILY

On the feast of the Holy Family we pause to reflect on
our own families. For some of us this raises happy
thoughts. For others, painful. For most of us it is a
mixture of both. Undoubtedly, blood bonds are the most
life-affecting relationships we know, even if by their
absence! It is precisely because of their significance that
families can teach us so much about the Gospel. In the
ups and downs of relating to one another, family
members cannot help but be confronted by the
challenges to love, to forgive, and to put others before
their own needs. Families often under rate their holiness.
In fact, they are among our greatest teachers and
witnesses to the enduring bond that Christians are called
to share.

Tomorrow, January 1, 2024, is the 57th World Day of
Prayer for Peace.



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.

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!

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

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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

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.

RESPONSORIAL 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.