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[www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com](http://www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com)

# Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus

30th December / 31st December 2017

### Parish Clergy

Fr Gabriel Murray

### Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Email: [sacredheartna@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartna@gmail.com)

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

### Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: 9.30 am

Monday– Saturday (Church)

### RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

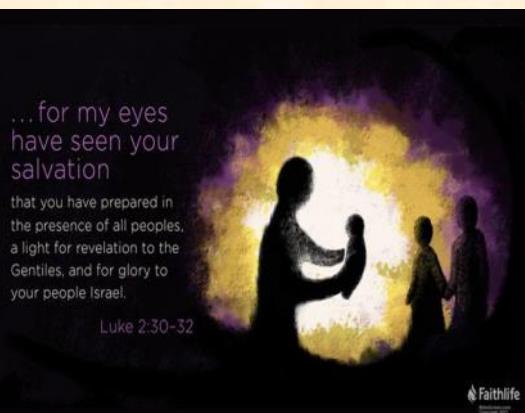
**BAPTISMS**—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

Luke 2: 22-40

*Jesus Presented in the Temple*

39When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.



In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

(Fr Michael Tate)

# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Kevin Flanagan

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Barbara Robertson, Bob Purtle, Joan Dougheney, Catherine Glennon, Peter McKee, Trish Carmody, Bert Coyle, Miroslav Student, Tyson Baczyński, Dawn Robison, Ross Smith, Noel Frauenfelder, James Whitehead, Catherine Weldon, Frank Lacey, Agnes Armstrong, Fred Owen, Badea Ghosn, Veronica Fagg, Peter Liepins, Brian O'Donoghue, Daniel Darcey, John Cronin, Kerryn Mildren Eileen Howard, Kevin Murphy, Susan Lally, Mary Lonergan.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.*

*May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 30th/ 31st December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Nano Clancy	Jim Deanshaw
<b>Lector 1</b>	Barbara Godde	Kaye Deanshaw
<b>Lector 2</b>	Virginia Mitsch	
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jane Murtagh Gavin Dykes Kathy Nyhan	Robert Brown Noelene Cruise Pamela McIntosh
<b>Cantor</b> <b>Musicians</b>	John Van Lint Judy Foley	Catherine Cutler/Judy Lindsay Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon (Wed 3 Jan) Cleaning Group: 6		

Sat /Sun: 6th / 7th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Ed Brown	Geoff Jervois
<b>Lector 1</b>	Nano Clancy	Pat Hopkins
<b>Lector 2</b>	Justin Clancy	
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Roy Thompson Terry Hillman Wendy McFerran	Mary Lefevre Kansas Michael Kevin Kennedy
<b>Cantor</b> <b>Musicians</b>	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
<b>Counters:</b> Desmond Lum & Jane Togher Cleaning Group: 7		

## *Blessing upon the New Year*

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed so that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. Amen.

## A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

*'It is worthwhile to live as a family, that a society grows strong, grows in goodness, grows in beauty and truly grows if it is built on the foundation of the family.'*

# Parish News



To all involved in making Fr Kevin's funeral Mass a very prayerful and inspiring occasion we say thanks. Fr Brendan Byrne reminded us how Fr Kevin's humanity was totally priestly and his priesthood was totally human.

William Lally recalled how Fr Kevin's parents instilled in him five principals by which to live: Faith, strong work ethic, the importance of education, active participation in sport and community and a general concern for others less fortunate. How well Fr Kevin lived this out.

## Funeral Booklets

If anyone missed out on Fr Kevin's funeral booklet or a bookmark, please advise Fran and we will obtain these for you.

## Gratitude to All

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Your generosity was much appreciated and helped many families in need.

## Volunteers for Watering Roster

We are looking for volunteers to water around the Presbytery and Church. Contact Lyn Hamilton on 0437 377 667 or 6040 5605 or email on: [lhhamilton.alb@gmail.com](mailto:lhhamilton.alb@gmail.com) to be part of a roster.

## Feast Days during the Week

Monday 1st January –Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday 2nd January—St Basil the Great

Wednesday 3rd January—The Most Holy Name of Jesus



## Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,  
Source of all hope and good things;  
You call us in love, to share in the work  
and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart  
Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to be  
confident and joyful in serving those  
around us, so that through us, the world  
may catch a glimpse of the love you have  
for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to  
everyone that we encounter in our  
parish community, at home, at work and  
in our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we  
can recognise and thank you for all the  
good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you  
more clearly, love you more dearly and  
follow you more nearly.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus—Year B

Readings: Gen 15:1-6; 21: 1-3; Heb 11: 8,11-12,17-19 ; Luke 2: 22-40

Responsorial Psalm:



**The Lord remembers his covenant forever.**

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets:  
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

## Reflection on the Readings

Look at any newspaper, magazine, television current affairs program or social commentary and you will be bombarded with the notion that the institution of family is under attack. Rather, what appears to be under attack is a particular view of what it means to be 'family'. Society in general and governments in particular are recognising the reality that 'family' is a much more fluid term than it used to be. Rather than an attack on family, it might be argued that there is in fact an embracing of the concept of family by making its definition much broader.

In this feast we celebrate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The model of family that we have in this Holy Family is a model that would not be entirely out of place in the 21st Century. Mary was a very young woman; possibly no more than 13 or 14 years old. Joseph was an older man; possibly on his second marriage. There was a degree of scandal about the conception of their child and Joseph seriously contemplated whether or not he would go ahead with the marriage. They were forced to flee their homeland and seek protection as refugees in Egypt. We see from today's passage that the parents are doing their best to be faithful to their religious and cultural traditions whilst worrying about what the future holds for their son. It is a picture that is not too different from the situation in which many families today find themselves. So while we celebrate today the feast of the Holy Family, it is very much a celebration of every family.

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people. (Greg Sunter)

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