



Feast of the Holy Family *27th / 28th December 2020*

Parish Clergy
Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office
Gemma Whitehead—Monday
Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday
9.00 am – 2.00 pm
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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm
SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week
The only weekday mass celebrated will be on
New Year's Day Friday 1 January—9.30am

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM
BAPTISMS—By appointment.
Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



This weekend, we remember and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. It might be true to say that the focus of attention leading up and during the celebration of the Nativity is Jesus. This Sunday, we acknowledge the whole family!

Mary was called personally by her name and asked to take on what would seem to be an impossible task. However, she was not expected to do what she was asked by herself or to rely on her own efforts or strength. On hearing that she was to be the mother of Jesus, *'she was deeply disturbed and wondered what the greeting could mean.'* Told not to be afraid, she was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. She was strengthened and encouraged by God to do what was asked of her. Joseph too was called to take on a role he did not ask for. Like Mary, he too heard the message, *'do not to be afraid.'* God who called both of them would not ignore or abandoned them as they became the parents of Jesus. Jesus too in his own life and ministry was guided and led by God. He said, *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, I have been called to bring the good news to the poor.'* Even Jesus does not rely on his own efforts!

On this feast of the Holy Family, it good to pray in gratefulness and thanks for our own parents and family. No one's family is perfect. All our family members, including ourselves have made mistakes and gotten things wrong. We have all done and said things that we have later regretted. Regardless of this, we owe our family everything and for this we thanks God.

The Most Holy Family

"The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;
A mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
He who honors his father atones for sins;
He stores up riches who reveres his mother."
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fran Cudmore, Dr Josef Hruz, Corrie Van Lint, Rita Clear, Jean Parker, Margaret Liston.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ross Smith, John Gawen, Dawn Robison, Nancy Gray Jim Brooder, George Rossmann, Stanley Harrison, Tyson Baczynski, Miroslav Student, Bert Coyle, Trish Carmody, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, Peter McKee, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Peter Rolfe, John Hallam, Catherine Glennon, John Warford, Joan Dougheney, Pat Smithenbecker, Bob Purtle, William Foo, Kit Telby, Barbara Robertson.

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

Christmas Season



Communal Prayer for Lighting the Four Candles of Advent And the White Christmas Candle

Fr Martin: Today is the Feast of the Holy Family, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

Last Candle Now we light our white candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again, and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now)

All: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby, yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Prayer to the Holy Family Written by Pope Francis

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and
prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and
division:

may all who have been hurt or
scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of
the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

" our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."

Parish News

Welcome

The Christmas season provides us with a unique opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God's love. That love finds its manifestation in us, our families and in our celebrating community. Christmas reminds us of the need to care for those who live on the margins of society - those who need to discover not our judgement, but God's mercy and hope.

May this Christmas lead you to discover and share the peace and happiness which only God can give and which is reflected by our journey of faith.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

We welcome home to our local community many young women and men over the Christmas holiday season. You are a great blessing to the Church. May you continue to be aware of the presence of God's Spirit in you life's journey - a presence that is real, inspiring, challenging and comforting.

St Vincent de Paul North Albury wishes to thank the parishioners of Sacred Heart for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal. Together with The Rotary Club of Albury, our local schools and the community, St Clare's Conference have been able to assist 100 families with Christmas vouchers to the value of \$8,050 and approximately 170 children with toys and gifts.

On behalf of Vinnies I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas and may 2021 bring good health and happiness.

Trish Parkinson, President St Clare's Conference.



This weekend we welcome into the community of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Miles Ellis Tainton son of Russell and Kristie.



UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk.

After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building.

Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient.

Christmas Crib

Thanks to Marie & John Van Lint for the meticulous repair work on the figures which were re-discovered in the loft and now reside on the sanctuary. The vibrancy of the colours and the diverse hues are a reminder of the nature of our own Christmas journey.



Liturgy of the Word

First reading Genesis 15: 1-6. 21: 1-3

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 the heavens 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 104:1-6, 8-9

The Lord 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**



A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

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. 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:

Alleluia , alleluia!
In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2: 22, 39-40 (Shorter Form)

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.