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The Parish cell-phone number is 060 327 2998

Christmas is really beautiful at St Patrick's this year – from the altar with the nativity figures, the flowers, the music – we thank the sacristans, the servers, our organists, choirs and the band and those who set up the manger scene and arranged the flowers! And thank you all for your gifts to the clergy and your generosity of spirit at this time.



Remember the feast of Christmas continues until Sunday 3 January with the Epiphany (the coming of the wise men).

Pray for all those who have died: especially **Lucky Nicolaou, Lieve Schaap and Strini Naidu**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

From the **Friends of Martin de Porres** Squatter Camp in Daveyton - thank you to all the parishioners of St Patrick's, Fr David, Fr Michael and the members of SVDP society, for your help and support towards the needy and poor throughout the year. Have a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

The Parish Office will be closed		
Thursday 24 December at 12noon	Monday 28 December at 1.00pm	Tuesday 29 December at 1.00pm
Wednesday 30 December at 1.00pm	Thursday 31 December at 12noon	

The Parish landline is still out of order, please phone the Parish Office on the cell-phone number 060 327 2998.

The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“The child’s father and mother were amazed” (Luke 2:33)

So here we are, on the brink of a new year. It’s the perfect day to reflect on the past year’s blessings and to set our hopes on those to come. Imagine all the families who are doing this very thing today- engaging in this “dual vision” of the past and the future.

It’s not hard to imagine the Holy Family doing the same thing as well. They, too, had much to look back on and much to anticipate! Perhaps Mary recalled the angel’s words about Jesus of the Annunciation: “He will be called the Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32). Joseph must have remembered his dream, when the angel told him to name Mary’s son – Jesus, “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Remembering these dramatic interventions must have helped this couple to trust in God’s faithfulness and to know their future was safe in his hands. Similarly, as you and I look back on this awful year, we can see how God has protected us and helped us through – which helps us believe, like Mary and Joseph, that, whatever the future brings, God will be with us and will see us through.

Joseph and Mary weren’t the only ones to engage in this “dual vision”. The old man Simeon shared his vision with them as well. Holding the infant Jesus in his arms, he saw the fulfilment of all God’s promises and the hope for the future salvation of Israel. No wonder they were amazed! Surely his words rang in their ears as they looked back and looked ahead.

What about you? How was God with your “holy family” this year? Maybe you can ask this question when your family sits down to supper tonight. Were there times of rejoicing- like a new grandchild or a loved one recovering from illness? Were there times of great sadness – the strain of the lockdown, risk of infection, loss of income or strained relationships? In all this, look and try and see how God has been with you in the good times and the bad. But don’t only look back- look forward too. God is bringing new things into our lives – an appreciation of things we took for granted, like our families, going for walks, so many things- and God is giving us a vaccine so that this pandemic will end.

This is a day to be amazed at God’s blessings, and to be confident that better things will come!

“Thank you, Lord, for being with us in this tumultuous year, as you were with the Holy Family. Help us to know that better things are to come.”