

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**FIRST READING:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 128.

### RESPONSE:

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*

1. Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be blessed and prosper. **R**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive around your table. **R**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Sion.  
May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life! **R**

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:12-21.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

**Mon 29 Dec** (St Thomas Becket, BM)

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96; Luke 2:22-35

He engaged in conflict with Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church. "It is dangerous for men in power, if no-one dares to tell them, when they go wrong." – St Thomas Becket

**Tue 30 Dec** Liturgy of the Day

1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96; Luke 2:36-40

The prophetess Anna's promise of hope balanced Mary's pain, prophesied by Simeon. Looking closely at our own lives, the Spirit also sends wise ones to balance our pain with the gift of hope when we are in need of it.

**Wed 31 Dec** (St Sylvester I, P)

1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96; John 1:1-18

Pope Sylvester I convened the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD to address the Arian heresy, which denied Jesus' divinity. The council reaffirmed that Jesus was truly God and man, consubstantial with the Father.

**Thu 1 Jan** MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67; Luke 2:16-21

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me" – Mother Teresa

**Fri 2 Jan** Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, BDs

1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98; John 1:19-28

"When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not?" – St Basil

**Sat 3 Jan** (Most Holy Name of Jesus)

1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98; John 1:29-34

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth..." (Philippians 2:9-11)

**Sun 4 Jan** EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Matthew 2:1-12

"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body" – St Peter Chrysologus

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)  
B=Bish

# Catholic Link

## HOLY FAMILY

Holy Family • Year A  
Divine Office: Week I • 28 December 2025

## Feast of the Holy Family

With Christmas celebrated just three days ago, today's Feast of the Holy Family helps us not to forget paradox, a theme we considered during Advent. Recall the human, social, personal and political circumstances that surrounded the first Christmas Day, such as the various crises it caused, initially for a young woman pregnant outside of marriage, then for a man who must surely have felt cheated by her. And what about the experience of a tiny baby whose first cot was a bed of straw meant for livestock?

During Advent, *Catholic Link* intentionally focused on paradox as an aspect of the mysterious workings of God in Christ in bringing about our redemption. By entering fully into human reality, God graced the vulnerability of Mary and the confusion of Joseph.

The annunciation by the angel certainly precipitated a crisis for Mary: "She asked herself what this greeting could mean." We read, too, how she asked the angel: "But how can this be?" She would have immediately seen the social and economic consequences of being found to be pregnant, of being abandoned by her betrothed, and of being left to fend for herself in a religious system that, in survival mode, was constantly tightening its internal rules as it felt the external impact of a powerful occupying force, the Roman Empire.

As for Joseph, imagine the personal crisis he experienced: his ego, his reputation and his trust threatened in an instant.

Then there are the crises of Herod's reign of terror when he attempted to annihilate all new-born males, and Joseph's protective

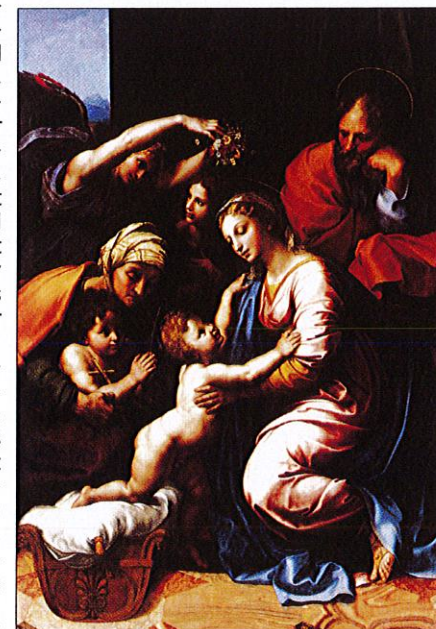
response by fleeing to Egypt with his young family.

The Feast of the Holy Family reflects some of the personal crises many of us know so well, and the social, political and economic realities many families face today. But the Feast of Christmas provides a vital lifegiving and hope-filled perspective. In Christ, God is immersed in the human story, knows the trials and joys of family life, and raises our minds to ponder a new reality, namely, that all of creation is the family of God, with the human race invited to realise this truth in mutual respect and love for one another.

Prophets like St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* have, by grace, intuited the divine plan even further by including in God's family the animals, plants and vegetation of the Earth. They also see the galaxies, stars and planets in cosmic communion.

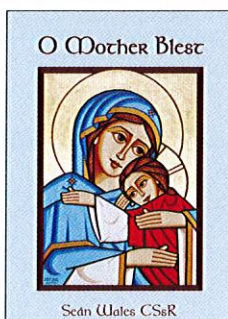
Why else would St Francis address everything in creation as brother or sister? "Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Brother Sun.... Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars.... Praised through Brother Wind and Sister Water...."

The message we need to take home from these reflections is that the Feast of the Holy Family invites us, firstly, to appreciate all the joys and trials of family life against the incarnation backdrop of the Word made flesh. Secondly, it calls us to expand our understanding of family to include all of God's creation, as Saint Paul writes, "He is the first-born of all creation.... In him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:15-17).



The Holy Family, by Raphael, 1518

In his book "**O Mother Blest**", Fr Seán Wales highlights the role of Mary in our lives. Taking us on a tour through icons and feasts of Mary, inspiring explanations of the Marian prayers we know so well, and other Marian themes, he offers us a spiritual gem that will not only deepen our devotion to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, but will also lead us closer to Jesus, her Son.



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Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: **"St Patrick's Catholic Church"** Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; [bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za](mailto:bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za) or on 060 327 2998.

Our **"Society of St Vincent de Paul"** helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

**Thursday 1 January is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and mass will be at 8.00am.**

This coming Friday, 2 January is **First Friday**. Mass in the morning is at 8.00am. In the evening, Holy Hour and Benediction are at 5.00pm followed by mass at 5.30pm. You may park in the School grounds in the evening.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming weekend.

We need teachers to teach catechism on Sunday mornings during government school terms. Contact the parish office.

Are you interested in reading at the weekend masses? Training will be provided. If you are interested in reading, contact the parish office.

Please note that the Parish Office will close at 1.00pm this coming Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right



## The Holy Family

Sunday Missal page 56 Weekday Missal page 124



*Put on love.*

Everyone knows that family life is a combination of happiness and sadness, with a lot of the ordinary in between. But what about the Holy Family? Surely there was nothing but peace and happiness?

Not really. Life wasn't always a bed of roses for them. Remember Joseph's initial plan to divorce Mary to protect her from shame when her pregnancy was discovered? Or Mary having to give birth in a stable? Or what about Mary and Joseph losing track of their son on the way home from Jerusalem? They also had to deal with Herod's murderous rage, a secret flight to Egypt, resettlement in Nazareth, and Joseph's early death. All of these occasions, and more besides, could have filled them with anxious, fearful thoughts. In similar circumstances, we certainly would have felt tempted to wish for an easier life.

But whatever Mary and Joseph and Jesus thought about their struggles, one thing is clear. They never gave up. In their faithfulness and trust and even more so, in their commitment to love one another-they show us how to weather the storms of life.

Love. That's what makes a holy family. Not the sentimental love of songs and movies but the strong, relentless, stubborn love of God. The divine love that the Spirit pours into our hearts. The selfless love that bears all things, hopes all things, and forgives all things. The pure love of a God who became one of us and died to save us.

No family has a perfect life. Every family faces hardships of one sort or another. But every family also has a heavenly Father who loves them and delights in teaching them how to love each other. So on this feast of the Holy Family, let's pray for our families, and for every family on earth. May we all learn to "put on love"

*"Father, pour out your merciful, healing love on every family today."*

We thank everyone who helped prepare St Patrick's so beautifully for Christmas – our sacristans, flower arrangers, domestic staff. The Church glowed with the wonder of the Feast.

We thank the servers, the organist, singers and band and overhead operators for enabling us to sing the glory of the Lord with the angels. To all on duty and all who helped in any way – in the parish office too.

Fr David and Fr Michael thank you all for your generosity of spirit at this Christmas time and wish you all a continued blessed Feast and joyful New year.