

and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible



A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

Mary is, first of all, the model of the family. In the Annunciation story, there appears the action of the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father sends the angel to announce that He will send His Son to be conceived in her, and that this will take place through the Holy Spirit. When Mary accepts, a new society begins; a human family among human families, which is at one and the same time an ideal and an earthly Trinity. In all other families there is father, mother, and child. In this family there is Child, Mother, and Father. It is the Child Who makes the family; it is the Child Who created the parents. Next to Him comes the Mother, for she alone, through the Holy Spirit, conceived the Son in her virgin womb. Finally comes Joseph, the foster father chosen by God to be protector of the group and, for that reason, protector of the Church, which is the expansion of that original family. All through the preceding ages, from the crudest wigwam where spouse lighted fire for spouse, to the castle of the prince and princess wherein the two looked down on heirs of earthly kingdoms, mankind has been either looking forward or backward to that Divine Family, in which God veiled the glory of His Divinity and became Flesh through the selfless love of Mary under the strong and reverent wardship of Joseph.

After finding the Divine Child in the Temple, St. Luke tells us: 'But he went down with them on their journey to Nazareth, and lived there in subjection to them, while his mother kept in her heart the memory of all this. And so Jesus advanced in wisdom with the years, and in favour both with God and with men.' (Luke 2:51, 52) A triple humiliation is here revealed. 'He went down'; was a miniature of the Incarnation when God came down from heaven and became man. Physically, Nazareth was below Jerusalem in the topography of the country. Spiritually it was lower too, for the Creator now goes down to His creatures. 'To Nazareth.' 'Can anything that is good come from Nazareth?' (John 1:46) was asked by one of the Apostles on hearing that the Messiah came from that tiny little village. He was born in 'the least of the cities of Israel'; now he would live in a scorned town, but the ignominy of His death and His apparent defeat He would proclaim in the great city of Jerusalem. 'And He was subject to them.' Here the sculptor obeys his chisel, the painter is subject to his brush, the winds obey the dictates of the leaves. Two decades later men will see Him washing the feet of His

Disciples. 'So it is that the Son of Man did not come to have service done him; he came to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for the lives of many.' (Mark 10:45)

What makes the obedience of this Child all the more impressive is that He is the Son of God. He Who is the General of humanity becomes a soldier in the ranks; the King steps from His throne and plays the role of peasant. If He Who is the Son of God makes Himself subject to His Mother and foster father in reparation for the sins of pride, then how shall children escape the sweet necessity of obedience to those who are their lawfully constituted superiors? The Fourth Commandment, 'Thou shalt honour thy father and thy mother,' has been broken by every generation since the dawn of man. At Nazareth children would be taught obedience by Him who really is the Commandment. In this particular instance, where the Child is Divine, one might think that at least He would have reserved for Himself the right of 'self-expression.' Mary and Joseph, it seems, could have with great propriety opened the first 'progressive school' in the history of Christianity, in which the child could do whatever he pleased; for here the Child could never have displeased. 'And He Who sent me is with me; He has not left me all alone, since what I do is always what pleases Him.' (John 8:29) But there is no evidence that He gave to Mary and Joseph just the nominal right to command. 'And lived there in subjection to them.' God subject to man! God before Whom the angels, principalities, and powers tremble, is subject to Mary, and to Joseph for Mary's sake. Two great miracles of humility and exaltation: God obeying a woman; and a woman commanding God. The very fact that He makes Himself subject endows her with power. And this obedience lasted for thirty years. Three hours He spent in redemption; three years in teaching; thirty years in obedience. By this long span of voluntary obedience, He revealed that the Fourth Commandment is the bedrock of family life. In a larger way, how else could the primal sin of disobedience against God be undone except by the obedience in the flesh of the very God Who was defied? The first revolt in God's universe of peace was the thunderbolt of Lucifer: 'I will not obey!' Eden caught up the echo, and down the ages its inflection travelled, worming its way into the nook and crevices of every family where there gathered a father, mother, and child. By making Himself subject to Mary and Joseph, the Divine Child proclaims authority in home and in public life to be a power granted by God Himself. From this disclosure follows the duty of obedience for the sake of God and one's conscience. As, later on, He would tell Pilate that the civil authorities exercise no power except that given them from above, so now by His obedience He bears witness to the solemn truth that parents exercise their authority in the name of God. The parents have the most sacred claim on their children, because their first responsibility is toward God. 'Every soul must be submissive to its lawful superiors; authority comes from God only, and all authorities that hold sway are of His ordinance.' (Romans 13:1)

(Three to Get Married)



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR C

29 DECEMBER 2024

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



"To all fathers of families, Joseph is verily the best model of paternal vigilance and care. In the most holy Virgin Mother of God, mothers may find an excellent example of love, modesty, resignation of spirit, and the perfecting of faith. And in Jesus, who was subject to His parents, the children of the family have a divine pattern of obedience which they can admire, reverence, and imitate."
- Pope Leo XIII

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

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'Since' she said, 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked Him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

R: How happy they who dwell in Your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **R.**

2. They are happy, who dwell in Your house, for ever singing Your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in You; they walk with ever growing strength. **R.**

3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of Your anointed.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge Him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask Him, we shall receive, because we keep His commandments and live the kind of life that He wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as He told us to. Whoever keeps His commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that He lives in us by the Spirit that He has given us.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of Your Son. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When He was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without His parents knowing it. They assumed He was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for Him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find Him they went back to Jerusalem looking for Him everywhere.

Three days later, they found Him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard Him were astounded at His intelligence and His replies. They were overcome when they saw Him, and His mother said to Him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for Me?' He replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with My Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what He meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C
December 29, 2024

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Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 30 Dec & Friday 3 Jan - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 31 Dec - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Shirley Thom, Danny Dickins, John Pianko, Rita Slattery.

the sick:

Tony King, Maureen Rolfe, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Jim Hanlon, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish. Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am
Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)
BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550
Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.
2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses
BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

DECEMBER - THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

MONDAY 30th

6th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 31st

Feast Day of St Sylvester I, pope

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

JANUARY - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

WEDNESDAY 1st

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 2nd

Feast Day of Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 3rd

First Friday & Feast Day of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm

Benediction - 1.20pm

SATURDAY 4th

First Saturday & Saturday before the Epiphany

Confession - 8.00am

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 5th

Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER

Shirley Kenny, Margaret Moroney & Anne Dale

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 12 Jan 2025, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 18 Jan 2025, 8.30am

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 12 Feb 2024, 5.00pm

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - 1 January

On this day we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Mother of God. It is a special day on which we, as Pope Paul VI said in his Apostolic Letter *Marialis Cultus*, "commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the 'holy Mother...through whom we were found worthy to receive the Author of life.' It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."

So what better way to begin the year than to attend Holy Mass and give thanks to God for the blessings He bestows on us and to ask His holy Mother for her protection and intercession.

Prayer: Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God, who are the Virgin made Church, chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, in whom there was and is all fullness of grace and every good.

Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe! Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother!

And hail, all You holy virtues which are poured into the hearts of the faithful through the grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, that from being unbelievers, You may make them faithful to God. Amen. (*St Francis of Assisi*)

Blessing of Epiphany Chalk: Next weekend Fr Paul will bless chalk for those who wish to take some home to mark the lintel of their front door. Instructions on the way to use the chalk will be in next weekend's bulletin.

Family Prayer: Copies of a beautiful prayer for the family are available at each entrance of the Church. The prayer is addressed to the Holy Family. Please take one home and pray it regularly together with your family. You might like to take a copy for each of your children and their families.

Poor Boxes: Don't forget you can help our local St Vincent de Paul ministry by making a donation to the Poor Boxes in the Church. All donations will be used to assist the poor in our community.

Divine Mercy 2025 Calendars: A generous parishioner has donated several of these calendars to the parish. These are available for free at the side entrance table near the priest sacristy.

Columban Calendars 2025: These are now available for purchase. They are located on the table near the priest sacristy. \$10 each. Please have exact money. No change available. Please place money in the marked container.

Parish Choir Practice: After the 9am Mass next Sunday, January 5th, the singers of the parish will meet to learn a new congregational setting of the Ordinary of the Mass. It is called "The Mass of Love." Everyone is welcome to join in.

From "The Catechism of the Catholic Church"
§2205-2207

The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelising and missionary task.

The relationships within the family bring an affinity of feelings, affections and interests, arising above all from the members' respect for one another. The family is a privileged community called to achieve a "sharing of thought and common deliberation by the spouses as well as their eager cooperation as parents in the children's upbringing."

The family is the original cell of social life...Family life is an initiation into life in society.

MASS ROSTER	28Dec-Sat 6.00pm	29Dec-Sun 9am	04Jan-Sat 6pm	05Jan-Sun 9am
Projector	M Gaukroger	MJ Guest	Sr Coral	H Rossel
Reader 1 (1st R. & Ps)	M Casey-Ransom	S Hollis	S O'Brien	G Johnson
Reader 2 (2nd R.)	N McCosker	J Thivakon	J Harris	M Robinson
Reader 3 (Intercessory Prayers)	Priest	M Robinson	N McCosker	J Monie
Offertory	-	M Wales & volunteer	-	S Kenny & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	P Moroney	M Robinson	A Michael	S Hollis
Counters		G Chie & G Fleming		R & G Johnson