

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph *Sunday 26 December 2021*

First reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

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.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

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.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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 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.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Sacred Heart Parish **Preston**

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph *Sunday 26 December 2021*

Feast of the Holy Family

Happy feast day to Holy Family of Nazareth! And Happy family day to our own families! Let us take this opportunity to offer our families and their members on the altar to ask God's blessing on them and to obtain for them the guidance of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Moreover, we take this celebration as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of family as it is palled and designed by God Himself. To help our personal reflection, let me begin with a report on a study on cancer and heart disease. A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city with the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease. The winner was Rosetto, Pennsylvania. Soon experts descended upon the city expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise, and kept close track of their cholesterol. To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health was tied to the close family bonds that prevailed within the community. This suggests that there is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship.

I find this study is both interesting and challenging. It is interesting for I have never thought that close and loving family relationship could reduce the chance to get cancer and heart disease. At the same time, it is challenging as it raises some reflective questions in my mind: am I a good family member? Do I maintain a good relationship with my family members? Thank God if I am and I do. If I am not, however, maybe it is time to correct my relationship with my family members. Our main concern is how do maintain and strengthen a close and loving family relationship.

Let us turn to the Family of Nazareth for it offers many practical lessons for family life. **Firstly, don't let your problems undermine your family.** Although it is called holy and perfect family, it was never free from problems. Like other families, the Holy Family went through many hardships. Jesus was constantly under threat since He was a baby. His life ended in the hands of his enemies who hang Him on the cross. Jesus, however, was not alone. His Mother, Mary, was with Him going through it all. And so did Joseph. One thing we admire of this family is that the problems didn't break their family bond. The problems helped improve and strengthen their family relationship. Like the Holy Family, let not our problems undermine our family but embrace them as opportunities to shape, improve and strengthen our families. **Secondly, let God take control of our families.** The survival of the Holy Family was the fruit of their intimate relationship with God. God Himself was at the centre of the Holy Family. They have a strong belief that God was in control of their small family as it went through many trials and tribulations. He guided and protected them. Like the Holy Family, let us allow God to take charge of our families. **Thirdly, the importance of encouragement.** Both Mary and Joseph worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. We see here the value of encouragement. Our families too need to nourish the importance of encouragement. **Fourthly, the importance of forgiving love.** The Nazareth Family successfully transformed its family into a confessional rather than a courtroom. Husband and wife and the rest of the family need not act like attorneys at courtroom to justify their behaviour but showing readiness to admit and try to correct them. The family will live in a peaceful harmony. **Last but not least, be responsible**



parents. Mary and Joseph took a grave responsibility of their son, Jesus, so do parents whose marriages are blessed with children. They are a gift from God to you and you are accountable before God.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of our parish family, and for all families of the universal Church. May God bless all our families in the New Year!

Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Ph: 0428 715 282

Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office: Rachel Costa

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator: Ylenia Useli
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Child Safety Committee:

Child Safety Officers:

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Kay Duffy: 0431 376 212

Committee Members:

Mary Harb: 0422 891 324

Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911

Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Duffy

(secretary), Tony Eley, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

Ph: 0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)

Ph: 0432 405 417

Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am (Italian),
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 9.10am

Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of
the month at 1.30pm

Next Healing Mass:

3 February 2022

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Wednesday after
9.10am Mass

Holy Rosary: Thursday
(English)

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before
Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Feast Days of the week:

Monday 27 December St John, apostle and evangelist
 Tuesday 28 December The Holy Innocents
 Wednesday 29 December St Thomas Becket
 Friday 31 December Pope St. Silvester I
 Saturday 1 January Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 World Day of Prayer for Peace

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, Bronislawa Slobodzian

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

Those who have died recently

Graeme Grieve (RIP 20/12)

Johnny Pimentel

We Commemorate

James Wesley Christoffelsz (9th Anniv.)



O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Welcome!
 This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Amelie Trinh Tsun** into our Parish family

Roster for weekend of 1 & 2 January 2022

	Readers	Ministers of Communion
Sat 6.00pm	John Kmaid Terry Murphy	Mary Harb
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Eileen Stevens Marilene Fortuna	George McBrien
Sun 6.00pm	Anna Liggieri Ylenia Useli	Margaret Bannan

**Cleaning Roster:
 Saturday 1 January 2022**

Volunteers
 Thank you for your hard work



#55 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melb
 Information Updated: 23 December 2021, 5:00pm

As of 11.59pm Wednesday 23 December 2021, the following measures will be applied to Masses at Sacred Heart Parish::

From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings **will be required for gatherings indoors** (except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions.

All Catholics in Melbourne **continue to be dispensed** from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

Please do not attend Mass if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive or are waiting for a Covid test result

Check in is still required. Thank you.

Confirmation congratulations

We Congratulate **Fred Jameson**
 On being Confirmed at the Sunday 6:00 pm Mass



May the Lord bless you with His guidance from this day forward. And may you have faith in His plan.

Ministers' Roster

Readers and Ministers of Communion attending the Saturday 6pm evening Mass, if you have previously been provided with a hard copy of the roster, please check out the envelopes in the foyer and collect yours.

Thank you all for your faithful service to our Eucharistic Celebrations.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next batch of thanksgiving envelopes are in the foyer ready for collection. **Please collect yours.**

Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

Last Week's Collection: 19/12/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$796
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$650
 Thank you for your kind generosity



**LAUDATO SI':
 ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

Dear Friends

As the last bulletin message for 2021, the Laudato Si' Circle would like to thank you for your encouragement and support in our first year of formation. We especially thank Fr Aloysius for embracing our ideas and guiding our work as we took first steps towards becoming a Laudato Si' Parish. Reflecting back on 2021, the Circle met mostly in lockdown via Zoom to creatively collaborate on new initiatives. We felt inspired to dual action: firstly in sharing Pope Francis' Laudato Si' message of hope and secondly in proactively creating a Laudato Si' parish.

Some of our achievements in 2021 included:

- Celebrating Laudato Si Week (May), Refugee Week (June) and NAIDOC Week (July) in a special way through the Sunday liturgies.
- Celebrating the Season of Creation (September) in lockdown with a special online prayer service.
- Joining the global Interfaith community by displaying a new banner "Care for Creation" on the Bell St side of Church and calling for greater climate change ambition.
- We also started a monthly gardening group and received a small grant from Darebin Council for environmental initiatives.
- We raised awareness of Laudato Si' through weekly bulletin notices, our choir rejoiced in hymns of praise for God's Creation and one of our members published a book on climate change!
- Lastly but not least, we were among the first parishes to sign up to Pope Francis' new Laudato Si' Action Platform.

It's a wonderful start and we hope to grow in 2022 and bear more fruit! If you're interested in contributing to this ministry please let Fr Aloysius know.
 The Laudato Si Circle wishes you and your family a beautiful, blessed and utterly enjoyable Christmas! - Margaret, Stephen, Kay, Pauline and Natalie
O come Emmanuel. Come Jesus, full of grace

Thank you for your generous donation to Father Hai's Ordination gift

Sacred Heart Parishioners generously donated \$640 towards a perfect gift for a newly ordained priest – a leather-bound travelling Mass kit and cash.



Fr Hai is delighted with this gift and sends his heartfelt thanks for all the amazing support and encouragement from Sacred Heart parish!

Let us pray for Fr Hai's priestly ministry

For the love of Christ urges us – 2 Cor 5:14

THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

LET US ASK THE LORD TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE LAW

OF *Love*. HOW GOOD IT IS TO HAVE THIS LAW! HOW MUCH

Good IT DOES US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING. YES, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING!

-Pope Francis



Piety Stall

With the help of generous volunteers the Piety Stall will again be open after each of the weekend Masses. Religious items including Christmas cards and Columban calendars are available at very reasonable prices. Volunteers are sought for the Saturday evening and Sunday 10.30 and 6pm Mass. Please contact Rachel on 9480 3398 for more details. You are required to have a current WWCC and be fully vaccinated



**Where Was Jesus?
 Word Scramble**

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

- SOVPASER [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- MELASUREJ [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- RAMY [] [] [] []
- EPHJOS [] [] [] [] [] []
- CHERTEAS [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- SNITOSEUQ [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- VALFESIT [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- MPLATE [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Jesus said "Didn't you know that I had to be _____?"

Joke Corner

