

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Dianne Hutchinson and those of our community.

Recently Deceased:

Repose of the Souls: Fr Ned Purcell and those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church
Cleaning

Saturday 7th January — Spanish Community

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Attention Parents and Carers!
If your child goes to the toilet or just outside of the Church, one of the parents must accompany him/her.

Sacramental Program 2026

The Parish will be taking enrolments in January for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to attend Saturday and Sunday Masses if they would like to enrol their children. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Please Note: NO Sunday Bulletin During the month of January.

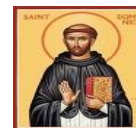
For Sale at the Piety Stall
2026 Columban Art Calendar at \$10.00 each
and Packet of 8 Christmas Cards at \$3.00

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING ONLINE TO:
ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH
BSB: 083 347
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
67441 1404**

PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

The Parish has the facility of
**EFTPOS DEBIT, VISA CARD
and MASTER CARD.** This is a
good option for those who do
not carry cash and would like
to contribute to the church.
**The set up is of: \$5.00;
\$10.00; \$20.00 and \$50.00**

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Octavian Masao, CSSp; Email: Octavian.Masao@cam.org.au

ASSISTING PRIEST: Fr Rogasian Msami CSSp;

PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—PRINCIPAL: Katie Broadbent, Phone: 03 9309 4146



PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass

Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.

Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.

Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph — Year A
28th December 2025

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127: 1- 5
R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21
Concerning the Christian life in the world.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
**May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia**

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13 – 15, 19-23
Take the child and his mother, and free to Egypt.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Holy Family; recognising the important role Joseph and Mary played in the life of Jesus and also celebrating the role of family in all of our lives. However, the gospel reading is the conclusion of the infancy narrative – the 'what happened next' part of the story of the birth of Jesus. Apart from the involvement of the holy family, the passage doesn't appear to have a lot of connection with the celebration of the feast of the Holy Family. This isn't really surprising as the gospels are accounts of the life of Jesus – predominantly his active ministry – and don't give many details at all of his childhood and family life. However, what we can see in the passage is that Joseph quickly adopted a role of protector of his wife and child and did all he could to keep them from harm. His family was vitally important to Joseph and he took the extreme measure of fleeing his homeland to protect them.

The passage in the lectionary skips over three verses from the gospel (16-18) that describe Herod's massacre of all boys under the age of two born in Bethlehem and its surrounds. Joseph's fears for the safety of his family were very real! Even after the death of Herod, when Joseph is advised to return to his own country, he finds that Archelaus, one of Herod's sons, is in control of Judaea. Bethlehem was in Judaea and so Joseph and his family may still have been in danger. Instead of returning home, they made a new life in Nazareth in the Galilee region.

Historical context – Herod

The Herod of this story was Herod the Great. He ruled the Jews as a puppet king under the Romans from 37 to 4 BCE. (This places the birth of Jesus about 4-6 years earlier than our calendar assumes!) Upon Herod's death, the Romans divided the kingdom into three portions and appointed each of Herod's three sons as Tetrarchs of the regions. One of the sons, Herod Antipas, was given control of the region of Galilee and Samaria and ruled until 39 CE. This is the Herod of the gospels to whom Jesus is sent by Pilate during his trial.

Scriptural context – Out of Egypt

The gospel of Matthew uses the recount of the genealogy of Jesus and the infancy narrative in its first two chapters to establish a context for the main part of the gospel. This gospel presents Jesus as a new Moses-figure: firmly in the Jewish tradition and bringing about a new Law. Just as Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to a new life and new relationship with God, so too Jesus is portrayed as coming out of Egypt to bring about a new life and new relationship with God. The account of the flight to Egypt is predominantly to bring Jesus out of Egypt again!

Have you thought? Holy refugees

When they fled Israel and sought safety in Egypt, Jesus and his family became refugees. They fled their own country because of fears that they would be sought out by the ruling military forces and that Jesus, if not all of them, would be put to death. What might have happened if Egypt had denied them access or kept them locked up interminably in a detention centre? Was the plight of this holy family really very different from the situations faced by so many families today who flee their war-torn and oppressive countries to seek refuge and safety in a new land?

Christmas Offering

The Parish would like to thank you for the Christmas offering.

God Bless You All and have a safe and Happy New Year.

New Year 2026 Blessing

God is indeed present with us as we celebrate the new year, as He is in all days. And given that it is a time of renewal, refreshment, and recommitment, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day can be an especially important time in our prayer lives.

Wednesday 31st December
New Year's Eve

9.00am—Morning Mass
11.00pm—Mass for the New year

Thursday 1st Jan 2026:
“Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God”

11.00am English Mass
1.00pm Spanish Mass



**Whising you
and all your
family a New
Year filled with
abundant
blessings.**

May the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to the “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:6), and who cuddles him this way, with such tenderness in her arms, obtain for us from heaven the precious gift of peace, which cannot be fully pursued by human strength alone. Human strength alone is not enough because peace is above all a gift, a gift of God; it should be implored with unceasing prayer, sustained with patient and respectful dialogue, constructed with an open cooperation with truth and justice and always attentive to the legitimate aspirations of individuals and peoples. My hope is that peace may reign in the hearts of men and women and in families, in places of work and of recreation, in communities and in nations. In families, at work, in nations: peace, peace. Now is the time to think that life today is organized around war, and enmities, by many things that destroy. We want peace. And this is a gift. *Pope Francis, Jan. 1, 2021*

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

All of the major themes found in today's readings highlight the relational character of family life. In Sirach some of the dynamics of family living and responsibility as exercised in the ancient world unfold before our eyes. The rewards of faithfully observing these family codes are showcased in the responsorial Psalm. Paul directs our attention to the manner of relational living to which we are summoned as members of the family of God, a manner of living that flows from the bond of perfection that unites us. The gospel narrative paints a picture of a family that follows the directives of God.

So much has been said recently about family values. But what exactly are they? The specifics of family customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but it seems that the values out of which they emerge and that inform them are not. They include mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children, and between the young and the old.

Mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family as well. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. It may be more challenging to live out these values within the church, for those who are called to put on Christ, bearing with one another in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience must relate in this way with people who may be strangers.