



THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her
sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his
sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy
with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing
obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy;
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127:1–5. R. cf. v.1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and
walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord/
and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your
hands you shall eat. / You will be happy 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
Zion / all the days of your life! **R.**

SECOND READING

Col 3:12–21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

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.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you
should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives
and treat them with gentleness. Children, be
obedient to your parents always, because that is
what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive
your children to resentment or you will make
them feel frustrated.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm S Bettoni

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Thu 1 Jan: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Fri 2 Jan: Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Sun 4 Jan: The Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Lk 2:16)

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Bar 3:38)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess, Pam O'Reilly, Bernie Smith, Marie Gaudry, Thanh Ninh * Names are published for a month, unless further requested.

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -



Wishing all our Parishioners and Visitors A Blessed and Happy New Year

Parish Office Hours

Our Parish Office is now closed for the holidays. We will resume regular office hours on Friday, January 2nd 2026.

Meanwhile, all telephone messages and emails will still be attended to intermittently.



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 27 December 2025

Thank you to the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches for hosting this weekend's Vigil Mass.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.



Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17. For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.

This is the first gathering after the recently concluded ACYF-2025. Please encourage our youth and young people to attend these monthly gatherings.

Fr Pat's Birthday Celebration

Fr Pat's 90th birthday is on 30th January 2026. We, together with our sister Parish of St Anthony's, will celebrate the occasion on Sunday, 1st February at St Anthony's Parish Hall after the 11am Mass.

We seek expressions of interest in forming an organising team. Please contact the Parish Office.



Masses

Holy Cross

10:00am on Thursday, 1st January

St Anthony's

11:00pm on Wednesday, 31st December

9:15am on Thursday, 1st January

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2026

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation.

The Holy Father has entrusted these intentions in a particular way to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer. You can find more information about the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network on their website. (The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network will also publish any urgent prayer intentions of the Holy Father as soon as they are received from the Holy See.)

January: For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

February: For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

March: For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

April: For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

May: That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

June: For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

July: For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

August: For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

September: For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone has equal access to it.

October: For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

November: For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

December: For single-parent families

Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Christmas time is family time. Christmas reunites families. Therefore, it is fitting that during Christmas Season we also celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It was the holiest of all families ever.



Their holiness was expressed in their love and care for each other. Joseph protected Mary from being stoned to death. When the life of the Baby Jesus was threatened by Herod, Joseph protected the Mother and Child; he fled with them to Egypt. He earned livelihood for the family by hard work. Joseph was always seeking the will of God, and open to God's plan. Joseph was a prayerful person.

Mother Mary gladly supported Joseph in his struggles. Her holiness can also be seen in the way she took the utmost care of her Baby Boy. She was also conceived sinless and remained sinless throughout her life. In her was neither original sin, nor personal sin. Even from her childhood days she had dedicated herself to God and to God's Will.

Holiness of their son, Jesus goes without saying. He is the Most Holy God Himself. Each of the three cared about the other two and stood by them: a perfect model for every family. Each one of the Holy Family considered the other two, more important than oneself.

Today there is an invitation to everyone and every family to join the family of the Triune God. Every family should have a place for the Triune God, whose affairs should get a fair share of our time. That alone will give true meaning to our lives. No other way will bring lasting peace and joy to our families.

All families have a share of difficult moments. Often, instead of an answer, we too get another question in reply. There are times when we do not understand each other as we would love to. Every family has particular graces and blessings as well as difficulties and crosses.

The Holy Family too was a family with special grace, yet a family with trials. The Holy Family is a model for all families because despite their many difficulties, the family remained faithful, loving and united. May every family and every individual be united with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to experience their tender loving care.

Happy Family Time!

Fr Leenus.

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year's Eve?

He wanted to start the New Year with sweet dreams.

What do kangaroos say to each other on 1st January?

"Hoppy New Year!"

Christmas Dinner at St Anthony's

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the Dinner. All went smoothly. There will be a full report in the New Year.

Tony's Café 2026

Tony's Care reopens on Tuesday, 3 February 2026 from 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Legion of Mary at St Joseph's & Holy Cross



A new Praesidium has been formed at The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross. Weekly meetings are held at 7:30pm on Fridays at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. New members are welcome. Contact Mable 0493-5926154.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15,16

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

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

LIVING OUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY

With today's feast we return to one of Matthew's special heroes, Joseph. As we have already seen, Matthew's Joseph is like the Old Testament patriarchal figure—he is a 'dreamer' who leads God's family. In this Gospel Joseph has a dream, a privileged religious experience of divine communication. In this dream, an angel, the Gospel's representation of the presence of God, appears and again directs Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt; Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like ancient Israel through the Old Testament story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt, Matthew's Joseph leads Mary and the child into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic representation of Israel's story and sums up in his being the desire of God to free the people from disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps now an insomniac!—gets another dream to go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem, he takes the family 'into exile' to Nazareth because of the murderous intent of Herod's son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus completes the cycle of Israel's story—being called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into exile. It is from this perspective that the rest of Matthew's Gospel unfolds. The evangelist, writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out Israel's history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the contemporary family: God always accompanies the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter where it leads; trust one's dream. God can communicate in different and, sometimes, unpredictable ways.

Fr Michael Trainor