

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / C

29 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

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.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. R. v. 5

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. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

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.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

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-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 1 Jan: Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

Thu 2 Jan: St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

Sun 5 Jan: The Epiphany of the Lord



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Perpetual 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. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Luke 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 in the earth and lived among us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Fr Varghese Kattikattu

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Thank you to all Volunteers

The Parish is immensely grateful to all those who joined the various ministries and activities of our Parish, especially in preparation for and during Christmas.

May God bless you all!



New Year's Day Mass

*** Holy Cross 9:00am * St Joseph's 10:30am ***

A New Beginning For a New Year!

It is God's blessing we all need on this first day of the New Year. In the First Reading of the day, we have an example of Levitical blessing, as Moses instructs his brother Aron:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

This blessing has passed the test of time. Originating with the chosen people, this blessing has been pronounced for three millennia and we can still employ this whenever we want to pray for God's blessing.

What a beautiful thing it is to have God's blessing to go forward with.

Fr Pat on Holiday

We wish Fr Pat a restful and refreshing time away during his holidays from 30 December to 10 February.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 25 December 2024 and re-open on Thursday 9 January 2025.

For urgent matters, please leave a voice message or send us an email. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.



Why call Mary “Mother of God”?

1st of January is also the culmination of the octave of Christmas when we celebrate the “**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.**”

This special title for Mary affirms that she is truly the Mother of God. This Catholic Dogma finds its origin from the passage found in the Gospel of Luke, where, upon the visit by Mary, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit addressed Mary as the “Mother of my Lord”.

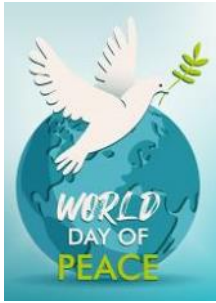
This has been a controversial title for a very long time, until in 431 A.D, the Council of Ephesus affirmed that Mary was truly the Mother of God because “according to the flesh” she gave birth to Jesus, who is truly God from the first moment of His conception.

Twenty years later the Council of Chalcedon re-affirmed that the Motherhood of Mary was a truthful dogma and an official doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church. Her Motherhood began when the eternal God entered human history. **Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.**

World Day of Peace, 1st January

The Catholic Church also celebrates "World Day of Peace" on 1st of January.

Hope has been a constant theme in all of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace messages. This is all the more true in his message for the 58th World Day of Peace, which will be marked on 1 January 2025, as the Church begins the Jubilee of Hope amid an unprecedented combination of challenges facing the world today.



Thank you for your support!!!

Hi! It's Joshua. It's really good to be back home! As you may know, I have spent the last 12 months serving in Sydney with 'Youth Mission Team Australia' bringing the Gospel to high school students across.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported me with prayers and donations! With your help, my team and I were able to minister to over 7,700 students from all over NSW! According to their feedback, 82% of students indicated that they were impacted in the way they saw God and were encouraged to be more open to His friendship. That's over 6,300 young Australians more open to a relationship with Jesus!

We could not have had this impact if it weren't for your generous support! Thank you so much for all your support! God bless.

~ Joshua La Bonne ~

A son called his parents to wish them 'A Happy New Year' and when his Dad answered the phone, he asked his dad, "Well Dad, what's your New Year's resolution?" His dad replied, "To make your mother as happy as I can all year." When his mom got on the phone he asked her the same question and she replied, "To see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution."

Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica Opened



Pope Francis, on December 24, officially launched the Vatican's **2025 Jubilee Year**, encouraging Christians to use the milestone occasion to dream of a "new world where peace and justice reign." "The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation," said Francis during his Christmas Eve Mass.

The liturgy kicked off a monumental year ahead here at the Vatican that is likely to test the stamina of the 88-year-old pope. An intense schedule of events focused on bringing hope to the world through the forgiveness of sins, debts and other acts of mercy is expected to draw some 32 million pilgrims to Rome.

"This is a moment", said the pontiff, "to recover lost hope, to renew that hope in our hearts, and to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world."

During his homily on Christmas Eve, the pope made repeated references to this jubilee's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." Christians, he said, are called "to bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodgings of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence."

"Hope," the pontiff continued, "is incompatible with the detachment of those who refuse to speak out against evil and the injustices perpetrated at the expense of the poor." "If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever!" said the pope.

~ Excerpt from National Catholic Reporter ~



Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

As mentioned above, Pope Francis, on 24 December, at the Vatican, officially launched the Jubilee Year by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica.

For our Archdiocese, the Jubilee will open with the 11am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Comensoli at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 29 December 2024. At our parishes, we will light the Jubilee Candle at all Masses on the same weekend and together, say the Jubilee Prayer from Pope Francis.

This will culminate in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, which will take place in Melbourne, with young pilgrims from across Australia visiting Melbourne for three days of faith, fun, food, friendship and formation in November & December 2025.

The Archdiocese is offering two pilgrimages to Rome next year to experience walking through Holy Doors. There are also local Pilgrim Places we can visit during the Jubilee Year. Please scan the QR-code for more info.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

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.

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Breaking Open the Word

LOST AND FOUND

We know Jesus to be truly human and truly divine. This is the heart of our faith. Sometimes, though, we make Jesus to be more divine than human. Today's Gospel offers us the balance. This passage comes towards the end of the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel that are focused on Jesus' birth. His family has come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Passover. Mary, Joseph and Jesus are Jewish. They celebrate the feast which commemorates God's liberation of the Israelites from slavery remembered in the *Book of Exodus*. They come, too, to the Holy city which will feature at the beginning and end of Luke's Gospel, and in the opening chapters of Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles*.

Jesus, the one who will be God's revealed liberator and redeemer, comes to the Holy City, to Israel's key worship centre with its religious leaders, to remind the people, even as a child, that God is acting in their midst. His parents, worried that they had lost him in their caravan journey, find him later in the temple, in the sacred place of God's holy city. He returns with them to Nazareth to grow in wisdom and learning. This bearer of God's Spirit is like any other Jewish child who needs to be nourished.

The story also reflects powerfully on family life: it's about members being lost and found, seeking holiness and liberation amidst life's struggles, and growing in wisdom.

Fr Michael Trainor