



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR C 25 & 26 DECEMBER 2021

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Mission Leader

Fr Peter Danh CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P.Meat

MASS TIMES

- ◆ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ◆ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
- ◆ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun Sudanese Mass - 3.00pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

SOCIAL OFFICE

Contact: Son Nguyen

Phone 9366 1310

Tuesday & Friday 10:00am-3:00pm.

Currently closed & reopened 21st January 2022

Parish Office will be closed from the 24th December 2021 and will reopen on the 13th January 2022.

There will be no Baptism in January and Sacrament will resume on the 5th February 2022.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

Dear All,

On behalf of the Parish Priest, Assistant Priests and everyone here at the Parish Office, at this great time of joy and thanksgiving, we would like to send our gratitude to each of you and your families for being a part of our faith-filled and dynamic community here at Holy Eucharist Parish. May the beauty, peace and joy of this most blessed season envelop you all with the infinite love of God, and the wonder of the birth of His only Son, our Saviour and brother, Jesus.

A joyous and blessed Christmas to each of you!

Stay safe and God bless.

NOVENA



- ◆ 8.30am - Pray the Rosary in different languages
- ◆ 9.00am – Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- ◆ Please join us in devotions to our Lady!

THE LIVING WORD

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

This is the child I prayed for: he is made over 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.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 7983 (84):2-3,5-6,9-10

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 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord

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.

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

Mary stored up all these things in her heart

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.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time. It is also a time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle various conflicting commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is now six years since the Synod on the Family in Rome. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass into history without giving it the ongoing attention it deserves. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention. For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy."

Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who become aware only after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and has not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This

does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him. This may sound familiar to those who are parents of young adults.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the narrative. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with the wishes or hopes of their parents. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to hold on to them, we do so at our peril, while respecting the fact that many are constrained by lack of employment and affordable housing to remain with their parents well into adulthood. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.

By Veronica Lawson RSM

CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S ULTIMATE ANSWER TO OUR ANGUISH

My father died suddenly on Christmas Eve morning when he was 49 years old, leaving my mother a widow with seven children. The struggle I faced that Christmas, so I came to realize, was no different from the one that afflicts everyone every day: loss and longing.

My challenge was to pay special attention to Christmas — seeing past the superficial — to get to the mystery's real meaning. Can Christmas offer an answer to keenly felt sorrow and pain? I have never forgotten consoling words I discovered years later from poet Rainer Maria Rilke to a hurting friend: "Celebrate Christmas in this devout feeling that perhaps God needs this very anguish of yours in order to begin." And who of us these days is not feeling intense anguish?

The unexpected absence of my father made me yearn for something non-negotiable: a Presence to fill the void. The Son of God coming in the flesh — Emmanuel, God-With-Us — is that Presence. And only a Presence is adequate for answering the emptiness and need that the human being is. Why? Because a Presence is the beginning of the end of barriers in our life. Presence "is to know that there are experiences that lessen the dread of separation, loneliness, and even death," wrote author Ralph Harper.

An insight of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger seems to me positively prophetic: "In what does the human being's wretchedness actually consist? The root of the human being's wretchedness is loneliness, is the ab-

sence of love — is the fact that my existence is not embraced by a love that makes it necessary." Christmas is the birth of that Love.

Which is why, even now from the manger, Jesus is turning the tenderness of his Sacred Heart to the hemorrhaging woman who soon will stretch out her hand to Christ's hem for a cure. Even now without words he is saying to her — and to us — "Daughter, your faith has saved you." Even now he beckons the lame man in Bethesda: "Do you want to be healed?" Even now he sets out to find the leper and everyone who faces their affliction with trust-filled hope: "If you will to do so, you can make me clean!"

We need the celebration of Christmas to happen every year in order to stanch our forgetfulness of God that otherwise takes over. Christmas proclaims that we are made by God and for God, and that we cannot live without him. For "without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is," wrote Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth," No. 78). "The human being's alienation from God has so buried in oblivion so many of the human being's aspects," warned Father Hans Urs von Balthasar, "that these can be brought up again only through God's Incarnation."

We long for a human touch, a human gaze to lead us back to God. The playwright Paul Claudel, who himself experienced a grace of reconversion on Christmas Eve, observed, "God, being unable to make himself known, contrived to make himself born."

St. Bernard counseled: "God's Son came in the flesh so that mortal human beings could see and recognize God's kindness." Accordingly, "all the holiness God has destined for our souls has been placed in the humanity of Christ, and it is from this source that we must draw," wrote Blessed Columba Marmion.

To woo us back to our own humanity, Jesus comes to us — not in magnificence and splendor — but as a baby. St. Bernard spelled out the stunning logic of the Incarnation: "The lesser Jesus became through his human nature, the greater was his goodness; the more he lowered himself for me, the dearer he is to me. Jesus comes as a little one lest we be terrified."

The whole of Christ's intention at Christmas is to share his life with us. "Christ did not live his life for himself but for us. ... Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us (CCC 519, 521).

Many years ago, a priest friend served as a missionary in Mongolia. The people had never been introduced to Christianity and had not heard of Jesus Christ. Being nomads, they opt not for stationary houses, but

for big tents called yurts or gers that can be readily pitched and dismantled.

At the Christmas Mass my friend celebrated in that country, what could he say to the Mongolians so that they could encounter Jesus Christ? He proclaimed the Gospel: "The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us" (John 1:14). The people's jaws dropped. They exclaimed to the priest in amazement: "God wants to be with us and he is just like us!"

Our family custom on Christmas Eve was to open one gift. Returning home from the Christmas Vigil Mass, my brothers and sisters and I gathered, feeling awkward, wondering what we would do. Wouldn't opening presents be disrespectful? But my mother assured us that opening gifts is what my father would have wanted. My mother never read the 20th-century Scandinavian writer and Catholic convert Sigrid Unset, but she certainly possessed her wisdom:

"When we give each other Christmas gifts in Jesus' Name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself."

By Peter John Cameron, OP

PLEASE NOTE

**LAST DAY FOR FOODBANK
FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER
2021**

REOPENING ON

**FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
2022**

**TAKING THIS TIME TO
WISH YOU ALL A SAFE
AND MERRY CHRISTMAS**

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 28-12-21

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 28-12-21

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Volunteer

Thur 9:00 AM, 30-12-21

Reader Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Min. Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 31-12-21

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 01-01-22

Lit. Coordinator: Charlie Pace
Reno Attard

Commentator: Miriam Vella
Reader: Susan Hallorina

Jinky Monteros
Eucharistic Min. Alastair Surao
Miriam Vella
Reno Attard

Sun 9.00 AM, 02-01-22

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen

Commentator Wilma Marmur

Readers: Pam Norris
Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Min. Shirley Krizmanic
Wilma Marmur
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:30AM, 02-01-22

Lit. Coordinator: Christine Pedroso

Commentator Rita Martin
Reader Junior Tufuga
Sekolasitika Afualo

Eucharistic Min. Saa Tufuga
Taoete Afano
Mary Giuffrida

Sun 6.00PM, 02-01-22

Lit. Coordinator Rod Lalunio
Commentator Larnie Mendoza
Reader Lani Laririt

Lorraine Ward
Eucharistic Min. Rod Lalunio
Lani Laririt
Larnie Mendoza

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 1st January 2022

* **6pm** – Fernandez Family Choir

Sunday 2nd January 2022

* **9am** - Charlie Schembri

* **10.30am** - Samoan Choir

* **6pm** - Exximos Family & Friends
Choir

CLEANING ROSTER

Week Beginning Group 6 - Legion
of Mary (Vietnamese) Mary

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Rachel Piskon, Toni Antonowicz,
Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim,
Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella
Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased.

Joseph Grima, Phelomena Lazaro,
Teresa Phuong Khong, Macario S.
Pagdanganan Sr.

Anniversaries

Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Jan & Jo-
van Vala, Maria Lojdova, Stefan
Kolek, Mary & Lucky Ellawala,
Andrew & Emille Ranasinghe,
Maryse Ranasinghe nee Kroon,
Mary, Charlie, Ally, Peter, Spiteri
and family, Ignatius, Esther, Joseph
Borg and family, Laurance, Elizabeth
Zarafa and family, Aliso, Antonia Spiteri
and family, Tony Vella, Fred Sammut,
Jessie Pace, Norberto Laririt, Criselda
Fernandez, Angela Chircop, Maria Vu
Thi Yeu Thuong, Peter Disco, Frank
Kreuger, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie
Vella, Anthony Gatt, George & Angela
Bugeja, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family,
Brincat & Galea family, Vincent Duong
Kham Su, Mary Camilleri & Family,
Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Charlie
Xerri, Lewis Spiteri, Raymond Abela
and All Souls.

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is com-
mitted to the safety, wellbeing
and dignity of all children,
young people and vulnerable
adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Holy Eucharist parish respectfully
acknowledges the Wurundjer people as
the traditional custodians of the land
on which we reside and worship.*

VOCATION VIEW

Unless your family loves you, noth-
ing else makes sense. In your family
your vocation can grow in wisdom,
age and grace.

All information used in accordance
with the terms of our privacy policy.