



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

26 December 2021

readings

Next Week

Is 60: 1-6
Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6
Mt 2: 1-12

in a nutshell

God, bless our home. A house is made of materials that are replaceable. But a home is founded on relationships, love, memories, joys and pains, births and deaths. No material compensation can ever be made for the loss of these. On this feast of the Holy Family we pray, 'God bless our home', whatever its shape may be.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, Maureen O'Kane, Kaye Law, Fay Grant, Bernie Reed.

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Psalms Response

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

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.)

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

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.)

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

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

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary
Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:
smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

Parish Notices

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Conference 0427 874 374 or John Bird 0407 848 192

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Prayer for Families at Christmas

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.
Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircles the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.
For this we pray.
Amen.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Coming to the Blessed Sacrament we find the same humility and gentleness that the shepherds found in "the babe lying in a manger". The hunger in the heart of God for the love of man is expressed in the profound humility of these two words, Baby Jesus. (From "Letters to a Brother Priest")

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

New Stewardship Envelopes—Have you collected yours?

The new set of Stewardship Envelopes, running from Dec 12 2021 to June 12 2022, are now available. As you would understand both the stewardship and presbytery donations suffered during the last two years causing a significant decrease in income for both the church and the presbytery. The Parish appreciates the ongoing support by those parishioners who are formally engaged in the Stewardship Program either using the envelopes or via direct debit. It's not too late to decide to become a regular contributor to the finances of the Parish. Please notify the office if you would like to be part of the Stewardship. A reminder that the Thanksgiving Offering side of the envelope contributes to the running of the parish: paying utilities, purchasing mass requisites, the secretarial wages etc. The Presbytery Envelope plus any loose cash goes towards the support of the Parish Priest with a percentage going to the Archdiocese and Priest's Remuneration Fund.

Godstart Volunteers Wanted

Many parents bring their children to St. Mary's for Baptism but lose ongoing connection with the Church. Godstart is a program which seeks to bridge that gap by sending birthday cards every year (up to 5yrs) to those baptised at our Parish. We are putting together a team of volunteers who will meet once a month to write and post these birthday cards. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rachael O'Shea on 0437122802.

Vinnies News

Saint Vincent de Paul Piety Stall is now selling the 2022 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information and feast days at \$10.00 each.

Covid Safe Environment

It is expected that Covid regulations are followed by each person therefore make sure you are signed in (preferably using QR code), sanitize, maintain socially distancing, and follow Covid guidelines as directed by the CHO.

New Website Address

In the coming weeks we will have a new website address. pol.org.au/mountevelyn

Harvest Journeys Catholic Road Trips 2022

Faith, Fun, Fellowship on Pilgrimage

Introducing an inspirational series of local Catholic Pilgrimage Journeys in Australia and New Zealand as we take to the road and celebrate the beauty of the places, faces and graces that make up our wonderful backyard. Choose from a selection of iconic touring experiences as we combine faith, fun and fellowship together, while celebrating memorable daily masses with our fellow Catholic communities encountered along the way. <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/catholic-roadtrips/>

Something to make you Smile!

When my daughters were little I would always tell them around Christmas that this is Jesus' birthday and he only received 3 things so do not be disappointed in what lies under the tree. When it came time for worship on Christmas morning, I asked the children what they thought Jesus would think of Santa and all the hype. Would he ask Santa a question? My youngest daughter replied, "I think Jesus would ask how come I only got three things and none of them were toys?"

Readings Reflection

[Our True Home](#)

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16–18).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19–22; Hebrews 3:3–6; 10:21).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be my son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7).

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

The Humble Dwelling Place in Nazareth

An Authentic School of the Gospel

Today we shift our gaze from the grotto of Bethlehem where the Saviour was born on Holy Night to the humble house of Nazareth, to contemplate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose feast we celebrate in the festive, family atmosphere of Christmas.

The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society. The time he spent in Nazareth, the greater part of his life, continues to be shrouded in deep silence. Very little information about it has been passed on to us by the Evangelists. However, if we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus' life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen. Today's liturgy offers us a providential opportunity to do so.

For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is *an authentic school of the Gospel*. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an *intimate community of life and love*; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small "domestic church" that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline and community asceticism and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.

I wanted to highlight these values in the Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris consortio* whose 20th anniversary occurred this year. *The future of humanity passes through the family* which in our time has been more marked than any other institution by the profound and rapid changes in culture and society. However, the Church has never ceased "to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives" (*Familiaris consortio*, n. 1). She is aware of her responsibility and today too intends to continue "to offer her services to every person who wonders about the destiny of marriage and the family" (*ibid.*).

The Church relies especially on the witness and contribution of Christian families to fulfil her urgent mission. Indeed, in the face of the dangers and difficulties that beset the family institution, she invites families to have greater spiritual and apostolic boldness, knowing that the family is called to be "a sign of unity for the world" and thus to bear witness to "the Kingdom and peace of Christ, towards which the whole world is journeying" (*ibid.*, n. 48).

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless and protect all the world's families, so that within them may reign the serenity and joy, justice and peace that the newborn Christ has given as a gift to humanity.

Pope John Paul II, Angelus, 30 December 2001