

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

Entrance Antiphon Lk 2:16

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

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

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. see v.1

(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.)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians Col 3:12-21

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.

Gospel Acclamation: Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 2:41-52

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.

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38

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

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel Mt 2:1-12



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am–2pm Tuesday to Friday
Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave

The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Our Parish Vision Statement:
We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C - 26th December, 2021

A man who just arrived in the neighborhood was talking with a seven-year-old boy living next door. "How many children are there in your family?" he asked. "Eight," the boy replied. "Oh my God!" the man exclaimed. "That many children must cost a lot of money!" But the boy answered, "Oh, we don't buy them. We raise them." Nowadays, one vital element in society that is being attacked and undermined by the culture of death is the family. There are concerted and systematic efforts to destroy the family. Even the concept of a family is now being questioned. More people want to change the concept of marriage and family. They want to define marriage as the union of two persons, even of the same sex.

The world is going crazy! This year the very following day after Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God is a family of Three Persons: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. When the Son of God was made man, He was also born into a family. The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – is the perfect reflection of the Eternal Family of the Triune God. The family, therefore, is not just a human creation; it is God's will and design from eternity. And the Holy Family is presented before us as the example and inspiration for a truly meaningful family life.

It could be said that the Holy Family was extraordinary and thus exempted from the trials and troubles that our families regularly encounter. But that is not true. Joseph was an ordinary carpenter who had to provide for the needs of his family, making sure the Son of God is well provided for. Definitely, he had economic problems. There was also real problem with security and safety. King Herod was looking for the Child in order to kill Him. He used all the resources of his kingdom to hunt and kill Jesus. Joseph and Mary must have spent sleepless nights in extreme fear. For a time, they had to live as refugees in a foreign land. They were not exempt from all the problems and difficulties that families experience. However, there is one thing the Holy Family was exempted from: sin. The Child Jesus is the Incarnate God; Mary was the Immaculate Conception; and Joseph was a just and pious man. That is why, despite all these problems, they lived in total peace, complete harmony and perfect love because sin and evil had no chance to enter and create trouble in the family.

Today let us fix our gaze on the Nativity scene: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are the perfect models for our families. Let me share with you two important points that may help our families follow the example of the Holy Family. First, love must be the binding force that should unite and nurture the family. And love is a matter of giving, not taking; it is total self-giving, without selfish motivations. In the first reading, we see how Hannah prayed for a child. In her old age she received a child, Samuel. But she did not keep him to herself. She said: "I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord." (1 Sam 1:27-28). Immediately after weaning him, she brought him to the Temple, and gave him to the priest Eli as an offering to the Lord.

In the Gospel, Mary received Jesus in her womb. She was fully aware that Jesus does not belong to her alone. The incident in the Gospel highlights this. Jesus was left behind in the Temple. Mary and Joseph were looking for Him for three days. These three days of anguish made it clear to Mary that she would eventually lose Him, a foreshadowing of what she would experience when her Son would be sacrificed on the cross. She did not complain nor did she demand any explanation. In humble obedience to God, "she kept everything in her heart." She received her Son Jesus, but she was also ready to give Him up to God.

When family members learn to forget their selfish interests and begin to truly give and share – first to God, and then to one another – they experience genuine love that binds them together more closely in unity and perfect harmony. Selfishness destroys and divides; love and giving build up and unite.

Second, we must always realize that our family comes only second to God. In the Ten Commandments, the first three commandments are all about obedience and faithfulness to God. Only then did the command to honor and obey our parents come in fourth. In our readings, it was possible for Hannah to give her child to God, and Mary to offer her Son Jesus on the cross because they were certainly aware that God is the first priority in life. The family only comes in second.

Our families nowadays experience many troubles because we often forget this truth. Every time we put God on the side in favor of our family, we always encounter more problems and difficulties, simply because we do not observe the proper order of priorities in life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Family ties are important, but not absolute" (#2232). What Jesus did, no matter how painful it was to Mary and Joseph, was a powerful lesson: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49).

If we really want our families to survive these terrible and trying times, we must put God first and above everything. In doing this, we place our families under the loving embrace and protection of the Eternal Family of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless and protect our families now and forever. Amen!

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/year-c-homily-for-the-feast-of-the-holy-family-3/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
 Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
 87518112.

Phone:
Parish Secretary:
Parish Office:

Mirani Perera
 97542141

Sacraments :
Child Safety Contacts:
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

belgrave@cam.org.au
Jeanette Wicks 97542759
Chairperson — Dennis
Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford
Therese Melia Geary , Evert Jansen
Mia Jansen
Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
Samantha Willis

Monbulk:
Belgrave:

Gembrook:

John Conway & Dennis

Emerald:

Mt. Dandenong:

Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

Principal: Caroline Quinton
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Alida Maria Cabret, Dorothy Surmen, Jean Moule, Maria Wotkiw, Ian Schofield, Anne Oude Vrielink, Anthony Vale.

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

#55 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Information Updated: 23 December 2021, 5:00pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and will be in place until 12 January 2022.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

Face Coverings— From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings will be required for gatherings indoors .

(except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions

A reminder this will mean: For Clergy: Face coverings must be worn as you enter for Mass. They may be removed during the celebration of Mass but are to be placed back on for the distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of Mass as you process out.

The Reader: may lower his/her face covering for the readings. This applies as well for the Universal Prayer.

Cantors and Singers: when a cantor is singing, the face covering may be lowered. It must be worn at all other times. Distancing between singers is recommended.

Communicants: Each communicant comes forward and removes one side of their face covering and sanitises their hands at a sanitation station provided nearby. Following reception of the Blessed Sacrament they step to the side to place the host on their tongue. The communicant replaces their face covering and returns to their seat.

Weddings: Face coverings must be worn by all participants indoors, except the Bride and Groom who do not need to wear face coverings during the ceremony. Face coverings can be removed for photos, but people must be encouraged to stay 1.5m away from others.

Numbers— There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.

QR Code Check ins— QR code check in is required for all Places of Worship.

For those who do not have a device, provision must be made to assist with a check in or to capture name and contact details.

Vaccinations— There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship.

Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated.

Please note that other activities outside of worship, particularly those activities that involve hospitality, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail QR code check-ins and COVID Marshals. This will apply to varying activities held within the parish-context.

People under 18 years of age will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status.

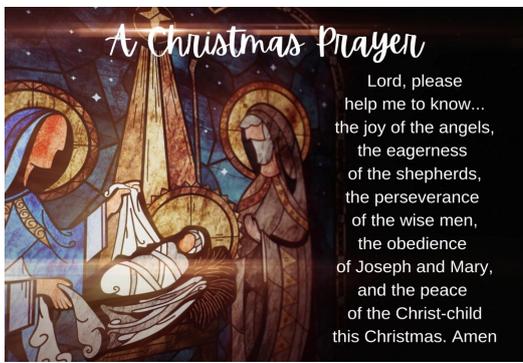
Cleaning of Facilities

Places of Worship will not need to be cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a parish COVIDsafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.

Care Facility Visitors

Hospital Visitors

There are limits on attending high-risk settings, even when fully vaccinated. Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted



Lord, please help me to know... the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child this Christmas. Amen

May the Lord Jesus Christ provide you with both divine and physical strength and prosperity to last you through the rest of your time on earth!

Merry Christmas

Dear Friends of Salesian Missions Australia,

As this year draws to a close, we wish to thank you most sincerely for your generous assistance and prayers. Your support has enabled the Salesians of Don Bosco to assist those most in need during these difficult and trying times.

Please find attached our [News update for 2021](#) which outlines many of the projects that have been implemented to help and relieve the sufferings of so many people as a result of the pandemic, military unrest, floods and other disasters.

Click [video link](#) from **Br Adriano from Timor Leste thanking those who kindly supported the flood victims in April 2021**. Visit the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdD3jY-1WMo>

To make an online donation please click on the [Donate Today](#) button below or visit our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au.

If you wish to mail a donation or contact us please find our details at the end of email.

Donations to this fund of \$2 and over for development and relief projects are tax deductible.



3 Middle Street
PO Box 264
Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032
Phone: (03) 9377 6060
Fax: (03) 9377 6066
salmis@salesians.org.au
www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

The parish office hours

Parish office is closed on holidays - (27th and 28th December), 29th and 30th December.

Fr. Cruz is not available on 3rd January to 6th January 2022.

New Year Midnight Mass at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

31st December 11pm Holy Hour
12am Holy Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Mass (Friday 24th December)



St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Joseph's Church Emerald

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

6.30pm Carols

7.00pm (**Salesian Priest**)

Christmas Mass (Saturday 25th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

Sacred Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

26th December Sunday

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)