

**Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Year B**

SUNDAY December 28 2014

Holy Family held together by Love

The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the Church this weekend as a model for our families. We call them "The Holy Family" but that does not mean that they did not have problems. Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or to put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also The Holy Family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind as we read the Scriptures. We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed.

Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream. When the time for Jesus' delivery came it took place in an animals' shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded.

Then the family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus' life was in danger due to Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries are now entering many western countries.

Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old and the only satisfaction they got from him was that he had to be about his Father's business.

We do not hear of Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died - The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death. Jesus' public ministry must have taken its toll on Mary. Simeon had predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. We can imagine one such occasion as we read in Mark 3:21 that when Jesus returned to Nazareth one day his relatives came to take him by force convinced that he was out of his mind. Not a very pleasant experience for any family, no matter how holy.

And there was the growing hostility to Jesus by the Jewish authorities that must have caused huge pain to both Mary and Jesus, especially as it became increasingly obvious that Jesus would have to pay for his mission by dying.

The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross.

What kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is 'Love for each other and God'. Jesus' love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. We can see Jesus' love for his mother when he was dying on the cross and was worried about leaving her behind so he asked his close friend and disciple John to look after her, saying to Mary, 'Woman behold your son', and to John 'behold your mother' (John 19:26-27). What holds our families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If ever our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone's part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love.

I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. What a pity.

Ed

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**St Joseph the Worker
Church**

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

7.00 am

8:30 am

Weekday Mass

Monday -7.00am

Wednesday-7.00am

**Each Friday-10.30am
Mass at Gold Coast
University Hospital**

**Guardian Angels'
Church**

99 Scarborough St

Southport

Saturday

6.00pm

Sunday Mass

7.00 am

10.00 am

Weekday Mass

Friday 12.30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday - 4.30pm

**Mary Immaculate
Church**

31 Edmund Rice Drive Ashmore

Sunday Mass

8:30 am & 6.00pm

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.00pm Last Saturday
of the Month 6.00pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am

Thursday - 5.30pm

Holy Hour. First Thursday
of the Month 4.15pm.

No Holy Hour in January



Fulfilling their duty leads to fulfilment of prophecy

In Luke’s gospel, Joseph and Mary brought the child Jesus to the Temple for two reasons: the child’s presentation and the mother’s purification. Luke used the ceremonies, the place, and the witnesses to further proclaim Jesus as the Christ. According to Leviticus 12:3-4, boys were circumcised eight days after birth. According to Jewish tradition, this ceremony declared the son legitimate

before God and the community. A child’s mother was unclean for 40 days. Only after that period could the mother celebrate the right of purification with an offering. While Luke referred to the circumcision of Jesus eight days after his birth he combined the presentation aspect of circumcision with the purification of Mary in one ceremony, extending it to the family, their cleansing. Luke in fact used the purification ceremony to emphasize the presentation of Jesus, just as Hannah presented Samuel to God at the Temple.

The Francis Effect

Realities are greater than ideas. This principal has to do with incarnation of the word and its being put into practice: By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is from God. The principal of reality, of a word already made flesh and constantly striving to take flesh anew, is essential to evangelization. It helps us to see that the Church’s history is a history of salvation.

Pope Francis 2013

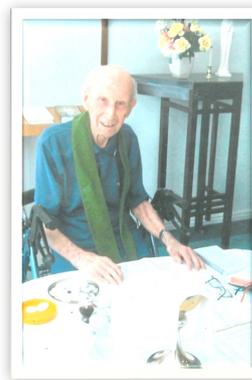
The Red Wagon

It was the day after Christmas at the church in Southport. The priest was looking at the manger scene when he noticed that the baby Jesus figure was missing from the cradle. He immediately turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon walking down Scarborough Street. and in the wagon, was the figure of the infant Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, ‘Where did you get that little baby Jesus that’s in your wagon? The little boy replied, ‘I got him from the church.’ ‘Why did you take him?’ asked the Priest. The little boy replied, ‘Well about a week before Christmas, I prayed to the little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it’.

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THANKS FROM ARCHBISHOP DENIS HART

We have received a note from Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne together with Auxiliary Bishop Mark Edwards OMI expressing their sincere thanks to the parish for the many years of support and help given to Fr Vince Creed. Fr Vince originally from Melbourne Archdiocese was the eldest living priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the longest serving. He has been a resident of De Paul Villa for over 10

years. Fr Vince passed away on December 16th he was 101 years old.

Thank you from St Vincent de Paul

Members of the Mary Immaculate Conference are so grateful for the generous and consistent support this Parish has given us over the year. Your prayers, food, toys, clothing, household goods and money given every week and during our Appeals and fund raisers are used to help people in need here in our community. Our Parish staff and schools have also been outstanding in helping us do our work. This Parish has made a huge effort to reach out and help those doing it tough: this is living out our faith as Jesus asked. Your prayers and support give us strength and hope. This year’s Christmas Appeal gifts (including 32 hampers for families in need “adopted and shopped for” by Parish families) brought tears of surprise, relief and joy to 130 families this Christmas. Thank you for your time to help pack and deliver the hampers. Seminarian Michael enjoyed being part of this special experience. We keep you and your loved ones in our prayers.

Helpers Needed: at Dan Murphy’s— New Years Eve

A big fundraiser is collecting donations at Dan Murphy’s Parkwood on New Year’s Eve. We collect at the door plus bring back trolleys (shoppers often donate for this service). We need 3 – 4 people aged 18+ per 2 hour slot 10 am – 6 pm This is a great chance for our young (and not so young!) adults and their friends to help others before celebrating the New Year. Contact Nerida 041 760 6639

nerida.smith@bigpond.com.

Do you Know

A 117 year old letter written by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, just days after the opening of a girls’ reformatory near Kapunda, has recently been discovered by a South Australian archaeology student. Flinders University PhD student, Cherrie de Leuien said she was sorting through a box of State Children’s Department correspondence and found the letter. The sisters of St Joseph, South Australia have confirmed the letter’s author is St Mary Mackillop.

Pope Francis has appointed Kathleen McCormack, the foundering director of Catholic Care in Wollongong, to the new Vatican commission advising him on safeguarding children from sexual abuse. She is one of eight new appointments. Kathleen McCormack was Catholic Care director for 29 years until her retirement last April. Pope Francis recognised her lifetime dedication to fighting sexual abuse by declaring her a Dame of the Order of Saint Gregory The Great

Pope Francis has sharply criticised the Vatican bureaucracy in a pre-Christmas address to Cardinals complaining of “spiritual Alzheimer’s” and “the terrorism of gossip.” He said the Curia, the administrative pinnacle of the Catholic Church, was suffering from 15 “ailments”, which he wanted cured in the New Year. He has demanded reform of the Curia. There was silence at the end of the Pope’s speech.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE FATHER.

ANNIVERSARY: Teodora Lapiz, Margaret Bauer, Guido Busuttill, Josephine Cahill, Teodora Lapiz, Margaret Bauer.

ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED: Rita Tessari, Tim Howard, Trudi de Vries
Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercession those we love and those who are sick lonely or hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God.

This Week's Saints

Monday, December 29, St Thomas Becket

"A strong man who wavered for a moment, but then learned one cannot come to terms with evil and so became a strong churchman, a martyr and a saint—that was Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on December 29, 1170.

His career had been a stormy one. While Archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at the age of 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into Church affairs. Nevertheless, he was made archbishop (1162), resigned his chancellorship and reformed his whole way of life!

Troubles began. Henry insisted upon usurping Church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome. But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety and remained in exile for seven years. When he returned to England, he suspected it would mean certain death. Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favoured by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury Cathedral."

Worth a Smile

During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the director what was the criterion that defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalised. "Well" said the director, "we fill up a bathtub. Then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub". "Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or teacup". "No" said the director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed by the wall or near the window?"

You are invited to celebrate

World Marriage Day

**At St Benedict's Church, Mudgeeraba
On Sunday February 8, 2015 at 11.00am
Mass, including renewal of vows, will be
followed by a shared lunch.**

**Please bring a plate, and feel free to
invite your family and friends.**

**For more information call Sue and Bren Milsom:
55 224 880 or milsoms@outlook.com**

Do you Know

Pope Francis has dedicated 2015 to the promotion of consecrated life, asking the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

Caritas Australia says the announcement by the federal government to further cut Australian aid represents a significant turning point away from six decades of Australia playing a constructive leadership role in our region and on the world stage. Treasurer Joe Hockey announced deep cuts of a further \$3.7 billion to the aid budget.

PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2015

First Sunday of each month, Morning Tea at the "Annex" after 8.30am Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador.

Each First and Third Sunday of the Month, 11.30am Charismatic prayer Meeting, Guardian Angels Church.

Bridge, every Wednesday 9.30am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate. Beginners welcome.

Rosary and Novena at 6.00pm every Wednesday, followed by Mass at 7.00pm on the First Wednesday of the month at St Joseph the Worker. **The Mass on Wednesday,**

Catholic Women's League, Meeting Second Friday of each Month, 11.00am Guardian Angels Church, Meeting Room, followed by Mass

Care and Concern, Meet Fourth Monday of each month, Mary Immaculate Meeting Room, 10.30am

Young Adults Group, Meet in the Parish Resource Centre every second Wednesday at 7.00pm

SPY. Southport Parish Youth. Meet in the meeting room at Mary Immaculate on the last Friday of each month. 6.30pm.

Thursday, **June 4 2015,** Confirmation.

Sunday, **June 7 2015,** First Eucharist

Christmas Masses

A Big Thank You to all who helped make our Christmas Masses such a prayerful experience. A special thanks to the Servers, Collectors, Readers, Musicians, Singers and Eucharistic Ministers, who filled in, and to Sister Elisabeth and the Choir who led the singing at Midnight Mass at Southport. Parishioners of Southport Catholic Parish turned out with their friends and families, and together with our many visitors helped to fill all church's to overflowing. The 6.00pm Children's Mass at Mary Immaculate was the start of what was to be a most joyful and holy Christmas experience. The Mary Immaculate Church was beautifully decorated, the children dressed as Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels, and Kings were a credit to their parents. It was up there with the best Children's Christmas Mass in recent time. Thanks to the hard work and care of Sister Helen. Sister Helen wishes to extend her personal THANKS to all the children and their families who participated in the Christmas Eve celebrations at Mary Immaculate. Number at this Mass were up on last year, with over 800 adults in attendance plus all the children. The 6.00pm Mass at Guardian Angels and the Midnight Mass had similar attendances with difficulty finding standing room, and the trend continued throughout the Christmas Day Masses at all churches.

If you would like to join us more frequently—as we pray for peace within ourselves and throughout the world—

You would be most welcome

Our Parish Priest is **Father Jan Bialasiewicz**, Father Jan is assisted in the parish by **Father Domenico Muscari**, and Father **Vince Hobbs**. Speak to them after Mass today they would love to meet you.

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty...But everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.

Phyllis Diller



R The Lord re-mem-bers his co-ve-nant for e - ver.

HYMNS

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

GLORLY TO GOD- Mass Shalom

Refrain:

***Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.***

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,
almighty Father. **R**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father,
have mercy on us. **R**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most High, Jesus
Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God
the Father. **R Amen**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord remembers his covenant
Forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (to be said)

Alleluia, Alleluia,
In the past God spoke to our fathers
through the prophets; now he speaks to
us through his Son
Alleluia.

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GIFTS PROCESSION BORN IN THE NIGHT

Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home;
Coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's child,
you tell us God is good;
Prove it is true, Mary's child,
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O
Lord, until you come again

AMEN

Amen, Amen, Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (Shalom)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world: Grant us peace.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

CHILD OF MERCY

Refrain:

***Child of mercy, child of peace,
Jesus, Bread of life,
food to fill our longing.
Child of justice, child of light,
Jesus, saving cup,
Emmanuel, God with us.***

All who walk in darkness
have seen a great light,
to those who dwell in fear,
a light has shone! R

A child is born to us,
a son is given us,
upon his shoulder glory rests! R

We name him: "Wonder, couns'lor,
hero, mighty God,"
The Holy One for ever:
Prince of peace! **R**

We proclaim good news to you,
great tidings of joy:
To you is born a saviour: Christ the Lord!

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head;
The stars in the bright skies looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the
sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray!
Bless all the dear children in your tender
care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with you there

RECESSIONAL HYMN

GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN

Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those
who love you well:
On the earth let all your people speak your
grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty
Father, heaven's king;
Hear our joyful adoration and accept the
thanks we bring!

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away.
Now with God in triumph seated,
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour you are God alone.
In the glory of the Father with the Spirit:
Three in One!

THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

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