



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH

26TH DECEMBER 2021 TIME YEAR C/2

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile.

Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God.

Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow! We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family. Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army.

The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans.

By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelink, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death.

You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own.

Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before. Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society.

For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today. So what's the secret?

Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key. This flies in the face of the film *Love Story's* outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'.

As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

When I was 16 I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge.

I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them.

That left my mother. I stayed home one Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.'

And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning. I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV.

My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference.

© Richard Leonard



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish email address

info@scp.org.au

Parish Website

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish phone number

07 5510 2222

Parish address

31 Edmund Rice Drive
Ashmore Qld 4215

PO Box 216
Ashmore City 4214

Parish Office

(Parish Secretary)

Daloras Howes

dalorash@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Maria Blanca

MariaB@scp.org.au

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Gerard McMorro (PP)

Fr Stephen Camiolo

(Parish Ministry
& Hospital Chaplaincy)

**OFFICE CLOSED FROM 25TH
DECEMBER UNTIL THE 4TH
JANUARY 2022**

Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday

Year C/2

1st Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6 -

2nd Reading – Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

St. Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses

7:00am & 8:30am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday - 7:00am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Friday Mass at 10.30am

Rosary 10.00am

Mass Friday 10:30am

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Sunday Masses

Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am
Sunday 5.00pm Korean Mass

Prayers & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00noon –1.00pm

Weekday Mass

Friday 12:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Guardian Angels Church
4.30pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Sunday Masses

Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm,

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

New year's day **Mass** 9.00am
Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother
of God

ONLY AT MARY IMMACULATE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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.

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GLORY 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 – SUNG

Sing a New Song

Refrain:

**Sing a new song unto the Lord,
let your song be sung
from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.**

Shout with gladness, dance for joy,
O come before the Lord.
and play for God on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. **R**

Rise, O children, from your sleep,
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song. **R**

Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds,
the dead shall be raised.
I know my saviour lives. **R**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!
You are the Christ everlasting,
born for us all of a Virgin,
you have conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

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GIFTS PROCESSION

What Child is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems
sweet, while shepherds watch are
keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom
shepherds worship and angels sing,
haste, haste, to bring him praise,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
his love all loves exceeding.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the saviour comes,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let ev'ry heart enthrone him.
Raise, raise your song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the son of Mary.
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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

Angels We have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing over the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this Jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? **R**

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

See him in a manger laid
whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. **R**

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REFLECTION HYMN

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 sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes.

I love you,, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky
and stay by my side
until 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 ypur tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there.
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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Let Heaven Rejoice

Refrain:

**Let heaven rejoice and earth be
glad,
let all creation sing.
Let children proclaim
through every land,
"Hosanna to our king."**

Nations tremble, wise men amazed.
A child is born this night,
wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
a father, prince of peace. **R**

Songs of angels, "Glory on high,
and peace to men on earth.
I bear glad tidings, born this day,
your savior and your God." **R**

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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God, begotten, not made, con-
substantial with the Father; through him,
all things were made. For us men and for,
our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and be-
came man', all bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For
our sake, he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance, with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead and his kingdom will
have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets. I
believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church. I confess one Baptism for the for-
giveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.

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