



Infant Jesus Parish

Under the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars

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The Holy Family, Year C

27 December 2015

First Reading Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

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.)

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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 Col 3:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

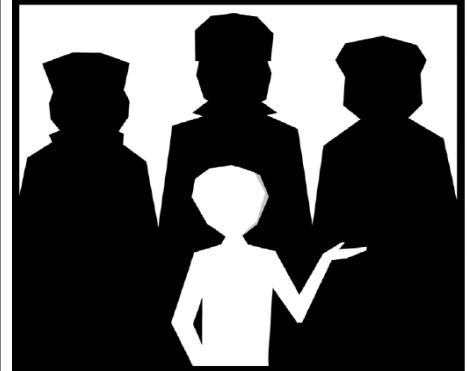
His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

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.



Reflection

by Dianne Bergant

The specifics of customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but the values out of which they emerge are not. Though Sirach sketches a picture of ancient family customs, it is easy to look beneath them and find values that are enduring and that speak to us today. There we discover mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children and between the young and the old.

The model placed before us is the Holy Family. There we find mutuality in the relationships; compassion, kindness, and humility; gentleness and patience; obedience to parents along with respect for the uniqueness of children. In this portrait of the Holy Family, people do not claim privilege. Jesus, who was the Son of God, submitted himself to his human mother and father. Mary and Joseph, who exercised authority over Jesus, also stood in wonder of him.

While this feast considers the family unit, it also celebrates the Church as the Family of God. Thus the values of mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. Within the family of God, the virtues outlined by Paul are to be lived in a mature manner. We are all called in one body to live in a collaboration of love, of mutuality, and of service. We are joined in a bond of perfection.

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Entrance Antiphon Lk 2:16

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

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38

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

The Response to the Prayers to the Faithful: "Lord in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer"

Dear Parishioners,

To everyone who was involved in preparing for and participating in the liturgies for Advent and Christmas, I offer my warmest thanks for your commitment and generosity. If it were not for your efforts, the liturgies could not be celebrated in such a meaningful and inclusive way. You delivered fliers, wrote prayers, served at Mass and many other tasks and as usual, everything came together into a grace-filled whole. Thank you all!

As many of you may know, we recently had an unfortunate incident in the church involving a disturbed young man, during which the Altar Missal was destroyed. I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to Paul and Bette Wachtel for their generous offer to meet the cost of the new Missal. Out of a distressing incident has come an act of love and generosity—Jesus is alive and dwells among us! We pray for all our travelling families and for students who are looking forward to starting high school or university next year. May this time of rest be fruitful for you, so that you enter your new year of study well prepared, focussed and full of enthusiasm. For those staying at home, may your family be blessed with peace and joy. **—Fr. Sunny**



"The Holy Family is an icon of the domestic Church, which is called to pray together. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God, thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later. I would, then, like to invite people to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family, following the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth". — **Pope Benedict XVI**



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God New Year's Eve Mass of Thanksgiving and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Come and join your parish family and see in the New Year in a very special way.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: 11.30PM
MIDNIGHT MASS OF THANKSGIVING: MIDNIGHT

Following the Mass, there will be fellowship offered in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share: thank you!

CAN YOU HELP?

We need help in the parish kitchen following the **THANKSGIVING NEW YEAR'S MASS**. If you are attending the Mass, please offer your help.

EXPOSITION CANCELLED

Due to the Thanksgiving Mass and Adoration on New Year's Eve, there will be no evening Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at **7.30pm on Friday 31 December**.



Christmas Closure for Parish Office and Parish Centre

The Parish Centre will be closed to all groups from Friday, 25 December 2016 until Monday, 18 January 2016. The parish office will close over the same period.



A big **THANK YOU** to Catholic Church Insurances for their gift of a lovely Christmas hamper which the Youth Group used as the prize in their fundraising for Parish youth activities last weekend. Congratulation our raffle winner, Peter Bevilacqua.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - JOURNALIST

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth is seeking a full-time journalist, to work in the Communications Office. The journalist will support the Archdiocesan Communications Manager to effectively communicate the message of the Archbishop.



Tertiary qualifications in journalism or communications or relevant work experience of at least two (2) to five (5) years is required, with work experience in the print and digital communications industry being highly regarded.

Expressions of interest should be received by Terry Wilson, Archdiocesan Finance Office, GPO Box M962, PERTH WA 6843 or by email: terryw@archdiocese-perth.org.au by no later than close of business, Friday 8 January 2016.

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Adelina De Luca, Bogdan (Bob) Drzewiecki and Thelma Woodhouse;

Deceased: Lourenco Martins and Ben Bagini;

Anniversaries: Nick Strever and Antonio Panizza;

The Sick of the Parish: Vasco Pieraccini, Hung, Antonio, Catherine and all the sick who are in need of our prayers.

"He calls you his children, and that is what you are"



PILGRIM STATUE: This week is in the home of Mrs Claire Harris
26 Lyndhurst Way, Dianella
Ph: 9276 9124

Calendar of Saints

28 Dec: The Holy Innocents

29 Dec: St Thomas Becket, Martyr (1170 AD)

31 Dec: St Sylvester I, Pope (335 AD)

01 Jan: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

02 Jan: Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Monks (397 AD)

Gospel Reflections for Married Couples in the Jubilee of Mercy - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



In this week's Gospel, Mary and Joseph, without realising it, leave the boy Jesus "behind in Jerusalem." When they realise they have lost him they go back "looking for him everywhere." It's not uncommon for married couples, at times, to lose things that are precious to them in the busyness of life, often without meaning too. It can be small moments of connection that used to bring them joy. This week finds something that's been lost in your marriage and talk about how it might be found. — **Catholic Marriage and Fertility Services**