



The Feast of the Holy Family

St Thomas More Parish, Glenfield 27 December 2020

The WORD This Week

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more dramatic events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called 'hidden years' - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in

A Christmas Prayer

By St John of Clairvaux

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us,
that we, made in your image,
conform ourselves to it.
In our own strength
we cannot imitate your majesty,
power and wonder;
nor is it fitting for us to try.
But your mercy
reaches from the heavens,
through the clouds,
to the earth below.
You have come to us
as a small child,
but you have brought us
the greatest of all gifts,
the gift of eternal love.
Caress us with your tiny hands,
embrace us with your tiny arms,
and pierce our hearts
with your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

The Good of the Family

Today's liturgy speaks of two families. The first is the family that consists of parents and children: "The shepherds ... found Mary and Joseph, and, lying in a manger, the baby."

The first two readings are about the qualities of the people who make up such a family, and we pray that God may "unite our families in peace and love." We also pray that God may "help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love." Here the liturgy concerns the human family, of which the Holy Family is a model: "we want to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in peace with you and one another." Linking these two families, one's immediate family and the human family, today's liturgy prompts us to think of their common welfare. It raises the possibility that our two families rise and fall together. Perhaps it is no accident that within this age of the universally recognized disintegration of the family, the world is also experiencing a breakup into rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped, the privileged and the marginal. Perhaps now more than ever, we need to beg God to "show us the value of family life and help us to live in peace with all men."

Gerald Darring *liturgy.slu.edu*

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love;
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the
family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Amoris Laetitia (On Love in the Family), 325.

A Prayer for Hope After A Hard Year

Loving God, thank you for helping us to make it
through this difficult year.

Thank you that you've
carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters,
through the flames of trials,
and through the pain of hard losses.

We are constantly aware of how much we need you,
your grace, your strength, your power working through
even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season.

Please forgive us for giving too much time and
attention to other things, for looking to other people
before coming to you first.

Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all
about. Thank you that you came to give new life,
peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is
made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel,
is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas,
but for the whole year through.

Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct
our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your
reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in
seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never
leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in
our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards
us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to
our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor
as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep
you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would
surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you
for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into
this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that
You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

www.crosswalk.com

THE WORD OF GOD

Sunday

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Monday

1 John 1:5 - 2:2
Matthew 2:13-18

The Holy Innocents

Tuesday

1 John 2:3-11
Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday

1 John 2:12-17
Luke 2:36-40

Thursday

1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Friday

New Year's Day

Mary, the

Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Saturday

1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

Sts Basil the great & Gregory Nazianzen



Christmas Day Mass Shine TV –

Shine will broadcast Christmas Day Mass starting at **1.50pm**. Shine is on Free-to-air Channel 25 and Sky TV Channel 201. Mass comes from the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph and the presider is Bishop Michael Gielen. Join in the singing beautifully led by the Cathedral Choir and Vocal ensemble.

Or it can be watched from <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/our-events/mass/> Mass will be broadcast at 2pm the next Sunday the Feast of the Holy Family and that will conclude this current provision of broadcast Mass.

Heading North this summer?

A reminder and encouragement to visit the places of important Catholic history in our diocese, particular Motuti, where Bishop Pompallier remains are interred in St Mary's Church, and Tōtara Point, where the first official Mass was celebrated on 13 January 1838.

All are invited to **Mass at Tōtara Point Sunday, 10 January 2021 at 11am** to commemorate the first Mass in Aotearoa. The map on the poster describes the route. *See poster in foyer.*



Social Justice Retreat

Social Justice Retreat 9am-4pm Saturday 6 March 2021 at St Francis Retreat Centre 50 Hillsborough Rd led by Fr Merv Duffy SM. It will focus on some Social Justice aspects of Mark's Gospel and *Fratelli Tutti*. \$20 including lunch. Places are limited contact Peter Garrick peterg@cdca.org.nz asap if you are interested in attending.

Mass with Anointing

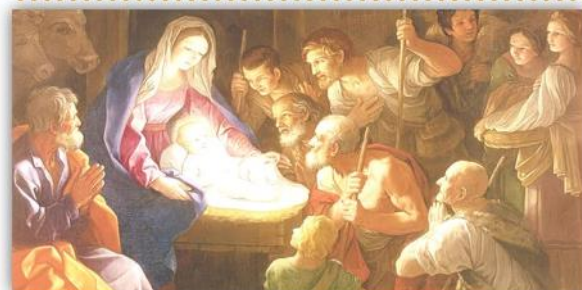


2 January 2021
Saturday 9.15am.



Adoration will resume on **Thursday 11 February 2021**. There will be no evening Masses/adoration/

novenas during January 2021



Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December 2020

6:55 pm - Children's Nativity Play
7:30 pm - Family Christmas Mass
11:30 pm - Candlelight Carol Service
12:00 am - Midnight Christmas Mass

Christmas Day, Friday 25 December 2020

8:45 am - Christmas Carols
9:00 am - Christmas Day Mass
11:00 am - Chaldean Christmas Mass

New Year's Eve, Thursday 31 December 2020

7:30 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

New Year's Day, Friday 1 January 2021

9:15am & 7.30pm - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Latest issue of **NZ Catholic** in church foyer. **\$4** per copy

The Morning tea after the 10am Mass will resume on 7 February 2021



Confirmation & Eucharist 2021

Registration forms are in the foyer. Return them to the box in the foyer or scan and email them to the **parish office** office@stthomasmore.org.nz

Please pray for our sick parishioners and their families

Peter Marshall, Cathy Sigley
Tamar Mathews, Israel Nathan,
Eloise McFadden,
Troy Angelo Madrigal and
Mary Anne Clark
Contact Parish office for any name changes.

Baptism Preparation Courses will start again in **February 2021**



May the Christ-child in a manger enlighten your life, brighten your spirit and warm your heart with his gift of **HOPE**.

May the God of **HOPE** fill you with **JOY** and **PEACE** this Christmas season.
Fr Alfredo Garcia

The Parish office will be closed from 24 December 2020 and will reopen **Tuesday 19 January 2021**



The annual parish report from St Thomas More parish is now available in the foyer. Please take one copy per family.

Mark your Calendar for 2021!

PARISH CULTURAL DAY

Sunday 14 February 2021

Mass at 10am with Bishop Michael Gielen followed by food and fellowship.

