



Welcome to

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Zadro

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Parish Secretary: Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 30th December, 2018

A reading from the first book of 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'
When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **R.**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **R.**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-2. 21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed,
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation of 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 2:41-52

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ROSTER for**The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday 6 January, 2019)****Scripture Readings for next week:**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture Readers for next week:

Saturday Vigil: Vicki Smith, Sue Smith
 Sunday 9.00am: Margaret Cassidy, Isabella Ramirra
 Sunday 6.00pm: Nunzio Arena, Carmelina De Francesco

Ministers of Communion for next week:

Saturday Vigil: Cathy Carrozza, Enrica Bova
 Rita Raco, Judith Molloy
 Sunday 9.00am: Romina De Grazia, Maria De Grazia
 Carmel McKeough, Pina Furlan
 Sunday 6.00pm: Viv Fezzuoglio, Melissa Lentini

Children's Liturgy for next week:

Sunday 9.00am No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

Reflection

"They found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking questions."

On 12 February 1944, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank, who was living in hiding in Amsterdam but would soon be sent by the Nazis to die in a concentration camp, wrote about her sense of longing, "to talk, for freedom, for friends, to be alone, for everything". She longed to be able to cry because she felt as if she was going to burst, but she was restless, she could feel her heart beating, as if it was saying, "Can't you satisfy my longing at last?"

This restlessness that Anne Frank experienced reflects the deeper need that all of us have at the centre of our lives, that ache or longing which cannot be named. It is that deep desire which St Augustine prayed about, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph are frantically looking for Jesus, who seems to have disappeared. They have been to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover but on their return journey they notice that he is no longer with them. They discover him in the temple talking to the elders, asking them questions and listening to them. Naturally his parents are relieved. Jesus doesn't really understand why they should have been worried. It might seem a strange activity to have stayed in the Temple with a group of much older people talking about matters of religion and faith but, at twelve, Jesus is in that liminal place in life when young people begin to emerge from being a child and start to move towards adulthood. It is a stage in life when the deeper questions of life are significant. Who am I? Who made me? Who am I meant to be? In staying behind, Jesus has given himself the space to ponder on these questions and seek the wisdom of those who can help him to explore them, guide him and allow him to grow more deeply in his relationship with God. At the heart of spirituality is this desire within the human person to satisfy a deeper longing. For many people, material possessions have lost their capacity to meet that need. People are more interested in having experiences. Helicopter trips, afternoon cream teas, even a walking trip with an alpaca are just some of the many experiences on offer, often given in place of a material gift. Common to all these experiences is that they involve sharing time with other people. They provide people with memories which can last for ever and they enable relationships to deepen.

Christian spirituality takes a different form. At its heart lies a process of spiritual formation which enables Christians to live an authentic and fulfilled life in the present world. As people of faith we are constantly being called into a deeper relationship with God. We respond to this by modelling our lives on Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. It sounds easy but, when we are engaged in busy and complex lives, it can be challenging to give it the time and commitment it requires, what today's Gospel shows us is that we do not need to do this alone. Jesus sought the help of the elders, but where do we go? Going to Mass is one of the most obvious places where we encounter God. When we gather on a Sunday and listen to the word of God, we can support one another in our desire to respond. Our parish community can hopefully play an important role in helping people of all ages to grow in their knowledge and love of God. In addition we may want to foster our human and spiritual development even further. We can do this in a variety of ways. For some it may lead to taking an academic route of study to learn more about Jesus or the Church. For others a prayerful avenue, perhaps by going on a retreat, may be more attractive or appropriate. Seeking the help of a spiritual guide can also help us to reflect upon and see where and how God is acting within our daily lives. We want to understand this because at the heart of us all lies a fundamental need, a thirst, a longing to be in tune with what really matters. The journey to determine how this thirst can be quenched will be different for each of us, but faith tells us that ultimately it is only God who can meet our deepest longing.

LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recently Deceased: Bruna Alibrandi, Dominic Banno, Giuseppe Cozzubbo, Caterina Ciancio, Joseph Ventura, Maria-Gaetanna Giorgio, Dr John Robilliard, Joyce Tolhurst, Gaetano Defina, Victor Kasalo, Maria Catania, Anna Di Maio, Luigi Vella, Carmelo Coluccio, John Ryan, Margaret Powning

Rest in Peace: Ted & Val Constant, Ornella Deluchi, Gildo D'Amici, Mario Scardilli, Sarina Tringali, Giovanni Tama, Lucia & Erminio Coruzzi, Carmen Muscat, Carmela Cini, Sabatina Giunta, Ingazio Pendino, Carmela Ruberto, Angelo Ruberto, Franco La Manna, Immacolata Angilletta, Francesco Angilletta, Cosmo Angilletta, Rocco Calautti, Lucrezia Calautti, Saveria De Grazia, Wanda Angelucci, Rachel Swanson, Guiseppina Magani, Pina Zaia, The Conte Family, Maria Palma, Valentina Manino, John & Kathleen Huie, Lucy The, Jim Tuite, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiaco, Fr Frank Furfaro & All Souls in Purgatory.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community: Nicholas Hanania, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Budda, Mario Bianco, Tony Sulfaro

Special Intentions: Aitken Family

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657

NEW YEAR'S DAY**Tuesday 1st January 2018****Mass 9am****THANK YOU**

I hope everyone has had a happy and tranquil Christmas.

Thanks to all who offered their services for various ministries at our Christmas Masses. Your commitment is a great help and a blessing to the parish community.

Thanks too to parishioners for your generosity towards me at this time. Your kindness is really appreciated.

God bless you all.

Fr Phil