



St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Zadro

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Parish Secretary: Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am—2.30pm

YEAR A THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH *29th December, 2019*

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

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.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5

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.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Colossians 3:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FEAST DAYS

Wednesday 1st January

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday 2nd January

Sts Basil the Great and Gregory



Next week: The Epiphany of the Lord

Scripture Readings:

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

ROSTERS

Scripture Readers:

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

Ministers of Communion:

Saturday Vigil: Cathy Carrozza, Daniel Anastasi
 Rita Raco, Judith Molloy
 Sunday 9.00am: Romina De Grazia, Maria De Grazia
 Carmel McKeough, Pina Furlan
 Sunday 6.00pm: Melissa Lentini, Lucy Denley

Children's Liturgy:

Sunday 9.00am No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

LORD, WE PRAY WELCOME HOME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recently Deceased: Milagro Gonzales, Vincenzo La Ianca, Vincenzo Di Maio, Angelo Ingegneri, Sabina Bacchetto, Tina Torrisi, Santa Pulciani, Connie Maling, Amalia De Rose, Carmelo Di Bartolo, Nunziata La Greca, Carmela Cutrufello, Colleen Shearer, Giuseppe Angilletta, Giuseppe Calautti, Concettina Di Bello, Doreen Lucantonio, Rosina Russo, Carmela Coluccio, Giovanni Parisi, Giuseppe Rinaldi

Rest in Peace: Vince Franze, Val Constant, Ornella Deluchi, John Carey, Vincenzo Giannini, Marie Moir, Mario Scardilli, Vince Franze, Angelo Giannetto, Victor Vyekoslav Kasal, Pedro Mantilla, Blanca Mantilla, Marco Antonio Handabak, Wanda Angelucci, Valentina Mannino, Maria Fresta, Carmelo Coluccio, Joe Mostyn, Provvidenza Spataro, Silvana Manfre', Maria Albore i Nigro, Giovanni Carrolo, Tindiglia & Brancatisano families, Gaspare D'onofrio, Tonino Di Giantomaso, Rosaria Di Bella, Giuseppina Macagni, Pietro Banno, Jack McEnally, Dominic Banno, 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: Vittoria Lavechia, Peter Cuddy, Carmel McNally, Neville Hill, 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 Buda, Mario Bianco, Tony Sulfaro

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

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cards, gifts and best wishes this Holy season. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are much appreciated.

Fr Phil

Reflection

"Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt."

Some of the most harrowing images of our age are of families fleeing conflict and violence. We see people huddled together with others in small, overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean. They will have paid huge amounts of money to traffickers to try to flee from conflict and seek a better life. When family members leave like this, the mobile phone is the only way that their families at home know they are alive. Keeping a signal is a priority for communication. These people are vulnerable and desperately looking for safety and sanctuary. Other images show families trekking over mountain passes and finding their way to refugee camps from where their future is uncertain. Some remain in refugee camps for decades, not being able to find a country to welcome them. Family is the only source of comfort and security in the midst of the unknown and in the face of possible violence.

In our Church there are many family members who have left home, travelled abroad and now work in this country. They support their families generously back at home. They come from a rich diversity of nations and are a gift to the Church as they share their faith and traditions of prayer and family. Such migration also brings its own burden of pain; distance from one's family is a heavy cross to carry. Many others work on ships and spend months away from families in order to seek an income and provide for the family. Such is the love to be found in families as well as the struggle and trials. We welcome our families and thank God for the gifts that they bring to our parish. Families are our future.

Today's Gospel provides two accounts of important journeys. The Holy Family flee for their lives to Egypt because of the persecution of King Herod who is about to slaughter the Holy Innocents. Joseph shows his trust in God when he listens to the angel who appears to him in a dream and takes action to protect his family. Mary and Joseph, with their vulnerable child, Jesus, head south by the coastal road towards Gaza, the desert and Egypt. Parents will be able to imagine the fear of Mary for her child. Their future is unknown and they can depend only on each other and God. Their example serves to encourage and strengthen families who flee for their lives. Later they travel back to Nazareth, the home town of Mary. Life is to be more stable and Joseph will work as a carpenter. Perhaps he worked as a carpenter on the large Roman construction site at Sepphoris near Nazareth. He would be like so many of the people in the Church who have travelled to find work in the building trade and on construction sites. Faithfully Mary and Joseph handed on the Jewish faith to Jesus who learnt his prayers and celebrated the feasts of his faith.

The flight into Egypt is a reminder that Joseph, the dreamer and man of the multi-coloured coat, was sold into slavery by his brothers and found a new life in the kingdom of the Pharaohs. Although this Joseph was a victim of betrayal in his family, God protected him and later reunited his family around him. As God brought Moses and his chosen people out of the slavery of Egypt, so God will lead Jesus and his family back to Nazareth. There he will grow and mature to become the one who will proclaim the kingdom of God and form a new people of God around him, later the Church. As the baptised, we are called into his family and to serve, love and build our families in faith and prayer.

Today's feast is an invitation to give thanks to God for the gift of our families, especially when the family is scattered by distance and circumstance. God is working in our families to help us grow in faith. We pray for our families.

The family is the first school of love. Such love can be difficult when children are to be looked after, elderly parents cared for, and events bring tragedy into family life. The example of the first Joseph promises the hope of reconciliation when there is betrayal or division. The Holy Family can inspire our actions. We entrust our families to the care of the Holy Family.

The Living Word