

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
27 December 2020 - Year B

**“Take the child and his mother,  
and flee to Egypt.”**

### Something to Think About

Who are the people in your family?

Jesus was God’s son, but he came into the world as part of a human family too.

His parents, Mary and Joseph, looked after Jesus as he grew up.

### The Story

After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus far away from King Herod to keep them safe. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. After King Herod died, Joseph and his family started back towards Israel, but when he learnt that Herod’s son was now the ruler, he was afraid to go there. Joseph then had another dream where he was told to take Mary and Jesus to Galilee, so he took them to live there in the town of Nazareth.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

**2:13-15, 19-23**

An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Get up!

Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

That night Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."

Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[Families all over the World](#)



## Group Discussion

Think about the amount of trust Joseph showed, believing that the words of the angel were God's way of protecting his family from harm. Talk about a time in your life when your parents or grandparents have acted to protect you from harm.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray for the family of God, throughout the world, Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for all people who try to bring about lasting peace. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for families who are hurting due to the loss of a loved one. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for the needs of our own families. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,  
Be with our family and grant us your  
peace.  
May our homes be filled with love,  
patience, forgiveness and kindness.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

On the feast of the Holy Family, take some time to tell each member of your family what you love most about them.

*You will need: paper or card, markers, a jar or bowl.*

Take a small piece of paper for each member of your family and fold it in half like a card. On the outside, write the name of the person or draw a picture of them. On the inside, write or draw the things you love most about that member of your family. Repeat for each member of your family.

At the dinner table tonight, put all of these little cards into a big jar or bowl. Take turns to pull one out, and read out these wonderful affirmations for each person, celebrating the members of your family. Remember to thank God for the gift of your family!



# A MAP OF THE PLACE WHERE JESUS LIVED

- **NAZARETH** is where Mary and Joseph lived. Find Nazareth.
- **BETHLEHEM** is where Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph had to go there because they were counting all the people. Draw a line from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

**When Jesus was born, things got very dangerous for him. To protect Jesus, Mary and Joseph took him to Egypt.**

- **EGYPT** is where they went to stay safe. Find Egypt. Draw a line from Bethlehem to Egypt.
- **NAZARETH** was home. So when it was safe, Mary and Joseph and Jesus went back home. Draw a line from Egypt to Nazareth.

## HOW DID THE HOLY FAMILY TRAVEL?

