

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah

St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Norville

St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah



Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community

Pastoral Team

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Mrs Alicia Klein

Sacramental Coordinator

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Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Mr Kevin Williams 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Mr Craig McNee

4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mr Adam Murdoch 4358 4278

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

26th December 2021



The feast of the Holy Family is a celebration of all families: not perfect families, not constantly serene families - but families just like ours. If we picture the family of Joseph of Nazareth as we have seen them depicted in works of art or statuary, it becomes very difficult to model our family lives around theirs.

They were, in fact, ordinary working people, called to an extraordinary mission. And they were subject to the ordinary failures of miscommunication, disappointments,

worries, and disagreements of every family. However, they put their entire future, their entire trust, in the Spirit of God, who not only led them through their lives, but traveled alongside with them on their journey. Theirs was a family of love, respect and honesty, and not without turmoil.

It is very fitting that, as we move from the old year into the new, we recognize how intimately our lives are bound up with family. We are born into a family and reared in its environment; we move out and usually begin our own families. So many of the significant and Sacramental events of our lives are related to family members... baptisms, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, anniversaries, and deaths.

For us who believe in God's gift of His Son Jesus, there is only one choice. We walk in the Light of His love and His truth. That is what guides us day by day. We never feel abandoned, or helpless, or lost. We cannot allow those around us to walk in that kind of darkness, either. Paul's letter to the Colossians is a wonderful expression of the ideals that we all work towards and pray for to make our own families "holy" families:

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."

These are also the fundamental elements of building peace in our world. May your families know his Love and Peace, today and always.

Fr Baby

Special Notices:

We welcome all parishioners and visitors. We hope you had a Happy Christmas and we wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Donatus Antony, Tommy Clarke, German Castillo, Rove Varmin

Anniversaries: Brett Weller, Valerie Weller, John Ledger

Remembrances: Frank Costa

Sick: Patricia Parker, Faye Roberts, Lisa Hart, Lucas Campbell, Noel McCool, Anna Cole, Val Unterrheiner

Parish Office - Holiday Hours

The office is now closed and will re-open Mon 10th Jan. Open Mon & Fri only for the remainder of January.

Fr Baby will be away for holidays

from 15th Jan. We wish him a wonderful time with his family & dear ones.

Thank you to all who donated to the CFIC appeal

on 11/12 Dec. Our Parishioners generously contributed \$3,509. We are extremely grateful!

Special Crib

We are so grateful to Sanjay Sebastian & our priests for helping us to re-create the nativity scene at St Mary's. This year's crib was sponsored by Lawrence & Teresa Benjamin family. If a family would like to sponsor the crib next year, please let the Parish Office know.

COVID: Masks are now mandatory.

First Reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

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.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

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 cf Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Sunday - The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading - Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12