

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

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Principal Emma Sellars 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Charlene Reid 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Adam Murdoch 7256 2122

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

31st December, 2023



The calendar year comes to an end, and we gather to celebrate The Holy Family and that of Mary, the Mother of God. We celebrate the end of another year of pilgrimage in faith, and the beginning of a new year of our lives.

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.

As we reflect upon the past year, we all realize not only how truly precious life is, but also how very fragile it can be, and how quickly all things change. We need to remind ourselves that all changes take place in the present moment. Everything else is either prelude or postlude to change.

In the Morning Star rise of Christmas, in the love of a man and a woman and their baby, we can rediscover the incredible power of His love. And that Love gives us a new opportunity to celebrate life, to share love, to enkindle hope. 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. May your families know his Love and Peace, today and always.

Fr Baby

We welcome all parishioners and visitors. We wish you every blessing for the New Year. **Please note the office will be closed on Monday 1st Jan 24.**

Fr Baby holidays - Fr Baby on a well-deserved break from 30th Dec to 6th Feb. We wish him safe travels and we hope he enjoys this special time with his family. **There will be only Communion service at St Brendan's on Wednesdays at 9am in January.**

Ordination Anniversary Fr Tomy celebrates his Ordination Anniversary on 9th Jan. Let us keep him in our prayers. Congratulations Father.

Birthday: Cath Cefai 7th January

Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations Doug & Helen Cashin 30th Dec, celebrating 56 years!

There will be no First Friday Anointing Mass this month at both churches. Friday Mass is at 9.15am at St Mary's

Reparation vigil to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart from 7pm Fri 5th Jan to 12.30am.

Collections: PWBB \$2668 & CFIC \$2031.80 Thanks for your generosity

Anniversaries-Greg Irvine, Diane Townsend, Ruben Mabini, Elena Mabini, Teofil Mabini, John Ledger, Karen Formosa, Philipose Anianalt, Osbourn Vaguez, Joy Moltzen, Glen O'Connor, Rosalinda Camilote

Remembrances- Peter Samuel, Edna & Albert Crocker, Michael & Georgina Whittal, Eileen Crocker, Jim Guest, Daniel, Doreen & Danny Goonan, Baker family members, Coster & Schembri families, Moore & Langley families, Valmai Joseph & Stark Family, Wendy Woodhouse, Carol Brown

Please Pray for the Sick

Mark Wilson, Michelle Maroon, Patrick, Sr Tincy, Diane Booth, Mick G., Kylie Musgrave, Avis Sullivan, Brian Fletcher, Rhondda Rey, Christine Yousef, Olive Haslam, Florian Stoffel, John & Bev Jessop, Graham & Sandra Campbell, Marian Campbell, Mia, Robbie Depares, De-Anne Richards, Jackie Chaplin, Michael Casey, Koen Mackaway, Susan Simmons, Denis Tansey, Miklos Bethany, Liz Kelman

First Reading *Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 104:1-6, 8-9*

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

Second Reading *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as

the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Hebrews 1:1-2*

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 2:22-40*

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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