

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

There is something very reassuring about Luke's Holy Family. For him, the most important element was not the 'holy' but the 'family'. What made Jesus the man he grew to be was not an environment of closteted privilege but the sacramental ordinariness of peasant life. The lineage back to David that includes so many 'black sheep' that few would admit to it; the young woman - perhaps a second wife; a home in the Galilee surrounded by extended family; a life of habit and tradition - the presentation in the Temple; the pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

But as the saying goes; everyone is ordinary until you get to know them. Thanks to the time Luke spent with Mary, we have these anecdotes that may have suggested something more. The meeting between Elizabeth and Mary; the Presentation in the Temple and then this memory of 'the first time we thought we had lost him'. Moments any mother would hold in her heart and that time would lend meaning to.

How many of us have shared similar stories over the past few days in family get-togethers? Stories of signs and adventures; dares and disasters that all feed into the people that we become - the ones most likely to... and the ones who never did...And the parents and family who love us unwaveringly despite it all. We should not look at Mary, Joseph and Jesus with envy or a sense of inferiority - black sheep or otherwise we have been adopted - we are all family - we are all holy.

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“United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind”
 Philippians 2:2

26th DECEMBER 2021 HOLY FAMILY (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 25th December Christmas Day	10:00am	Mass
Sunday 26th December	10:00am	Mass
Monday 27th December		
Tuesday 28th December	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 29th December		
Thursday 30th December	10:00am	Mass
Friday 31st December		
Saturday 1st January 2022	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 2nd January	10:00am	Mass

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 Club winners from previous weeks:

Mr Steve Orford - Sunday 12th December 2021

Mr Joe Davies - Sunday 19th December 2021

Mrs Gloria Jones - Sunday 26th December 2021

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Luke 2 41 - 52



Every year Jesus' parents travelled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbours. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "*Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you.*"

He said, "*Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?*" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi