

Weekday Masses

There will be no weekday masses between 26th December 2022 - 6th January 2023 EXCEPT on :

The Feast of The Holy Family held on Friday 30th December 2022 at 9.30am.

The Parish Office reopens on Monday 9th January 2023 and regular weekday masses will resume on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 9.30am.

Weekly Diary : 19th December 2022—25th December 2022

Tuesday 20th : 9.30am. Mass followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thursday 22nd : NO MASS
Saturday 24th : 5.00pm. : The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Sunday 25th : 7.00am. + 9.00am. : The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED

PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen. (St Augustine)

Prayers have been requested for the following :

RECENTLY DECEASED: Natividad Sonza, Beverly Holley, Colin Munsie, Markus Raab

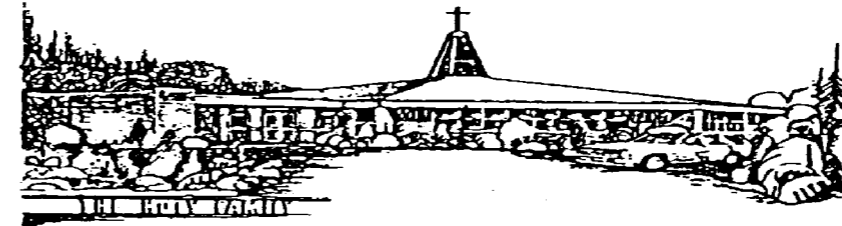
ANNIVERSARIES: Walter Harding, Anthony Hannaby, Ross Michael Bycroft, Margaret Catherine Paterson, Graham Warwick Paterson, Raymond John Paterson, Gilbert Smith, Jenny Hamilton, Brian Dwyer, Cecily Agnes Kehoe

SICK LIST: Pat Crotty, Colin Goldup, Gabriel Cabral, Keith Murphy, Victoria Scotchford, Michael Murphy, Ryder Forbes, Alan Robinson, Geoffrey Eaborn, Margaret Cotton, Frank Balinas, Lavinia Azucena, Marta Szysz, Riley Dodds, Kayden Chong, Ruth Stretton, Gerard Bijoux, Peter O'Rourke, Fr. David Wilson S.M., Rhalda Leonard, Sasha Whelan, Ann Daly, Marie Roberts, Romulo Salilig, Orazio Smeralda, Darren Pascoe, Peter Smith (Ashmore), Joe McAloon, Madeline Hodgetts, Marie Turnbull, Christine Kyriakides, George Kyriakides, Morris Lynch, George Docherty, Christina Ang, Sofia Bean, Sonia D'Angiolo, Riany Chandler, Jean Di Benedetto, Marie Dupois, Abigail O'Donell, Terry Owsnett, Ronald Sincock, Dolores Kelly, Mary McDonnell, Courtney Blount, Simon Stretton, Philomena McAloon, Margaret Kwong, Marilyn Rodgers, Frank Hewitt, Anthony Donellan, Dolores Kilian, Mary Ann Boeheme, Maureen Currie, Nancy Kelly, Tamara Toms, Bernie

Acknowledgement of Country - This is Kombumerri Country - The Traditional Custodians of this region.

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this country. We pay our respects to the Kombumerri people, who are the traditional custodians of these sacred lands that we live and work upon. We acknowledge Elders, past and present and emerging, as they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of our Indigenous people.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, RUNAWAY BAY



4th Sunday of Advent Year A/I

Sunday 18th December 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Matthew 1:18-24

Context Connection

The Gospel of Matthew gives us most of the information we have about Joseph, the adopted earthly father of Jesus. In the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Joseph is described as *righteous* (1:19), a term sometimes translated as "just." Matthew wants us to understand that Joseph is a religious man steeped in Judaism and that he is also a descendant of King David (see 1:1-17).

Matthew's story of Jesus's birth is told through the experience of Joseph rather than of Mary, as in Luke's account. Matthew tells us that Joseph and Mary are betrothed, and not yet married, when Mary becomes pregnant by the Holy Spirit. The Jewish custom of marriage then was very different from marriage customs in the United States today. Marriages were arranged by the elders in the family. The betrothal, where two individuals are set apart for each other, was the first step in the marriage process. The young man and young woman were considered husband and wife from the time of betrothal, even though they each remained living in their parents' homes. The wedding ceremony was complete when the groom took the bride into his home or that of his parents.

During this in-between time, Joseph becomes aware that Mary is "found to be with child" (1:18). Because the marriage has not been consummated, Mary is presumed guilty of adultery. Joseph has a couple of options, according to Mosaic Law. He can publicly expose Mary's infidelity by returning her to her father, where she will be stoned to death, according to Deuteronomy 22:23-24. Joseph's second option, the one he plans to execute, is to quietly dismiss Mary through a formal divorce; however, before the divorce takes place, Joseph has a dream in which an angel appears and says, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (1:20). Luke uses these same words of assurance to tell of the angel who appears to Mary to announce that she will conceive a child: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1:30). In the dream, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins" (1:21). This is a Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua or Yeshu, meaning "God saves." Yeshua originates from the name Joshua, which means "Yahweh helps."

Joseph's dream puts to rest his fears by revealing that this child is conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph completes the marriage ritual by taking Mary into his home: "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife" (1:24). In all his decisions, Joseph acts as a noble and honorable person.

Tradition Connection

Saint Joseph models for all of us, but in particular for all men, how to live a life of honor and faithfulness to God. For Catholics, Joseph is a patron of virtuous living. Although God is Jesus's true father, Joseph fulfills that role in daily life. He loves Jesus and treats him as his own son (see Luke 4:22). He provides

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PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Marty Larsen (on leave)
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Monsignor Peter Meneely

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Parish Secretary

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Marriage Coordinator

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holyfamilycatholicchurchrunawaybay

Hours:
8.30am—3.00pm
Monday—Tuesday
8.30am-1.00pm
Wednesday-Thursday
(closed FRIDAY)

Reconciliation:
Saturdays 4.30pm

Baptisms
Every 2nd/3rd/4th Sundays
after 9am Mass
Please contact the Parish
Office.

St Francis Xavier School:
Principal : Ronan O'Mahony
Tel: 5537 2633

Stoplevel Service
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for the safety of his family (see Matthew 2:13–14) and teaches Jesus his trade (see Mark 6:3). There are no more references to Joseph in the New Testament after the family's pilgrimage to Jerusalem (see Luke 2:41–52), so he may have died before Jesus began his public ministry. Joseph is known as the patron saint of fathers and workers and as the patron of a happy death (see CCC, number 1014). Dying in the loving arms of Jesus and Mary would indeed be a happy death.

Wisdom Connection

For Matthew, the story of Jesus's birth concludes the genealogy listed in chapter 1, verses 1–17. It is definitive proof that Jesus is a member of the Davidic line through his earthly father, Joseph. From the opening verse of his Gospel, Matthew declares Jesus as the Messiah: "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way" (1:18). By the using the word *the*, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the one true Messiah that has been long awaited. Matthew concretizes this further by giving proof of Jesus's ancestry—as a Son of David through Joseph.

We believe God breaks into the human experience to make God's will known. Jesus is a living sign and gives witness to this when he takes on human form. What does it mean that God became human? It tells us that God found goodness in a world that is sometimes steeped in despair. It means that God does not look down on the human body as something weak but rather as a means for salvation to enter the world. Matthew also holds up Joseph as a noble person—a model of a just person—one who is willing to place his trust in God even when everything around him points in a different direction. For Joseph and for all Christians, the key words to remember are, "Do not be afraid" (1:20).

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-14 *The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23:1-6 *R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7 *Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of

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holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, Alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24 *Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Mass Times—Christmas and New Year

24th Dec Saturday	Christmas Eve 5.00pm Vigil Mass
25th Dec Sunday	Christmas Day 7.00am & 9.00am Mass
30th Dec Friday	Feast of The Holy Family 9.30am Mass
31st Dec Saturday	5.00pm Vigil Mass
<u>2023</u>	
1st Jan Sunday	New Year's Day & Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God 7.00am & 9.00am Mass
7th Jan Saturday	5.00pm Vigil Mass
8th Jan Sunday	Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord 7.00am & 9.00am Mass