

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year A)

28 December 2025

readings

Next Week

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

in a nutshell

Flee to Egypt. The Gospel of Matthew highlights the many difficulties faced by Mary and Joseph before and after the birth of Jesus. But Matthew highlights also the abiding presence of God, who is with them on every step of their journey. We see in these early episodes what Jesus will make explicit at the end of the Gospel: 'And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying
in a manger.

Psalm Response

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk
in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived
among us.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm

Mount Evelyn: Saturday

11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
moutevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: February 11
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarravalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod for 2026

During Advent Archbishop Comensoli announced the calling of an Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026. A copy of his letter is available in the foyer. At this stage, this is simply the formal announcement of the Synod itself. During 2026, we will provide clear details regarding the purpose, process, and how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold. He asks sincerely for your prayers as we begin to prepare for this important undertaking. He also asks for your ongoing support, so that this Synod may be for our Archdiocese a time of deep listening, renewed faith, authentic encounter and, God willing, rich fruit and flourishing.

Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope

If you are unable to travel to Rome during the Jubilee Year, you are invited on a local journey of reconciliation and renewal by participating in the 2025 Jubilee at one or more of the many Pilgrim Places across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, where plenary indulgences may be obtained as part of this very special time. A not too distant pilgrimage location, which offers various experiences for pilgrims this Jubilee Year, including Masses, Reconciliation and adoration. Visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pilgrim-place-sacred-heart-croydon> for more information about Sacred Heart Croydon.

If you haven't done so already, there is still time to obtain this special plenary indulgence since the Jubilee Year of Hope doesn't end until Pope Leo closes the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 6, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. There's no more hopeful and fitting way than that to start the new year.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

To pay the debt of our human condition, a nature incapable of suffering is united to a nature capable of suffering, and true God and true Man are forged into the unity that is the Lord. If the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it bring to the lowly hearts of men? (Pope St. Leo the Great)

Pope Leo XIV recommended Confession as an important Sacrament during the Christmas Season. This is a time of reflection and prayer for you, as you contemplate our Saviour's love for us.

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

New Years Day Mass

There will be a Mass on New Years Day at 11:00am for the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God.

Holiday Office Hours

As Janine has taken annual leave the parish office is closed and will reopen on January 14.

Fr Michel will then be on leave during the weeks beginning 12 & 19 January. There will be no weekday masses or adoration.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes for the next 12 months.

Stewardship Corner

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God’s image and likeness, gratitude and generosity is in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God’s family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

Sacramental Program 2026

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office. Lessons will begin Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass for Confirmation and Tuesday 3rd March at 5pm for First Communion.

This week’s Joke!

A woman was talking to one of the friends she played cards with: “For months I couldn’t imagine where my husband spent his evenings!” The friend was itching to know the story and asked excitedly: “And what have you found out?” The woman replied: “Well, one evening I went home and got the shock of my life ... there he was!”

Readings Reflection

[Saving Family](#)

Underlying the wisdom offered in today’s Liturgy is the mystery of the family in God’s divine plan.

The Lord has set father in honour over his children and mother in authority over her sons, we hear in today’s First Reading. As we sing in today’s Psalm, the blessings of the family flow from Zion, the heavenly mother of the royal people of God (see Isaiah 66:7, 10–13; Galatians 4:26).

And in the drama of today’s Gospel, we see the nucleus of the new people of God—the Holy Family—facing persecution from those who would seek to destroy the child and His Kingdom.

Moses, called to save God’s first born son, the people of Israel (see Exodus 4:22; Sirach 36:11), was also threatened at birth by a mad and jealous tyrant (see Exodus 1:15–16). And as Moses was saved by his mother and sister (see Exodus 2:1–10; 4:19), in God’s plan Jesus too is rescued by His family.

As once God took the family of Jacob down to Egypt to make them the great nation Israel (see Genesis 46:2–4), God leads the Holy Family to Egypt to prepare the coming of the new Israel of God—the Church (see Galatians 6:16).

At the beginning of the world, God established the family in the “marriage” of Adam and Eve, the two becoming one body (see Genesis 2:22–24). Now in the new creation, Christ is made “one body” with His bride, the Church, as today’s Epistle indicates (see Ephesians 5:21–32).

By this union we are made God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved. And our families are to radiate the perfect love that binds us to Christ in the Church.

As we approach the altar on this feast, let us renew our commitment to our God-given duties as spouses, children and parents. Mindful of the promises of today’s First Reading, let us offer our quiet performance of these duties for the atonement of our sins.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
[stpaulcenter.com](#)

The Humble Dwelling Place in Nazareth

An Authentic School of the Gospel

Today we shift our gaze from the grotto of Bethlehem where the Saviour was born on Holy Night to the humble house of Nazareth, to contemplate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose feast we celebrate in the festive, family atmosphere of Christmas.

The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society. The time he spent in Nazareth, the greater part of his life, continues to be shrouded in deep silence. Very little information about it has been passed on to us by the Evangelists. However, if we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus' life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen. Today's liturgy offers us a providential opportunity to do so.

For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is *an authentic school of the Gospel*. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an *intimate community of life and love*; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small "domestic church" that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline and community asceticism and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.

I wanted to highlight these values in the Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris consortio* whose 20th anniversary occurred this year. *The future of humanity passes through the family* which in our time has been more marked than any other institution by the profound and rapid changes in culture and society. However, the Church has never ceased "to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives" (*Familiaris consortio*, n. 1). She is aware of her responsibility and today too intends to continue "to offer her services to every person who wonders about the destiny of marriage and the family" (ibid.).

The Church relies especially on the witness and contribution of Christian families to fulfil her urgent mission. Indeed, in the face of the dangers and difficulties that beset the family institution, she invites families to have greater spiritual and apostolic boldness, knowing that the family is called to be "a sign of unity for the world" and thus to bear witness to "the Kingdom and peace of Christ, towards which the whole world is journeying" (ibid., n. 48).

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless and protect all the world's families, so that within them may reign the serenity and joy, justice and peace that the newborn Christ has given as a gift to humanity.

Pope John Paul II, Angelus, 30 December 2001