

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year B)

31 December 2023

Readings

Next Week

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

See This Child! Many parents have looked at their newborn child and wondered: what will this child turn out to be? Parenting is always a journey of faith in which there will be occasions of joy, and also times of pain, as Abraham and Sarah, and Mary and Joseph, discovered. On this feast day of the Holy Family, let us pray for all families.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, Margaret Moore, Pauline Bennett.

For those who have died recently: and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

(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!

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

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.

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.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)

7:00pm (EDST)

Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction

First Friday—11:30am Warburton

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.sjyarrarjunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra

Email: moutevelyn@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
Mary Ryan
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Wednesday, 7 February

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

Parish Notices

Mass on Monday at St Mary's

Monday is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. There will be a Mass celebrated at St Mary's at 11am.

Mass Friday at Warburton

As on all First Fridays of the month, there will be a Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Warburton on 5 January at 11:30am.

Office Closure

The parish office will be closed until mid January. The office will reopen the week of 15 January 2024.

Fr Michel will be away for two weeks in January

Fr Michel will be away the weeks of 8 January and 15 January. All weekday liturgies are cancelled. Weekend Masses remain the same.

Stewardship Corner

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

St Mary's Prayer Group— Now Every Week

The Prayer Group meet every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. Come and join us! "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene). All Welcome!

Unexpected Maintenance Expenses—Donations needed!

Due to plumbing leaks and repairs needed to toilets we have a bill of \$5387.00. This is a major and unexpected expense to the Parish. Also needing repairs was the security lighting at Warburton at a cost of \$902.

If you can donate towards covering these expenses it would be appreciated. Contributions can be made via direct debit using the bank details listed below (use the reference 'repairs') or by cash/cheque in an envelope marked repairs. Thanks to those who have contributed to this appeal: **donations to date \$1620**

Sacred Heart Parish Church

BSB# 083347 Account number 670642723

Church Flowers—Donations

Donations can be made at any time in envelopes marked 'Flowers' or 'Altar Society'.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: Because Christ himself is present in the Sacrament of the Altar, he is to be honoured with the worship of adoration. To visit the Blessed Sacrament is a proof of gratitude, and expression of love, and a duty of homage toward Christ our Lord. (Pope St. Paul VI)

Confession: If Judgement consists in God's telling us, "Whatever you have become through your own actions, that is what you are", then that makes immortality terrifying. We need all the help we can from God, to become something that we can tolerate being: permanently, definitively, for ever. (Martin Kochanski)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration. Friday mornings 8:00am Mount Evelyn

Parish Sacramental Program

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 or annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Contact Anne by mid-December for 2024 enrolments. Please note classes are held at St Mary's.

Some Summertime Giggles!

Every summer, the aquatic centre struggles to keep a pool maintenance manager on staff.
We hear the work is draining.

Banana Boat sunscreen was hiring, but I didn't get the job.
They said I should reapply.

How did the swimmers stay clean on the beach?
They washed up on shore!

Dad was cooking and burned our lunch.
Mistakes were made.

What is a sheep's favourite summertime food?
Baa-baa-cue!

Readings Reflection

[Our True Home](#)

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16–18).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19–22; Hebrews 3:3–6; 10:21).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7).

[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