

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

3:2-6.12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127

Response:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

1.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. (R.)

2.Your wife like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

3.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.)

SECOND READING 3:12-21 A

reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these

clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness.

Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord.

Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;

let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,

humbly asking that,

through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph,

you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,

most merciful Father,

to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,

so that, after the trials of this world,

we may share their company for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Are you a fitting gift to God? If your parents presented you at the temple, what is it that would make you special?

How can you go about dedicating your life to God? How would dedicating your life to God change the way you live in the world? Would this make it easier to live in the world? Why or why not?

From where do you draw the courage and strength to live the life God wants of you?

Do you see Jesus as clearly as Simeon saw him when he was presented in the temple? Do

you take the same delight as Simeon and Anna did at the very presence of Jesus?

How are you Jesus' presence in the world?

Is God's favour on you as it was on Jesus?

Why do you think Luke made the statement about God's favour being on Jesus?

Can you find the same peace Simeon discovered just from Jesus' presence?

Readings Second Sunday after Christmas

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus. 24:1-2. 8-12

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Homily

27th December 2020 – Holy Family Sunday, Year B

Dear friends, today we focus on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As we reflect on the Holy Family I think we are given an example of family life to learn from, to follow and to imitate.

In the Second Reading St Paul writing to the Colossians gives an impressive list of virtues and he talks about them as if they were clothes that we wear in everyday life. These virtues should be as natural to us as getting dressed in the morning; compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. This is how we should be dressed each day by wearing these virtues, by living out these qualities in our lives. And he goes on to say 'over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on **LOVE.**'

Christmas is a family time but this year it has been different for us, a lot quieter of course with not being able to spend the time that we would normally with our loved ones. I think it has given us an opportunity to reflect on the role of family in our lives and how important our families are and hopefully to give thanks for them today.

On this Feast we are invited to reflect on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and we are given them as an example to follow and to imitate in our daily lives. Particularly when life is difficult that is when we are called to be there for our families and for one another with love, concern, care and help; we are not on our own we have the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help us.

Christmas is a time when we reflect on God's love for each one of us and celebrate Emmanuel – God with us. Christmas is a family time, so let's spend a few moments together this morning giving thanks and reflecting on our own experiences of belonging to our families as we ponder the Holy Family in our crib and once again draw closer to the Holy Family, to Jesus, Mary and Joseph this Christmas.

Sending you and your families my love and prayers on this special Feast Day and wishing you a very happy and peaceful New Year, let's hope and pray that it will be better than this one! God bless, **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

27th December 2020 – Holy Family Sunday, Year B

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and we offer our prayers to the Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: in faith and prayer may they draw closer to the Holy Family this Christmas time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sad and lonely this Christmas; may we support and help them through our love, care and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all victims and survivors of abuse: may we as a Church listen attentively to them and help them find healing and peace in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those affected by the coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poor in our world this Christmas; may we put our faith into action and be generous in sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace this Christmas and an end to injustice, war and violence everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Dougie Laverie, Mal Charles** and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones this Christmas; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

God our loving Father,
As we celebrate the Holy Family,
we ask you to hear the prayers that we offer
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion
27th December 2020 – Holy Family Sunday, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.