

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Administrator: Fr Ed Moloney **Assistant Priests:** Fr Jim McKay & Fr Francis Kureeckal

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

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**DECEMBER 29th, 2024 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C
YEAR OF HOPE**

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Liam Patrick Rice, Des Brennan, Sr Margaret Gustus, Michael Mahoney Alice Howard, Eva Morgan, Kevin Flynn, Margaret Grundy, Hugh Briody, Agnes Cocking & Mick Mulcahy.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dennis Davies (Genevieve's brother), Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Mia Hanrahan, Colleen Hains, Michelle Smith (Friend of Angela) and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Clarrie Johnston

Jan 5th: Sue Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Jan 5th: John Jess

Assembly Leaders

Today: Sue Mahony & Carita Clancy

January 5th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Today: Gail Hall

January 5th: Therese Jess.

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

January 5th & 12th: Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

January 5th & 12th: Clarrie Johnston.

Newsletter

January - Angela Gerrard.- 0439565468

MASS TIMES

January 5th: **LLA 10.00AM**

The Epiphany of the Lord

DIOCESAN NEWS

For the Diocesan E-News see the link below:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH PRAY FOR US.

FROM PARISH COUNCIL:

Best wishes to all of our community for the New Year. As we embark on the New Year of 2025, and the Church's designated Jubilee Year of Hope, we want to thank everyone for their continued support this year. We also encourage you to continue to support us.... We are, after all, 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

The Jubilee Prayer:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Pope Francis

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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**Breaking Open
the Word****THE SAVING WORD**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / C

29 DECEMBER 2024

LOST AND FOUND

We know Jesus to be truly human and truly divine. This is the heart of our faith. Sometimes, though, we make Jesus to be more divine than human. Today's Gospel offers us the balance. This passage comes towards the end of the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel that are focused on Jesus' birth. His family has come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Passover. Mary, Joseph and Jesus are Jewish. They celebrate the feast which commemorates God's liberation of the Israelites from slavery remembered in the *Book of Exodus*. They come, too, to the Holy city which will feature at the beginning and end of Luke's Gospel, and in the opening chapters of Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles*.

Jesus, the one who will be God's revealed liberator and redeemer, comes to the Holy City, to Israel's key worship centre with its religious leaders, to remind the people, even as a child, that God is acting in their midst. His parents, worried that they had lost him in their caravan journey, find him later in the temple, in the sacred place of God's holy city. He returns with them to Nazareth to grow in wisdom and learning. This bearer of God's Spirit is like any other Jewish child who needs to be nourished.

The story also reflects powerfully on family life: it's about members being lost and found, seeking holiness and liberation amidst life's struggles, and growing in wisdom.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my Lord. As you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESP PSALM**

Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. R. v. 5

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, / Lord, God of hosts. / My soul is longing and yearning, / is yearning for the courts of the Lord. / My heart and my soul ring out their joy / to God, the living God. **R.**

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house, / for ever singing your praise. / They are happy, whose strength is in you; / they walk with ever growing strength. **R.**



3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, / give ear, O God of Jacob. / Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, / look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

■ **The word of the Lord.**