

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

SUNDAY – 27th, December 2020

Feast of the Holy Family Year B

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES

Terry McManus, Joan MacIntosh, Liam Patrick Rice, Des Brennan, Sr Margaret Gustus, Michael Mahoney, Alice Howard, Eva Morgan, Kevin Flynn, Margaret Grundy.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McNerney, Valda Murphy, Michael Wise, and all those in need of prayer

ROSTERS

Introduction & Readings

Today: Gerrard Family
Jan 3: Jim Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Gerrard Family
Jan 3: John Jess

Assembly Leaders

Jan 3: Angela Gerrard & Sue Mahony

Special Minister

Jan 3: Gail Hall

Music

Today: Naomi Gerrard
Jan 3: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Jan 3 & 10: Angela Gerrard & Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

Jan 3 & 10: Tom Franc & Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter:

January: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

Christmas Mass

Thank you to everyone for persevering with the QR code by registering online at our Christmas Mass.

By all accounts everything went well.

A special thank you to Fr Marcello.

BEST WISHES EVERYONE FOR 2021.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 3rd January

10.00 am LLA Epiphany of the Lord
8.30 am Sunday 10th January Baptism of the Lord

Covid Safe Measures Apply to all Services
Contact surfaces sanitized - Contact details collected – Scan the QR Code - Hand sanitizing required - Social distancing - If you are unwell stay home - Entry side door & Exit rear door

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Please see Sue Mahony if you require a calendar.
Cost \$8

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. The six discernment papers are available to read at

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>. Any comments welcomed at jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Christmas Box Collection

Any late contributions have been (or can be) taken to the gift box at our local IGA store. Many thanks once again for your generosity.

Thinking about the Holy Family

On the feast of the Holy Family we pause to reflect upon our own families. For some of us this raises happy thoughts. For others, painful. For most of us it is a mixture of both. Undoubtedly, blood bonds are the most life-affecting relationships we know, even if by their absence! It is precisely because of their significance that families can teach us so much about the Gospel. In the ups and downs of relating to one another, family members cannot help but be confronted by the challenge to love, to forgive, and to put others before their own needs. Families often under rate their holiness. In fact, they are among our greatest teachers and witnesses to the enduring bond that Christians are called to share.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 1: 1-2

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

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

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.

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.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

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GOD AT WORK IN THE FAMILY

In today's readings, there is a tension between dreams and reality, between hope and fear, that helps us situate ourselves as we reflect on the Holy Family and our own experience of family life. The letter to the Hebrews speaks rightly of Abraham and Sarah as being models of faithfulness, however, this should not blind us to the very real struggles they experienced.

At times both Abraham and Sarah had lost heart and become fearful that God's promises were only a false hope after all. Abraham had decided to make one of his young relatives his heir. Sarah hoped that her slave Hagar would give them the son they longed for. In the end, God would realise the promises made to them despite their attempts to take matters into their own hands!

As Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple they bring all their hopes and fears for him as they wonder how his life will unfold. Simeon and Anna recognise that God is powerfully at work in this child but Simeon also warns how Jesus' life will be marked by both success, as well as rejection. What Simeon and Anna have the eyes to see is that God's saving plan will be at work in all that will befall him.

While models of family life are placed before us today it is important not to judge ourselves too harshly. Abraham and Sarah had their difficulties, and Mary and Joseph did not always understand how God was at work in their family either!

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless . . .' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. 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! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, / let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. / Consider the Lord and his strength; / constantly seek his face. **R.**



3. 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. **R.**

4. 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.**

SECOND READING

Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.