

# FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love  
in the heart of the family!*

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## Sunday Mass Readings

### First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 127(128):1-5

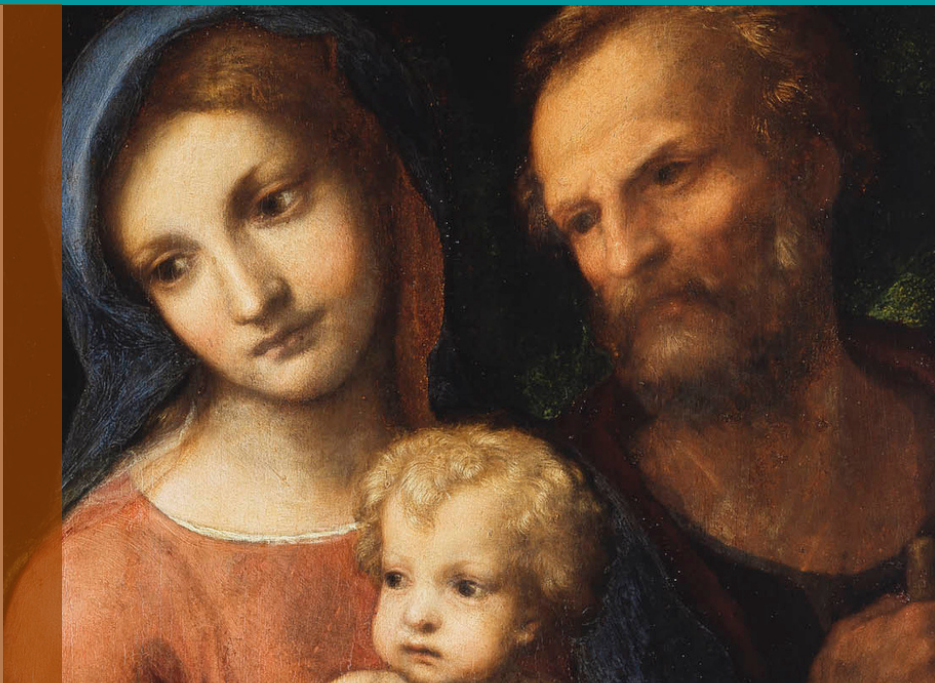
### Second Reading:

Colossians 3:12-21

### Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40

*"Behold, this child is  
set for the fall and  
rising of many in Israel"*



By Antonio da Correggio - Royal Collection, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=92135404>

## Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find the text [here](#).

## Pray

This time of year we tend to think of material gifts. Take a moment to focus on the gifts and talents you have received from God. Each person should think of one gift that they know they have (caring, forgiving, friendliness etc).

Once each person has identified their gift compose a prayer together listing each person's gift and thanking God for those gifts. Gather around the crib in your home and offer your prayer together as a family.

## Talk

Have a conversation as a family about the gift that you wrote for the prayer and also talk about two other gifts you have that are a blessing to your family and also to the wider community.

If you live by yourself, call a close friend or a family member to talk to. If you have family members that live alone consider inviting them to be part of your family's conversation too by arranging a phone or video call with them.

## Family Challenge!

Write out the names of everyone in your family. Mix them up and have everyone pull out the name of a person who they will pray for throughout the coming year.

MAKE A HUGGING  
HOLY FAMILY STATUE!  
CLICK HERE!



## Kids' Corner

Remember to pray especially for your own family today – and think of lots of ways to show them that you love them too!



## SUBSCRIBE TO FAITH@HOME



If you would like to receive the *Faith@Home* newsletter direct to your inbox each week, and have access to all the interactive links, you can subscribe by emailing us at [faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie)

## Family Prayer

Lord, you came to us as a member of a family. Thank for you for the gift of our family, even when things are challenging or difficult for us. Holy Family of Nazareth, teach us to love and serve each other, and to put God at the centre of our family life always.

Amen



Listen to Danielle Rose's "Holy Family" hymn together

## Carlo's Corner

Blessed Carlo Acutis - Pray for us!

### LEARN FROM THE HOLY FAMILY

*Wisdom from Pope Francis*

In his Angelus message on 29/12/19 Pope Francis challenged families to model themselves on the Holy Family: "They prayed, worked, communicated. And I ask myself: you, in your family, do you know how to communicate or are you like those kids at the table, each one with their mobile phone, while they are chatting? ... We must resume dialogue in the family: fathers, parents, sons, grandparents and siblings must communicate with one another." For today the Feast of the Holy Family, choose to put away your phone for an hour, two hours, even for the whole day, and spend it with your family!!

Try switching off the technology and playing some of these family games instead this week!

☐ OFF
 ☒ ON

## FAMILY TEACHES US ABOUT GOD

During the Christmas season, family is very important. People return from abroad to spend the holidays with their loved ones. Even those of no faith at all recognise the value of the family. It is somehow written in our hearts that family is a good thing. And even if our own families have fallen short in some way, we still recognise that family is a gift.

At the heart of Christmas time is a family: an extraordinary family. Joseph guides his dear wife Mary who carries Jesus, to a stable where Jesus is born. And the world was never the same. Jesus became man to save us, to die for us. God Himself has written the importance of family in the depths of our being. And why so? God Himself is a family. He is a Trinity. The family is very close to God's own heart. In seeing the love, unity and service of a good family, we learn something about God. Equally, when we look at the inner life of the Trinity, we learn something of how the family should be.

We may have had the experience of seeing things differently to our fathers when we were younger. Politics, economics and child-rearing techniques may have caused tension. Our first reading from Ecclesiasticus teaches us the need to respect our father. "Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own." Why is this important? Our relationship with our earthly father will colour our relationship with God the Father. If we see our father as a law giver/punisher we will probably see God in a similar fashion. Often we need to go beyond our experience of fatherhood and see God as the perfect father who loves us with an eternal love.

By Fr Patrick Cahill

mary's meals

a simple solution to world hunger

## CHECK IT OUT: MARY'S MEALS



Mary's Meals are a no-frills charity with a simple idea that works: by providing one good meal in a place of learning, children are drawn into the classroom where they can receive an education that could one day free them from poverty. €18.30 is all it costs to feed a child for a whole school year.



Click above to watch the Diocesan Virtual Choir fundraiser for Mary's Meals