



TO THE Heights

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2021

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Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 83 (84): 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel:

Luke 2:41-52

"He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority."

Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints, or as we like to call them, Game Changers!

You can check out our other Game Changer resources on our website: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry.

27 December [St John the Evangelist](#)

28 December [The Holy Innocents, Martyrs](#)

29 December [St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr](#)

1 January [Mary, Mother of God](#)



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading.
Don't have a Bible? No worries, click the bible image!



1. What did the Jewish people celebrate at the feast of the Passover?
2. How do you think Joseph and Mary managed to lose Jesus in Jerusalem?
3. How many days was Jesus missing for?
4. Can you think of any other event in Jesus' life where He could not be seen for three days?
5. What was Jesus doing when they found Him?
6. Was this something He would repeat later in life?
7. What do you think He meant by "I must be busy with my Father's affairs"?
8. Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph, even though He was divine. How does this challenge me?



Gospel Reflection: THE VALUE OF HIDDENNESS



Christmas is a time for the family. Sons and daughters come home from abroad. We visit those family members we haven't seen in a while. We reconnect and catch up with everyone we have missed over the last few months.

There is another family which is of particular importance in this Advent and Christmas season which we can learn much from for our own lives. This is of course, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Considering how incredibly important they are in the Father's plan for our salvation, the first part of their family life was lived in poverty and exile. On their return to Nazareth, the vast majority of the next 30 years was lived in hiddenness. We could think that all must have been plain sailing because they were all so holy but when we look a little deeper we can see that their lives were more like ours that we might imagine.

How much of our lives are ordinary or mundane? How much of what happens in our lives is hidden from the world? Almost all of it. The Holy Family teach us the value of hiddenness; of silent consistent love of God in the ordinary things of the day. Our simple actions can have great value before God when performed out of love for Him. Books will not be written about us but the Father who sees all things will reward us.

Finally, the greatest family which the Father wants us to be part of is the Heavenly family in which He is actually our Father, my Father, Our Lady is my Mother and the Church is my home. This should be a reality here on earth which will be perfected in Heaven. We see the beginnings of that at weddings and baptisms when the family gathers to celebrate a joyful occasion or at funerals when we gather as a family to console and support each other. We also see it at Christmas when the family gathers to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

This Christmas let us remember our families, imitate the Holy Family and take our place in the great heavenly family with God as Our Father.

Fr Patrick Cahill, Holy Family Mission



Help us to stay together, Lord, in joy and sorrow as we pray. Teach us to see Christ in disguise upon each other's face. - Danielle Rose -

THE HOLY FAMILY STRUGGLED TOO!

Families can be tricky, can't they? Sometimes we can't wait to get home to spend time with our families, and then the little annoyances, or quirks, or responsibilities start weighing on us, and we can feel ourselves losing our patience! Family has a way of revealing things to us that we might be happier not to admit at times.

The Holy Family of Nazareth was different - that's why they're called holy.... but Mary and Joseph were human too. They experienced anxiety when they lost Jesus in Jerusalem for three full days; they couldn't understand the bigger picture when mysterious things happened in their lives - but they trusted in God and His ways. They trusted in their Son and His ways.

The Holy Family didn't exactly have it easy either: Jesus was born in poverty and laid in a manger, hardly what Joseph would have liked for his family. Herod tried to slaughter Him. They spent their first years of family life as refugees in a hostile Egypt. When they finally moved back to Nazareth, they had to work hard to earn a living, with none of the modern comfortable conveniences we have, no material security; and all things pointing towards Jesus' passion and death. But they had each other, and the Christ Child was at the centre. There's a simple lesson for us all in that.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Lectio Divina: the praying with the Scriptures, led by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, beginning Thurs, September 30th. 2 options: Thurs @ 2pm in St. John's Pastoral Centre / Thurs @ 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Parish Centre. Please register at waterford@ascjusus.org or call 087-4042785

Fire in the South: a Catholic Charismatic Outreach Movement to enable people to encounter the personal love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. companionship, music, sharing, prayer, the odd funny story, sacred scripture & adoration. Every Wednesday, 8 - 9.15pm (Re-starting in Mid-January) Zoom ID: 86141473152 Password: FIRE

FAITH & YOUTH



Check out life at Holy Family Mission (see below)

Young Person's Prayer

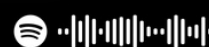


Set some time aside this week to pray for your family: be honest with God about the joys and struggles in your family life and ask Him to come right into the messiness and the reality of your own family. Use the attached prayer service to help you.

TUNE OF THE WEEK

The Blessing

Kari Jobe



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



More than likely you have some time off now, and some time with your family too. Practice patience and virtue each day.

Pray for your family today, whatever your relationship is like, and for the various needs you all have too! Why not start a Blessing Jar tradition too?

WATCH: [Family Brings out the Worst in You \(Fr Mike Schmitz\)](#)



CHECK IT OUT: HOLY FAMILY MISSION



Holy Family Mission in Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary is a residential Catholic community for young people aged 18 - 30 who desire to learn more about their faith; live with like minded young adults; be steeped in an environment of prayer and the sacraments; have opportunities for mission with young people and families. Applications opening for 2022/23. See www.holyfamilymission.ie for more information.

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -



Pray this prayer service together, or if that's not possible, pray it on your own for your family's intentions.



Family Prayer Service

"THE FAMILY THAT
PRAYS TOGETHER,
STAYS TOGETHER"
FR PEYTON



BEGIN BY LIGHTING A CANDLE

(or each member of your family can light one candle each)

OPENING PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for the gift of our family, for each individual here (*and for those not here with us*). We thank You that You have given us each other, so that together we can grow and develop into the best versions of ourselves. We acknowledge that we have not always loved each other as we should, or treated each other with respect and love. Lord God, we need You in the heart of our family, because we are weak and frail, and need Your love to sustain us and unite us. Show us how to love each other, and through our family's love, be an example to those around us, that they may see in us a spark of Your Divine Love.

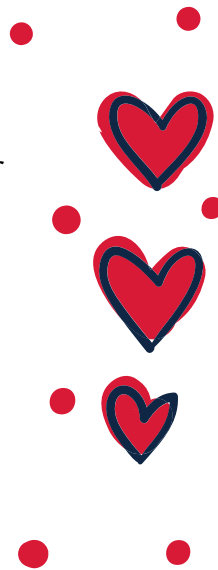
Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph - pray for us!



SCRIPTURE

Read the following passage of Scripture aloud and take some time to reflect in silence on it.

- Where can you see this love evident in your family?
- Where is it lacking?
- Can you put your name in instead of "love" in each sentence, honestly?
- What are you personally challenged by?



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 8

TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SHARE (OR JOURNAL) YOUR THOUGHTS.

OUR FAMILY PRAYERS:

Allow some time for each member of the family to pray out loud for any intentions they have. At the end, pray a Hail Mary (or a decade of the rosary) together for all these intentions, entrusting them to Our Lady.



THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE



LOVE NEVER FAILS - BRANDON HEATH



THE FAMILY PRAYER SONG - MARANATHA

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

WHY NOT START A NEW NEW YEAR'S TRADITION?



Blessings Jar

If you don't have a jar, get a notebook and write your blessings in that instead!

WHAT IS A BLESSING JAR?

Blessings jars are a practical and fun way to keep a record of the things that you're thankful for on a daily basis. Whenever you recognize something that is a "blessing" in your life throughout the year, just write it on a piece of paper, fold it up, and stick it in the Blessing Jar. It might be as simple as a good chat with a friend, a hug, a gift, having the ability to play sports, having food on your table....

You can do this alone, or with your family, or even your youth group. Then decide how often you want to empty out the jar out to count your blessings: maybe on New Year's Eve, each month, on a special Feastday, or, if you're having an especially tough day, you may just want to empty out the contents of the blessings jar right then and be reminded of God how is blessing you each and every day! It will be a great reminder of God's faithfulness... in times of joy as well as in times of struggle.



HOW TO MAKE A BLESSING JAR

- Choose a large jar (or use a notebook or box if you can't source a jar)
- Stick the Blessings Label on the jar.
- Choose a scripture passage if you'd like (see next page for ideas), punch one end and tie to your jar with string.
- Decorate the jar with stickers, washi tape, ribbon, string - whatever way you like! (*Google Blessing Jars and you'll get lots of ideas!*)
- Write your first blessings idea on a small note card, fold it and put it in the jar.
- Make sure you have paper and pen near the jar to make the process easier each time you see a blessing you want to record!
- Enjoy the process and choose to be thankful every single day
- Repeat as often as you like



"MAY HIS FAVOUR BE UPON YOU AND A THOUSAND GENERATIONS,
AND YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN"  THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE

BLESSING JAR SUGGESTIONS FOR LABELS



or create your own!

And my God will supply
every need of yours
according to his riches in
glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

Every good gift and every perfect
gift is from above, coming down
from the Father of lights with
whom there is no variation or
shadow due to change.
James 1:17

The Lord bless you and
keep you; the Lord make his
face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you; the Lord
lift up his countenance upon
you and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

Fear not, for I am with you; be
not dismayed, for I am your
God; I will strengthen you, I will
help you, I will uphold you with
my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

And from his fullness we
have all received, grace
upon grace.
John 1:16

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
has blessed us in Christ with
every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places,
Ephesians 1:3