



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.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

The Living Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

31 December 2023

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

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 one 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.

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

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.

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.

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 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

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 – 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



St Anthony of Padua Church

58 Arden Street, Clovelly

Ph: 9665 2711 Email: parish@stanthonyclovelly.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr Laurie Cauchi

Parish Office: 7 Fewings St, Clovelly 2031 Website: www.stanthonyclovelly.org.au

Parish School: 9665 7399 Principal: Mrs Anna Novak

School email: info@staclovelly.catholic.edu.au School web: www.staclovelly.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Sunday: 9.00am

Weekdays: Tuesday 6.15pm, Wednesday to Friday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm to 4.30pm or by appointment



Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

31 December 2023



Happy New Year to All



Let us give thanks to God for all we have received in 2023

We ask God's Blessings for 2024



Sincere Thank You

to all parishioners who have helped in any way throughout 2023.

Your help has made many things possible.

May God bless you for all your efforts.

Let's all keep working together.



New Year Mass Monday 1st January will be at 10am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Let's start the New Year honouring Mary for bringing Jesus into our world.

Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

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

Please note: From this Tuesday 2 January 2024 our Tuesday Masses will be in the evenings at 6.15pm

*Have you thought about what gift you can give Jesus?
What about some of your time?*

Like DOING SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE - become a parish catechist for Catholic children at Clovelly Public School. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Laurie, contact Joanne Russell 0467 023 962 or email the parish office.

What are those Christmas Envelopes for?

The money from these envelopes goes to a Central Fund that attends to the needs of priests of the Archdiocese. These include: sick priests, priests in special works, migrant chaplains and priests undertaking further studies. Some of these priests are often 'out of sight, out of mind', but they do need to be supported.

Please give them some thought especially at this time.

NO CASH FOR THE CHURCH COLLECTIONS?

We have tap devices at the church entrances – simply choose the amount and tap your credit or debit card for an anonymous donation.

OR

Scan this QR code and you will be taken to the CBA's secure BPoint online form, where you give your details and choose a biller code (ie what the donation is for).

OR

You can also make contributions through the parish website—click the green SUPPORT US button at the top right then choose the DONATE button.



READERS NEXT WEEKEND: S Davies, Z Golebiowski; C Jordan, S Zeglin.

Covid-19 is still around. Please use sanitiser when you enter our church.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently deceased: Jeong Wook Park, Shirley Love, Monica McAuliffe, David McKenzie, Charlie Farrugia, Nola Dooley (née Vaughan), Gaye Zammit. Janice Peterson

Anniversary: All the Faithful Departed, Mary Cauchi

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.