

**50** 1968-2018 Golden Jubilee

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

30 DECEMBER 2018 Year C

## 'WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH'



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS	RESPONSE	ACCLAMATION
1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.	Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

### WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is now three years since the Synod on the Family in Rome. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass into history without giving it the ongoing attention it deserves. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention. For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy."



Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us".

In the gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and has not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him. I expect this will sound familiar to parents of young adults.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the picture. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.

Source: Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM available at <https://www.mercyworld.org>. Image by <https://catholicforlife.com>



*New Year's Day Prayer*

This New Year's Day,  
We are reminded that by Your amazing grace,  
Each day is new,  
Fresh and bursting with love,  
From here to eternity.  
Thank you Lord.

(A contemporary New Year's Day prayer from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Moritz, Hendrika Herwynen, Vera King, Maria Camera, Peter Sarteschi, Carolyn McLelland nee Dempsey, Vin Travaglia, Francis Scudds, May Frost, Maryan Bjelogravic

**SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Marta Kristan, Geoff Bell, Peter Lisle, Margaret Ratcliffe, Margaret McLean, Pam Burke, Matthew MacDonald, Nigel Goggin, Wendy Markby, Angelita Augustine, Lola Jones, Maureen Vennix, Fiona Acudds.



### DAY OF PEACE

The fact that most people do very little on New Year's Day, may just make it ideal to be a 'Day of Peace'. Australians seem at a bit of a loss when celebrating New Year's Day. Many people spend the night before the telly, drinking as they watch the fireworks over Sydney Harbour Bridge on TV and wait for the clock to show midnight. Then they blow car horns and yahoo. New Year's morning is spent collecting bottles and broken glass from beaches, watching the cricket on TV or lying on the beach. A few people make New Year's resolutions.

**A DAY WITH MANY NAMES** - The Catholic Church has also struggled with New Year's Day. It has variously been called the Octave Day of Christmas, the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus, the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Motherhood of Mary. For many years it has also been named the World Day of Peace in the Catholic Church.

**TIME OF FORGETFULNESS** - Of course, there are reasons why New Year's Day has been downplayed in Australia and in the Church. Because many people are on holidays, it is in a no man's land between the ending of one year and the beginning of one another. It is a time of forgetfulness, not of reflection.

In the Christian year, too, the key celebration of end and beginning takes place at Easter. The dying of the old and the possibility of the new are expressed above all in the death and rising of Christ in Holy Week.

So New Year's Day has become a Do It Yourself day. And most people decide to do very little. For that reason, it may very suitable as the Day of Peace. The things we associate with New Year's Day are the simple and apparently trivial activities that are the blessing of peace: things like being able to spend time with families, to be free from the need to work every day in order to eat, to lie on the beach unafraid of bombs or bullets.

**FRUITS OF PEACE** - These things are the fruits of peace. It is a gift to be grateful and treasured, especially in a society that tends to be hostile to the immigrant communities from whom so many of our workers come. It also constantly needs to be built and rebuilt in the face of the things in us and around us that encourage violence and war.

Source: Written by Fr Andrew Hamilton available at <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au>

### 10 REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. What were your best accomplishments/achievements that makes you proud?
2. What is your biggest disappointment?
3. What was the smartest decision you made?
4. What are you most grateful for this past year?
5. Who came into your life this year and who left?
6. What was your best financial decision?
7. What is one miracle you experienced?
8. What was the greatest, kindest service you performed?
9. What unfinished goals do you have from this year?
10. How do you want next year to be different?

Spend some quiet time writing and reflecting not only on the answers but how you can learn from these events to avoid repeating them again in the New Year.

Source: <https://koriburkholder.com>

### NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**31 DECEMBER**  
New Year Prayer and Mass  
at 11:45PM

**1 JANUARY**  
New Year's Day Mass at 9AM  
**NO AFTERNOON MASS**

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the "more humble" purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.

### FEASTS OF THE WEEK

- 1 January - Mary, Mother of God
- 2 January - St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen
- 3 January - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Save the Date

### HEALING MASS

21 January at 7:30pm

**LET GO OF WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE AND PRESS ON TO WHAT IS AHEAD**

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14, (NIV)

### A NEW LEAF? A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

— ROMANS 6:4 NIV