



## Gospel Lk 2:41-52

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The specifics of customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but the values out of which they emerge are not. Though Sirach sketches a picture of ancient family customs, it is easy to look beneath them and find values that are enduring and that speak to us today. There we discover mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children and between the young and the old.

The model placed before us is the Holy Family. There we find mutuality in the relationships; compassion, kindness, and humility; gentleness and patience; obedience to parents along with respect for the uniqueness of children. In this portrait of the Holy Family, people do not claim privilege. Jesus, who was the Son of God, submitted himself to his human mother and father. Mary and Joseph, who exercised authority over Jesus, also stood in wonder of him.

While this feast considers the family unit, it also celebrates the Church as the Family of God. Thus the values of mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. Within the family of God, the virtues outlined by Paul are to be lived in a mature manner. We are all called in one body to live in a collaboration of love, of mutuality, and of service. We are joined in a bond of perfection.

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# The Living Word

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

30 December 2018

## First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,  
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,  
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his father,  
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;  
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten  
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1**

*(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. *(R.)*
- Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. *(R.)*
- Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life. *(R.)*

## Second Reading Col 3:12-21

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

## Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live  
within you.*

*Alleluia!*

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**St Michael's Parish Office Hours**  
 Mondays closed  
 Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
 Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Jenifer Hanratty, Marita Kennedy, Amanda Reid, Steve Kimani, Rob Tarraran, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Bev O'Brien.

**Parish Schools:**  
**St Gabriel's School** 5174 5515  
 Principal: Mrs Ros Joyner  
**St Michael's School** 5174 3295  
 Acting Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

**Lavalla Catholic College** 5174 5272  
 Principal: Mr John Freeman  
 Kildare Campus 5174 8111  
 St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

**MANY THANKS:** Thanks to all who prepared for and had roles in the Christmas liturgies this year: roster organisers, cleaners and florists, lectors and communion ministers, commentators and crib assemblers, musicians, angels, shepherds and wise men and those who prepared them; altar servers and participants. Blessings on your efforts, all!

Thanks too, to all those who extended warm wishes and Christmas blessings to myself and Deacon Tony and Sr Doreen. Your generous warmth is much appreciated.

*Fr Francis.*

**A PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR:**

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

Minnie Louise Haskins, 1908.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including Norman McDonald, Irene Hoch and Sr Stella O'Donnell and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Lynette Cahill, Rino Frescura, Roberta Lago, Cecilia Diadula and Joe Agostino.

***Lord, Let your perpetual light shine upon them. May the rest in peace. Amen.***

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Ding and Lulu Aragon, Fr Bernard Buckley, Gary Donchi, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Ann Lapuh, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Malcolm Selzer, Fred Sullivan, Jerry Templer, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith and Fr Frank Young

**BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME:** We are hoping that we might have two parishioners who would be able to assist with running the Baptism Preparation Meetings. The meetings are held monthly, and we need one or two people to run the meetings every second month, so it would be six evening meetings a year.

If you feel this is something you might enjoy doing, please contact the Parish Office. It's a lovely ministry, and so important that parents of young children are made feel welcome in our parish community.

**Sunday Mass Times**

St Michael's Traralgon Saturday 6:00pm  
 Sunday 9:30 am and 6:00 pm  
 St Columbkille's Glengarry Sunday 10:00 am

**Weekday Liturgy Times - Dec 31 to Jan 05**

**Monday December 31**  
 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

**Tuesday January 01** 9:30am Mass

**Wednesday January 02** 12:00pm Mass

**Thursday January 03** 9:30am Mass

**Friday January 04** 9:30am Mass

**Saturday January 05** 9:30am Mass

**Rosary:** Monday to Saturday, 30 minutes before Mass  
**Reconciliation:** St Michael's, Saturdays 10:15am & 5:30pm or any time by arrangement with Father.

**Rosters : January 05 & 06**

**The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**6:00 pm Mass Saturday January 05**  
**Lector,** Sr Doreen; **Commentator,** S Hill; **Eucharistic Ministers,** B Power, C DiCorleto, D Buckland, T Wisby; **Welcomers,** A O'Hara, R Tactor; **Music,** Jane; **Sacristan,** A Symonds

**9:30 am Mass Sunday January 06**  
**Lector,** S Reid, T Denny; **Commentator,** L Van der Velden; **Eucharistic Ministers,** J & W Waanders, J Cahill, K Jones, E Ryan, J Hanratty; **Welcomers,** T Biancon; **Music,** Jane; **Sacristan,** P & L Van der Velden

**6:00 pm Mass Sunday January 06**  
**Lector,** E Joseph; **Commentator,** M Noone; **Eucharistic Ministers,** R Tarraran, J Reid, D Locke, Volunteer; **Welcomer,** A Ward; **Music,** Diamente Family; **Sacristan,** B Kennedy

**Altar cleaning:** January 06 M Tainsh  
 January 13 J Scholtes

**Church cleaning:** Limbom team

**Touring Statue of Our Lady:**  
 January 06 J & W Waanders;  
 January 13 M Calabro

**St Michael's Vision & Mission Statements**

Inspired by Jesus Christ, we are a welcoming Catholic community seeking to enrich lives. Come and join us! We seek to provide opportunities for all to : \*grow in holiness; \*discover and live out a personal call to mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society.

**Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults:** Central to the mission of St Michael's and St Mary's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK.**

None.

