



ST LUKE'S PARISH

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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.

1. 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.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
3. 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!

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 Fr Michael Tate

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?' Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt. By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?' What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys. But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church. We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL).

HYMNS	
295	Joy to the World
289	Away in a Manger
199	Bread of Life Hope of the World
294	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

NOTICES

St Luke's Monthly Morning Tea

All parishioners are welcome to join the next St Luke's morning tea on **Sunday 6 January 2019** after the 8am Mass in St Luke's Green.



The last morning tea was a wonderful display of community and we look forward to seeing parishioners gathered again. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Thank you

Thank You Parishioners

Thank you to all parishioners who have supported the parish and ministries throughout the year, and we look forward to many more becoming involved in 2019.

Drought Appeal

We are pleased to announce that the Parish will be donating \$500 to the Toowoomba drought appeal. The funds have been collected from the poor box at Buranda. We thank you all for your generosity and support of this worthy cause.

**DROUGHT
APPEAL**

Parish Office Christmas Closure

The parish office will close on 24 December 2018 and will reopen on 2 January 2019. Please contact stlukes@bne.catholic.net.au if urgent. We wish all St Luke's parishioners a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year.

If you have an item you would like considered for the newsletter please contact the Parish Office.



YOU'VE HEARD GOD CALLING, WHAT NEXT?

If you need some time to discern how to respond to God's call in your life. A year of spiritual direction and guidance through the discernment process could be just what you need.

For more information call us on 1300 133 544



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A MESSAGE FROM VOCATIONS BRISBANE

As we approach Christmas, Vocations Brisbane brings you good news to be shared with young people in your community discerning their vocation.

If you need some time, or know someone who does, to discern how to respond to God's call in your life, a year of spiritual direction and guidance through the discernment process could be just what you need.

We warmly invite you to contact us on 1300 133 544 to find out more information to assist on the path towards discernment.

Wishing you all a very joyous Christmas season.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Mary, Mother of God. This day has been celebrated as part of the Octave (eight days) of Christmas since around the sixth century. It is a feast which talks about both Jesus and Mary. It is a celebration of the fact that Jesus was truly God and truly human. Because this is true of Jesus, it is also true that Mary is the "God-Bearer" – the Mother of God.