

BULLETIN

St Pius X Church

The Holy Family of Jesus- Year B

31st December 2023



Christ our Anchor

Manning Parish

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

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Scripture Commentary by Brendan Byrne SJ



Something of this ambiguity in fact appears in the Gospel itself, featuring Luke's account of the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple (2:22-40). On the one hand, there is a respect for traditional values. Joseph and Mary act in dutiful fulfilment of the requirements of the Torah: they bring their child to the Temple to observe 'what stands written in the law of the Lord' (Luke 2:23). Actually, the Lukan account conflates two separate prescriptions here: first, the redemption of a first born (see Exod 13:1, 11-16), which required the sending of a sum to the Temple, though not actual presence at the Temple; second, the purification of the mother of a child some forty days after childbirth (see Lev 12:1-8), on which occasion an offering was to be made – in the case of the poor, as Luke notes, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons'. The custom of 'redeeming' a first born (whether a child or animal) acknowledged the fact that all life was ultimately the possession and gift of the Lord. The parents 'bought back' their child from the Lord. In the case of Jesus, however, as the next episode in the Temple will show (2:41-51), Mary and Joseph will have to surrender him back to the Lord to be about his 'Father's business' (v. 49): the costly redemption of the world.

A similar ambiguity hovers over Simeon's blessing of the child and the two oracles

he pronounces. He, along with the prophetess Anna, represents continuity with the past. They model faithful Israelites who have spent their lives hanging upon the promises that God would send a Saviour. Through prayer and fasting they are equipped to discern in this otherwise very ordinary family from the poorer class the divine fulfilment of promise. In his Nunc Dimittis, canticle, Simeon has become the patron saint of those who, having found meaning at last in their lives, are able to let go and surrender all to the Lord.

But, along with continuity with the past, there is rupture as well. The child will be not only the 'glory of ... Israel' but also – and even first! – 'a light for the revelation to the Gentiles'. This is going to cause trouble, as Simeon's second oracle points out. The child is destined 'for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign of contradiction'. The wide-ranging scope of salvation – the fact that it is not going to be confined to Israel but will be a light also for the Gentiles – will challenge the narrowness of many hearts and bring resistance.

In this connection Simeon speaks of a 'sword' that is to pierce Mary's soul. While allusion to Jesus' passion can hardly be excluded, I suspect that the 'sword' has a wider reference. Mary will have to surrender her Son to a broader, more costly role – in effect to 'his Father's business' (2:49) where 'Father' refers not to Joseph but to God.

The surrender required of the Holy Family was, of course, unique. However, there is a sense in which all parents know something of that 'sword'. Bringing new life into the world and nurturing it to adulthood involves rupture as well as continuity, pain and surrender as well as joy. Today's feast is not so much about modelling an impossibly lofty ideal of family virtue, as about recognising a divine sharing, sympathy and involvement with the challenges of everyday family life.

SPX Safeguarding Officers

The role of Safeguarding Officers is to ensure the safety of children, young people and the vulnerable in the Catholic Church

6pm Vigil Mass - Harry Rai

7:30am Mass - Marie Chaperon- 9313 4585

9am Mass - Tina Fernandes 0411 821 065

11am Chinese Mass

Gregory Lo 0435 383 417, Andrew Tai 0435 950 532,
Juliana Tseng 0438 864 689

Email: safeguarding@manningparish.org.au



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Melissa Vranjes

Principal

Our Motto

At St Pius X Catholic Primary School, the values lived by Jesus Christ are the foundation for everything we do

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ROSTER		Weekend of 30/31 Dec	Weekend of 6/7 Jan
Special Ministers	Sat 6.00pm	Krystyna Henderson	Christine Carvalho
	Sun 7.30am	Marilyn Lamplugh	Marilyn Lamplugh
	Sun 9.00am	Mary Webster	Lina DaSilva
Readers	Sat 6.00pm	Pam Vincent	Edwin Carvalho
	Sun 7.30am	Volunteer	Les Price
	Sun 9.00am	Ian Lane	Shirley Whitfield
	Counters	D & B Molony	Elizabeth Noronha & Terry Scanlan

St Pius X Church Masses

Dec Sun 31	7.00pm	Vigil Mass (Mary Mother of God)
Jan Mon 1	9.00am	Morning Mass (Mary Mother of God)
Tue 2	8.00am	Mass (Tuesday before the Epiphany) Church
Wed 3	8.00am	Mass (Wednesday before the Epiphany) Church
Thu 4	8.00am	Mass (Thursday before the Epiphany) Church
Fri 5	8.00am	Mass (Friday before the Epiphany) Church
Sat 6	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (The Epiphany of the Lord) Church
Sun 7	7.30am	Sunday Mass (The Epiphany of the Lord) Church
	9.00am	Sunday Mass (The Epiphany of the Lord) Church
	11.00am	Sunday Mass (The Epiphany of the Lord) Church

COUNTING ROSTER 2024

Counters are urgently required to assist with the weekly collections. Please place your name and contact details on the form located in the church foyer.

Alternatively you can contact Terry Scanlan on 0439972583 or tscanlan1240@gmail.com for further details.

Parishioners can also assist by making donations via direct payment EFT to the 1st and 2nd collection bank accounts.



Line Dancing Classes

Wednesday 20 December will be the last class for this year and will recommence on Monday 8 January '24.

All proceeds go to the Parish This is a community building initiative to keep you fit and active with the help of Francis & Hellen Tay. All are welcome

Important Notice

We would like to inform parishioners that our Monday Communion Service is suspended for December and January and Saturday 8.00am Mass is cancelled until further notice

Fr Patrick will be on leave in January but will be back for masses on the first and second weekend in January.

Fr Stephen Ochola will be filling in while Fr Patrick is away.

New Year's Masses

Sunday, 31 December 2023

New Year's Eve Mass - 7.00 pm

Monday, 1 January 2024

New Year's Day Mass - 9.00 am

Visitation of our Lady's Statue

We would like to commence the visitation of our Lady's Statue in Parishioners' homes. If you would like to have the statue in your home, please call Mignonne Goes on 0409 688 594.



Tai Chi Group

There will be no Tai Chi Class during January and will recommence first week of February 2024.

For more information, please contact or text Maurice on 0408 782 224 or Stephen on 0403 167 838

Gardening & General Maintenance of garden

A big thank you to those members of the parish who volunteered to assist in maintaining the grounds and gardens. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



However we could do with two more volunteers to sweep the paved areas around the church, presbytery and perimeter of the car park. We would like this to be done on a weekly basis (preferably on a Friday or Saturday) and will require around one hour of your time each visit.

If you can help please see Father Patrick after mass.

Manning Parish Office

Please note the Parish Office will be closed during the Christmas week,

26th December - 31 December 2023.

The office will reopen on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

We wish all our Parishioners a safe and Blessed Christmas.

Safeguarding Induction for all Church workers

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has broadened safeguarding to include adults at risk. **ALL** church workers (volunteers or paid) are to attend a 1-hour safeguarding induction. A church worker is anyone in the parish in any role – paid or voluntary. If you haven't attended the induction in the last 3 years, please register for the upcoming session.

This induction provides an overview of the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, the role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and the importance of Safeguarding within the parish

To register online please visit: <https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/#induction>

Or phone 9221 7762 to book in

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

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

Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

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

Hebrews 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

Luke 2:22. 39-40

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.

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 for Young People

By Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart

No doubt Mary and Joseph were surprised and pleased, and perhaps even a bit spooked, when these complete strangers approached them at the Temple to praise their baby.

Have your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) ever been surprised and pleased, or even spooked, when someone else came and told them some wonderful thing about you? What was it? What do you do that your parents are proud of?

Just as parents love to hear good things about their sons and daughters, they also love to hear good things from their sons and daughters.

In what way can you affirm your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) about their role in your life? Besides Mother's Day or Father's Day or a birthday, when do you take time to really express your love and appreciation for your parents as people, and for their sacrifices and their parenting? How might you improve in this area?

Next Sunday Readings

Weekend 6/7 January 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B

First Reading: Israel 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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