

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

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Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Pat Anderson

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 10am—3pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am



Tuross Mass: Sun. 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am. Fifth Sunday of the month 3 pm .

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary after mass. First Friday Adoration & Benediction. 9.45—10.45 am

Feast of the Holy Family.

YEAR B

December 26—27 2020



Feast of the Holy Family

Mary, Joseph and Child Jesus.

On The last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Today's scriptures present the heads of two families, Abraham and Joseph, promptly obeying God with trusting faith. Abraham put his trusting faith in one God and obeyed His instruction to migrate to an unknown country. Hence in the first reading Abraham dares to ask his God the gift of a son to begin the fulfilment of His promise to make him the patriarch of a big nation. In the second reading St. Paul tells us how Abraham came out victorious when his faith was tested by daringly accepting the challenge of sacrificing his only son Isaac. Today's gospel presents the head of the Holy Family Joseph faithfully obeying God's law given through Moses concerning the purification of the mother and the redeeming of the child by presenting

Mary and child Jesus in the Temple. On the Feast of the only perfect Family that ever lived on this earth, all of us, as family members, need to examine ourselves and see how well we are fulfilling the grace responsibilities which God has placed on us.

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.

Prayer for Australia: Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Happy New Year 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1-6. 8-9.

(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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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.

This is word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simon 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WORD AND LIFEthis week

1. Listening lessons from the Holy Family: By celebrating the Sunday following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings holiness to us, by embracing us in His family. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2223) gives the following advice to the parents: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule.: The CCC adds: "Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children." (2223).

2. Marriage: a sacrament of holiness: The feast of the Holy family reminds us that as the basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. In fact, Jesus Christ has instituted two sacraments in His Church to make society holy—the sacrament of priesthood and the sacrament of marriage. Through the sacrament of priesthood, Jesus sanctifies the priest as well as his parish. Similarly, by the sacrament of marriage, Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties

faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the bible, and devout participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in the. Jesus becomes truly present in the parish church through the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens when there is mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual respect. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents, even after they have grown up and left home.

3. Making the family a confessional rather than a court room: A senior Judge of the Supreme court once congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a court room; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and the wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behavior their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife...as in a confessional are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one." Thus we can avoid the dangers we watch in dysfunctional families as presented in TV in shows like Married with Children, The Simpson's, Everyone Loves Raymond and Malcolm in the Middle.

4. Let us extend the boundaries of our family: The homeless man or woman today in the streets of big cities, fighting the cold and the snow, is part of our family. The drug addict in a den, or living in fear and aloneness this day, is a member of our family. The person sitting in the prison cell for whatever reason is also a child of God, and as such, according to St. John, is a member of our family.

All these, as well as the cherished intimate members of our family are "family valuables." and, as such, are worthy of safekeeping and reverence. Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church.

5. Every Holy Mass in which we participate is our feast of presentation although we were officially presented to God on the day of our baptism we are presenting ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Saviour Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass. Hence we need to live our daily lives with the double awareness that we are dedicated people consecrated to God and that we are obliged to lead holy lives.

Thank you!

The Best New Year Gifts:

To your friend—loyalty.

To you enemy—forgiveness,

To your boss—service

To a child—a good example

To your parents—gratitude and devotion

TO you mate—love and faithfulness

To all men and women—love

To God—your life.

As the year 2021 has arrived, we thank and appreciate the selfless and cheerful service and cooperation you have shown for the last year in the parish as members for the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Acolytes, Lectors, Caring Group Members, Collectors, Counters, Offertory, Musicians, Choir, Florists, Garders, Maintenance, Altar Linen Cleaning, Ministers of Communion, Decorators and others who have helped the Liturgy and up keeping of the Church in one way or another. Thanks to all those who contributed to the upkeep of the church by way of financial contribution and weekly collection throughout the year. We wish you all the best and look forward to the same and even better cooperation from all of you in the this year. Thanks to one & all.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS:

- A) Resolve to draw nearer to God and Christ.
1. By having a daily reading program of God's living and abiding Word.
 2. By being diligent in prayer to recharge our spiritual batteries in order to do good to other.
- B) Resolve to draw closer to our brothers and sisters in our community.
1. By making it a point to learn every one's name, connecting each week a couple of names and faces until we learn them all.
 2. By inviting a different person or family to our home each month.
 3. Or by visiting a different person or family each month.
- A. It might not always be convenient to have people in your home.
- B. But you can arrange to visit them in their home

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE.

Thanks to all you participated in the Christmas Raffle

Drawn on Christmas Day at 11am

Results published in the next Bulletin.

Congratulations to all the winners.



Happy Birthday

**John Munce on his 80th &
Cletus Heffernan on his 75th**



PARISH SECRETARY POSITION: People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya. This is a part-time permanent position 12 hours per week, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am—3pm. **ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Experience with Microsoft suite & database packages; strong communication and liaison skills; strong organizational skills; ability to work in a team environment and show personal initiative; Desire to share in the mission of Christ in the Catholic tradition. **SALARY** will be subject to Clerk Award Level 4 rates. Please email your application (including resume) to George.azhakath@cg.org.au Applications addressed to Fr George Azhakath, must be received by Friday 22nd January, 2021. Copy of duties available on request. The position to commence 3rd March, 2021.



*We wish you a Happy, Peaceful
& Prosperous New Year 2021*