



# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



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 Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>  
 Priest: Fr George Azhakath  
 Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore  
 Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm  
**Mass Times:**



**Moruya:** Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am  
 Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am  
**Tuross:** Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am  
**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass  
 1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am  
**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass  
**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600  
**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Feast of the Holy Family - YEAR B - 30 & 31 December 2023

## Feast of the Holy Family Mary, Joseph and 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, who promptly obey 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 for 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 the 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 our lives 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 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.**



As 2023 draws to a close, we would like to thank the selfless and cheerful service our Parishioners have given over the last year; as members of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, as Acolytes, as Lectors, the Caring Group Members, our collectors, the counters, our offertory volunteers, our musicians, our choir, the florists, the gardeners, those who assist with the maintenance of the Church, to those who launder the altar linen each week, our Ministers of Communion, and everyone who has helped the Liturgy and the up-keep of the Church in one way or another. Thank you most sincerely to all who have kindly contributed to the upkeep of the church by way of financial contribution and through the weekly collections throughout the year. We wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

*We wish our Parishioners a  
 Happy, Peaceful &  
 Prosperous New Year*





## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Genesis 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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### 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 Hebrews 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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### 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

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



## THE WORD AND LIFE this 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, as an 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 for their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rules. The CCC adds: “Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children”.

**2) Marriage is 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 faithfully trusts 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 them. 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) Make the family a confessional rather than a court room.** A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently 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 wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behaviour, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and wife—as in a confessional—are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one”.

**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 hunger, is part of our family. The drug addict in a den, or living in fear and aloneness, is member of our family. The sick person, dying, alone, dirty and maybe even obnoxious, 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.

**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 families 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.

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuyse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and Brian Fee.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to the De Sousa family as their son Baylee is Baptised this Sunday. Please keep his parents Lisa Marie and Hugo and Baylee in your prayers as he commences his faith journey.

**NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS:** New Year’s Day Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 1 January 2024 at 9:15am.

**BIRTHDAY:** Hans de Grave celebrated his Birthday on 28 December. We hope you had a lovely day Han!