

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Sylvia Heffernan, John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Trish Tarlinton, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Paul Rummery Jnr, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Kaye Shephard and Phil Jasprizza.

CONDOLENCES: Sincere condolences to Jan and Pat Morris. Their dearly beloved Grandson, Anthony Morris passed away on 19 December. Please keep the Morris family in your prayers.

BIRTHDAYS: Han de Grave celebrates his Birthday on 28 December. Happy Birthday Han!

NEW ROSTERS FOR READERS AND MINISTERS: New Rosters have been finalised and emailed. You will find a copy in the foyer for your reference. Thank you to Colleen Palise for co-ordinating.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY Over 60 parishioners gathered on Friday, 17 December for a lovely Christmas celebration. Thank you to all who attended and for providing the fabulous Christmas fare.



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 9am—2pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00am

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

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30am

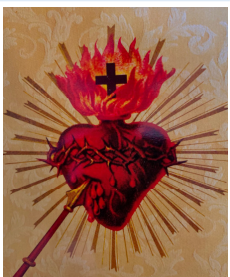
Tuross Mass: Sun: 8am Bodalla Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am and Fourth Sunday of the month 3pm

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 before/after Mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays: 9.45—10.45am



HOLY FAMILY

- YEAR C -

December 26 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph



On this first Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We offer our own families and all the members on the altar for God's blessing. The **first reading** from the book of Samuel describes how Elkanah and Hannah presented their child Samuel in the temple, consecrated him to the service of the Lord as a perpetual Nazirite, and left him in the temple under the care of Eli and priest.

In the **second reading**, John reminds us that, as children of God the Father, we are members of God's own family, and as such we are expected to obey the greatest commandment of God: "love one another" so that we may remain united to God in the Holy Spirit.

Today's **gospel** describes how the Holy Family of Nazareth lived according to the will of God, obeying all the Jewish laws and regulations, and training Jesus in wisdom as well as favour of God and men.

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 earth, and lived among men.

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.

Liturgy of the Word

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

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

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 chil-
dren 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.

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 Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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 Fa-
ther 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 obe-
dient 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.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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

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

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Je-
rusalem 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 on-
ly 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 Naz-
areth 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) Learn 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 inspira-
tion, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped
each other, understood and accepted each other, and took 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 us holiness 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, for-
giveness, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in
the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgement, and self-mastery—the precon-
ditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the ‘material and instinctual
dimensions to interior and spiritual ones’. The CCC adds: “Parents have a grave responsibility to give
good example to their children”. (2223).

On the Feast of the only perfect Family that ever lived on this earth, all parents might examine themselves
and see how well they are fulfilling the grave responsibility which God has placed on them. As they heard
during their marriage ceremony: “children are a gift from God to you”. Children serve as the joy of their
parents’ young years and the help and comfort of their old age, but above and beyond that, they are a gift
for which their parents are accountable before God, as they must, in the end, return these, His children, to
Him. 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.

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 sacra-
ments 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 sac-
rament 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 the Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus be-
comes 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 no-
body 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 this day, is member of our family. The sick person, dying, alone, dirty and maybe even ob-
noxious, 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 rever-
ence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thank you for your generosity at Christmas time in giving for the collections
especially the Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal. We wish you all a happy, safe and joyous festive season.