



# St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph  
Year C -  
26 Dec 2021

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn  
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD  
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch  
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias

St Christopher's & St Peter Chanel's are open to limited numbers and restrictions.



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#### PARISH OFFICE

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Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FROM: FRIDAY 24 DEC - TUESDAY 4 JAN 2022**

## Sunday Mass

### **St Christopher's**

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

**Sat. Vigil:** 5.00pm

**Sunday:** 8.00am,  
11.00am (livestreamed),  
5.00pm \**Note new time*

### **St Peter Chanel's**

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,  
Yarralumla ACT

**Saturday:** 6.00pm Vigil

**Sunday:** 9.30am  
2.00-3.00pm Adoration  
& Confessions

## Weekday Mass

### **St Christopher's**

**Monday to Friday:** 7.30am &  
12.15pm

**Saturday & Public Holidays:**  
9.00am & 12.15pm

### **St Peter Chanel's**

**Tuesday:** 5.30pm

**Thursday:** 10.00am (9.30am  
Adoration): Anointing Mass first  
Thursday of the month.

## Reconciliation

### **St Christopher's**

**Wednesday:** 11.30am-12.00noon

**Thursday:** 6.00 - 6.30pm

**Saturday:** 11.00am - 12noon

### **St Peter Chanel's**

**Tuesday:** 6.00 - 6.30pm

**Saturday:** 5.15 - 5.45pm

## Adoration

### **St Christopher's**

**Tuesday to Friday:** 5.00-6.00pm

## Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

## Weddings

**St Christopher's:** Saturday  
1.30pm & 3.00pm

**St Peter Chanel's:** By arrangement

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The timing of this feast has always struck me – the first Sunday after Christmas. Indeed, through the Child's Birth which we have only just celebrated, a new family is born; a family now belonging to God.

Christmas is not now 'over...' The Incarnation of God, and what flows from that gift, has only just begun. We are reminded today of what our true, lasting identity is. We are taught *who* our true family is. But most of all we are reminded of how real this mystery of God becoming flesh is. Our God is not far off, but remains with you and I here and now... today and forever.

As a young boy, I was drawn to Jesus through the nativity; intrigued by the humanity of the Christmas crib. Even today, I love nothing more than sitting down and contemplating all that is going on in an otherwise a very ordinary scene.

Because the Nativity is a depiction of certainly something Divine, but at the same time, something remarkably human. Remarkably familial. It's a human situation, and a sad one at that!

My father used to prepare the Christmas nativity in our home. He would create such a beautiful scene, with a stable, trees, a winding path, and often a little creek beside a grassy meadow. Yet every year, without fail, he would add this horrific vine, taken from the front yard. The vine would be draped over the stable, as if to frame the previously gentle scene. And the vine, had thorns!

Each year I would routinely remove the vine. Until one year, my father stopped me. 'Trenton, the thorns don't make it any less beautiful!' he said. Leave them.

Perhaps, as I have become older, these words have revealed more of their truth to me. Because the fact is... no, they don't make the scene any less beautiful, nor do they take beauty from what we contemplate in these days. In fact, they increase its beauty!

For when God comes to us, he come in precisely this way. God is born into the midst of thorns, which are more than physical. Thorns that neither shock or deter. And the great truth of our faith is that it doesn't try and paint a magical utopia that doesn't exist; void of thorns and thistles. Our faith deals with facts. And that fact is, God was born into the midst of thorns. Into the midst of the pain, the poverty, the anxiety, the exhaustion, the uncertainty and indeed the pandemic! *THAT* is the manger, where God lay, and the thorns don't make it any less beautiful!

First century Palestine was no picnic! And yet this is where the Holy Family gathers. These are the thorns among which Jesus becomes one of us!

So often Christmas is made to become so sentimentalised, so 'perfect and neat' that, dare I say it becomes equally irrelevant and sterile. And when it does, it becomes almost empty. Boxing Day seems to find us back where we began a week before! And the risk becomes that this same sentimentality can transfer to the Holy Family, where they remain paper and plaster instead of flesh and blood.

Of course this family was holy, but they were also human! The Holy Family, yes! But the Human Family at the same time. How often do we let this truth sink in?

Uncertainty, which is of course a word for these past two years, was also a word for this family, in their time. Theirs is a story of a life which does not exactly go the way they'd planned. It is a story of a young woman who conceives and bears a son before she's seen to be in an acceptable marriage in the society and time. It is the story of a family who had to bear one of the most devilish burdens, the burden of gossip, and hearsay. All the while, carrying the hidden miracle in her womb. Theirs is the story of a young anxious father who confronts scandal and threats to the life of his newly formed family; planning for an uncertain, unknown future! The story of a migrant family forced to flee and give birth in a stable. A remarkably human family, plunged into the thorns that greet you and I in a 2021 world today!

Friends, this is *our* family; adopted through the mystery of Christmas. It is this truth, that in these days after Christmas, we are in danger of forgetting. May this season not pass us by, but be one of immense and *genuine* joy! Let us rejoice, because we now have a family, an identity, a future, with a God who walks with us.

With affection and prayers,  
Fr Trenton van Reesch

# Readings of the Day – Solemnity of the Holy Family —Year C

**MASKS MUST BE WORN INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL AND SAINT PETER CHANEL'S**



Cathedral QR code

**Entrance Antiphon:** *The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Happy are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

## First Reading

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

## Second Reading

1 Jn 3: 1-2, 21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

## Gospel

Lk 2:41-52

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.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER

Lectors	
Mass	26 Dec
8.00am (SCC)	Phil Pocock
9.30am (SPC)	Ruth Meadows
11.00am (SCC)	Cecily Matthews Edwina
5.00pm (SCC)	Rebekah o'Meagher

## PARISH NEWS

**NEW YEARS EVE** – Adoration and Benediction (from 9pm) and Midnight Mass at Saint Peter Chanel's. Mass begins at 11:45pm.

### MASKS MANDATORY

- Facemasks are **mandatory**. Sanitiser available at all entrances.
- All must **use the Check-in CBR App**. Thank you for your ongoing care and understanding.

**PARISH EMAIL DATABASE** – We now email the bulletin as well as parish notices and events. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please let us know at [cdral@cg.org.au](mailto:cdral@cg.org.au)

**THANKYOU**— to thank all the volunteers of our parish over the last year! What a year it has been! Know of the gratitude of our parish family for all that you do.