



Gospel Mt 2:13-15.19-23

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. Here he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Herod is seeking to annihilate all the male children in Bethlehem. The child Jesus is in mortal danger. 'Arise, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' And Joseph did so. *That night and by night, such was the urgency.*

Have you ever thought: What if Egyptian border guards had turned back this refugee family? What if, instead of finding safe haven and sanctuary, this desperate family had been denied entry? The Divine plan to rescue Jesus from a murderous tyrant depended not only on Joseph but, also, on the Egyptian people.

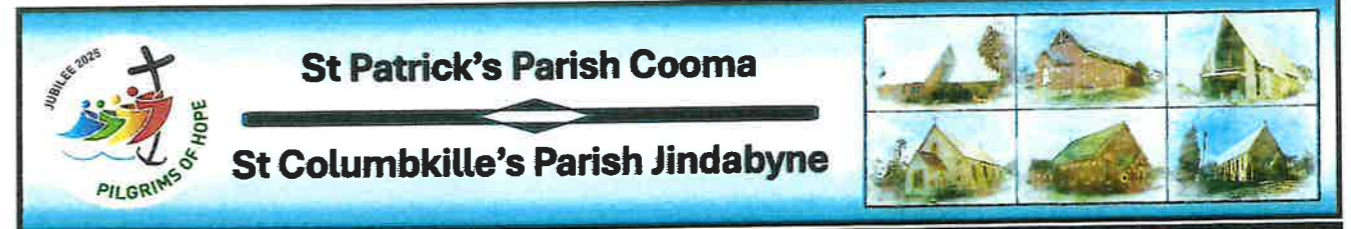
And so we discover two Holy Families in this Gospel episode. One is the little Holy Family with Joseph, Mary and Jesus. The other is the larger Holy Family of humanity embodied in those Egyptians who provided sanctuary, who opened their land to allow Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle out of danger.

We might pause for a moment to ask: Can we be as hospitable and open as the Egyptians of today's Gospel? Another baby in another family of refugees may depend on our answer!

mtate@bigpond.com

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year A 28 December 2025

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

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

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 children 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.

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

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

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 Father 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 obedient 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.

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!

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year A 28 December 2025


PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST
 Father Mark Croker
 0428 190 759
02 6452 2062
Sacramental Program
 Father Mark Croker
 0428 190 759
PARISH WEBSITE
www.cg.org.au/cooma
Parish Secretary
 Mrs Sharon Nesbitt
 02 6452 2062
 Mon, Wed & Thu
 9am -1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm
 Email: cooma@cg.org.au
ST PATRICKS SCHOOL
 02 6452 1721
School Principal
 Dr Mangan
 School Website:
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
 Darren 0429 904 291
WEEKEND MASS & LW&HC TIMES
Adaminaby
 No Mass until further notice
Berridale
 2nd & 4th Sunday
 Vigil Mass Saturday 3.30pm
 All other Sundays
 LW&HC 10am Sunday
Cooma
 Mass Sunday 10am
 Mass Tue, Thu & Fri 10am
Except 3rd Friday
 Mass Yallabee Lodge 9.30am
 Mass Hudson House Respect 11am
Jindabyne
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm
 Except 5th Sunday
 LW&HC 5pm Saturday
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 LW&HC 5pm Saturday
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 2nd Sunday LW&HC 5pm
 4th Sunday Mass 5pm

PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER
for Christians in areas of conflict

 Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

A journey with SAINT MARY of the Cross MACKILLOP

 Have patience and go on quietly with your work. (30.12.1897)
Death of Lexie MacKillop, Mary's sister, at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford, Melbourne, 30.12.1882



How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 8lb 2oz when he was born?
 They had a weigh in a manger.
What did the third wise salesman say after his friends had already presented gold and frankincense?
 But wait – there's myrrh!
A gingerbread man went to the doctor's complaining of a sore knee.
 "A sore knee?" the doctor said. "Have you tried icing it?"
How did the bauble know that she was addicted to Christmas?
 She'd been hooked on Christmas trees all her life.

PARISH CALENDAR

Week 29th December 2025
 MON -
 TUE 10am Mass - *Preface of Epiphany of the Lord*
 WED Bombala Parish 9.30 Mass
 New Years Day
 THU 10am Mass
 FRI 10am Mass
1st Sunday of the Month
 SAT 3pm Nimmitabel Vigil
 5pm Jindabyne Mass
 5pm Bombala Mass
 SUN 10am Cooma Mass
 10am Berridale LWHC

REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Anniversaries & Intentions
 All our dearly loved family and friends
 "We have loved them in Life:
 Let us not forget them in death."


We pray for those who are sick in our community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

HOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
 It's impossible to know what a day may bring. God has plans for us, but sometimes those plans take us through difficult times. You must remember to stay courageous, even when the going gets tough. Saint Teresa of Avila

Prayer of the Faithful
 Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

PRIEST: On this feast of the Holy Family we pray for all families everywhere. We especially remember those whose family lives have been torn apart by the tragedies of the past year - the refugees, the victims of terrorism and war, and the many people who have suffered personal tragedies.

- COMMENTATOR:**
- * We pray for the church, the adopted children of God; may we live as brothers and sisters sharing one another's burdens and strengthening one another. (pause) Lord hear us.
 - * We pray for the human family, that people be willing to accept and tolerate each other on the basis of our common humanity, rather than focus on differences in race, culture or religion which tend to divide and so often have aroused suspicion and hatred. (pause) Lord hear us.
 - * We pray for all those affected by bushfires and drought at the present time: May our dangerously dry country receive the rain so needed for healing, hope and recovery.
 Lord hear us.
 - * We pray for all families affected by death, divorce or separation. We pray with thanks for the courage and faith of people who are walking this path of suffering and are a powerful witness to God's grace. (pause)
 Lord, hear us.
 - * We pray for all those family members who have gone before us. May their example of love and witness be treasured by us. May they continue to be part of our lives through the Communion of Saints. (pause)
 Lord hear us.

We pray with Mary for our own intentions: hail Mary...
PRIEST: Loving God, we bring the needs of all families before you, with all their shapes and differences. Bless our families and help us be faithful to the teaching of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY
The Epiphany of the Lord -Year A
 First Reading: Is 60: 1-6
 Second Reading: Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

NEW YEARS DAY
 Bombala Mass New Years Eve 9.30am
 Cooma Mass New Years Day 10am

Did You Know:
People really did celebrate Christmas for 12 days, sometimes longer-
 The traditional English Christmas has its origins in the ninth century, when King Alfred the Great enshrined in law the importance of keeping the church's feasts. He commanded that there should be a holiday on Christmas Day and the 12 days that followed, for it was believed that the Magi [three wise men] had journeyed for 12 days to see the infant Jesus. During this period of 12 days, no free man could be compelled to work. The common man enjoyed this right to the best of his ability during the Tudor period, while kings and nobles indulged themselves in abundance on a lordly scale.



Plum pudding was eaten as an appetiser before Christmas dinner -
 Plum porridge was much enjoyed as an appetiser to line the stomach before the rich dinner to come. It was a thick broth of mutton or beef, boiled in a skin with plums, spices, dried fruits, breadcrumbs and wine. In the later 16th century, flour was added to make a pudding or cake. Centuries later, the Victorians would remove the meat and turn plum porridge into the rich Christmas pudding we know today, serving it as a dessert.