

FAITH

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2021

NEXT NEWSLETTER: 9TH JANUARY

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 83 (84): 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel:

Luke 2:41-52

"He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority."



Carl Bloch, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) of the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear the familiar story of Jesus being found in the temple, the fifth Joyful Mystery.

Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Put yourself in the shoes of Mary and Joseph in this story. What must they have felt? What conversations would they have had? Would they have worried, or trusted completely in God? How would they have felt when they found Jesus, and then when they heard his response?
- Mary pondered all these things in her heart: do you spend more time worrying over things than praying about them? Today ask the Holy Family to show you how to go to God first.

Talk

Yesterday we celebrated Christmas Day, the birth of Jesus, and today already we are talking about Jesus as a twelve year old child! We have so much to learn from the Holy Family, whose feast day we celebrate today:

Discuss the following as a family:

- Did you ever get lost? How did it happen? Were you worried? Who found you? How did they feel while they were looking for you? Were they annoyed with you, maybe, for wandering off?
- Jesus' answer to Mary and Joseph might seem a little confusing, but Jesus wasn't being disrespectful. It's important to look at the next line: He went down with them....to Nazareth and lived under their authority.
- Can you think of any situations where you have to be obedient to your parents? How can you do this in a loving and humble way? Parents, how can you help your children to practice obedience too?

Family Challenge!

Make a Blessing Jar to count the blessings your family receives throughout the year! (See our attached resource!)

Check out page 3 for a picture to colour from this week's readings!

Mission: Today we're celebrating the feast of the Holy Family! Can you do something really nice for your family today? Show them how much you love them and appreciate everything they do for you!

Song of the Week!

JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH,
HOLY FAMILY



Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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EVENTS

Lectio Divina: the praying with the Scriptures, led by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, beginning Thurs, September 30th. 2 options: Thurs @ 2pm in St. John's Pastoral Centre / Thurs @ 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Parish Centre. Please register at waterford@ascjusus.org or call 087-4042785

Fire in the South: a Catholic Charismatic Outreach Movement to enable people to encounter the personal love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. companionship, music, sharing, prayer, the odd funny story, sacred scripture & adoration. Every Wednesday, 8 - 9.15pm (Re-starting in Mid-January) Zoom ID: 86141473152 Password: FIRE

THE VALUE OF HIDDENNESS

Christmas is a time for the family. Sons and daughters come home from abroad. We visit those family members we haven't seen in a while. We reconnect and catch up with everyone we have missed over the last few months.

There is another family which is of particular importance in this Advent and Christmas season which we can learn much from for our own lives. This is of course, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Considering how incredibly important they are in the Father's plan for our salvation, the first part of their family life was lived in poverty and exile. On their return to Nazareth, the vast majority of the next 30 years was lived in hiddenness. We could think that all must have been plain sailing because they were all so holy but when we look a little deeper we can see that their lives were more like ours that we might imagine.

How much of our lives are ordinary or mundane? How much of what happens in our lives is hidden from the world? Almost all of it. The Holy Family teach us the value of hiddenness; of silent consistent love of God in the ordinary things of the day. Our simple actions can have great value before God when performed out of love for Him. Books will not be written about us but the Father who sees all things will reward us.

Finally, the greatest family which the Father wants us to be part of is the Heavenly family in which He is actually our Father, *my Father*, Our Lady is my Mother and the Church is my home. This should be a reality here on earth which will be perfected in Heaven. We see the beginnings of that at weddings and baptisms when the family gathers to celebrate a joyful occasion or at funerals when we gather as a family to console and support each other. We also see it at Christmas when the family gathers to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

This Christmas let us remember our families, imitate the Holy Family and take our place in the great heavenly family with God as Our Father.

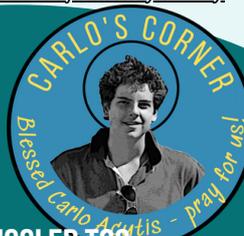
Fr Patrick Cahill, Holy Family Mission

Family Prayer

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Missionaries of the Holy Family

Help us to stay together, Lord, in joy and sorrow as we pray. Teach us to see Christ in disguise upon each other's face - Danielle Rose -



THE HOLY FAMILY STRUGGLED TOO

Families can be tricky, can't they? Sometimes we can't wait to get home to spend time with our families, and then the little annoyances, or quirks, or responsibilities start weighing on us, and we can feel ourselves losing our patience! Family has a way of revealing things to us that we might be happier not to admit at times.

The Holy Family of Nazareth was different - that's why they're called holy... but Mary and Joseph were human too.. They experienced anxiety when they lost Jesus in Jerusalem for three full days; they couldn't understand the bigger picture when mysterious things happened in their lives - but they trusted in God and His ways. They trusted in their Son and His ways.

The Holy Family didn't exactly have it easy either: Jesus was born in poverty and laid in a manger, hardly what Joseph would have liked for his family. Herod tried to slaughter Him. They spent their first years of family life as refugees in a hostile Egypt. When they finally moved back to Nazareth, they had to work hard to earn a living, with none of the modern comfortable conveniences we have, no material security; and all things pointing towards Jesus' passion and death. But they had each other, and the Christ Child was at the centre. There's a simple lesson for us all in that. Pray for your family today., whatever your relationship is like.

Family Brings out the Worst in You. (Fr Mike Schmitz)



TUNE: The Blessing. (Elevation Worship)

Resource: Family Prayer Service



CHECK IT OUT: HOLY FAMILY MISSION



Holy Family Mission in Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary is a residential Catholic community for young people aged 18 - 30 who desire to learn more about their faith; live with like minded young adults; be steeped in an environment of prayer and the sacraments; have opportunities for mission with young people and families. Applications opening for 2022/23. See www.holyfamilymission.ie for more information.



Holy Family of Nazareth
- pray for us!



Pray this prayer service together, or if that's not possible, pray it on your own for your family's intentions.

"THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER"
FR PEYTON

Family Prayer Service



BEGIN BY LIGHTING A CANDLE

(or each member of your family can light one candle each)

OPENING PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for the gift of our family, for each individual here (*and for those not here with us*). We thank You that You have given us each other, so that together we can grow and develop into the best versions of ourselves. We acknowledge that we have not always loved each other as we should, or treated each other with respect and love. Lord God, we need You in the heart of our family, because we are weak and frail, and need Your love to sustain us and unite us. Show us how to love each other, and through our family's love, be an example to those around us, that they may see in us a spark of Your Divine Love.

Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph - pray for us!



SCRIPTURE

Read the following passage of Scripture aloud and take some time to reflect in silence on it.

- Where can you see this love evident in your family?
- Where is it lacking?
- Can you put your name in instead of "love" in each sentence, honestly?
- What are you personally challenged by?



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 8

TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SHARE (OR JOURNAL) YOUR THOUGHTS.

OUR FAMILY PRAYERS:

Allow some time for each member of the family to pray out loud for any intentions they have. At the end, pray a Hail Mary (or a decade of the rosary) together for all these intentions, entrusting them to Our Lady.



- THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE
- LOVE NEVER FAILS - BRANDON HEATH
- THE FAMILY PRAYER SONG - MARANATHA

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

WHY NOT START A NEW NEW YEAR'S TRADITION?



Blessings Jar

If you don't have a jar, get a notebook and write your blessings in that instead!

WHAT IS A BLESSING JAR?

Blessings jars are a practical and fun way to keep a record of the things that you're thankful for on a daily basis. Whenever you recognize something that is a "blessing" in your life throughout the year, just write it on a piece of paper, fold it up, and stick it in the Blessing Jar. It might be as simple as a good chat with a friend, a hug, a gift, having the ability to play sports, having food on your table....

You can do this alone, or with your family, or even your youth group. Then decide how often you want to empty out the jar out to count your blessings: maybe on New Year's Eve, each month, on a special Feastday, or, if you're having an especially tough day, you may just want to empty out the contents of the blessings jar right then and be reminded of God how is blessing you each and every day! It will be a great reminder of God's faithfulness... in times of joy as well as in times of struggle.



HOW TO MAKE A BLESSING JAR

- Choose a large jar (or use a notebook or box if you can't source a jar)
- Stick the Blessings Label on the jar.
- Choose a scripture passage if you'd like (see next page for ideas), punch one end and tie to your jar with string.
- Decorate the jar with stickers, washi tape, ribbon, string - whatever way you like! (*Google Blessing Jars and you'll get lots of ideas!*)
- Write your first blessings idea on a small note card, fold it and put it in the jar.
- Make sure you have paper and pen near the jar to make the process easier each time you see a blessing you want to record!
- Enjoy the process and choose to be thankful every single day
- Repeat as often as you like



"MAY HIS FAVOUR BE UPON YOU AND A THOUSAND GENERATIONS,
AND YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN"  THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE

BLESSING JAR SUGGESTIONS FOR LABELS



or create your own!

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
James 1:17

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
John 1:16

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 1:3