

The Living Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

27 December 2020

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

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.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 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 Lk 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

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 – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until



he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

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.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings focus our attention on true family values. God promises an heir to a couple that cannot produce a child, and when the promise is fulfilled and the child is born, God asks for the life of that child. The hopes that were kindled by the promise and that blazed brilliantly with the child's birth now lie like ashes on a heap. Is God reneging on the promise of a descendant? Is God playing with people's dreams and aspirations? Or might God be preparing them for yet another marvel?

The couple had placed their trust in God's initial promise of new life, and it was fulfilled. Now Abraham, as the representative of the entire family, is asked to hope against hope, to relinquish the child in whom all of the hopes of the future rests. Trust does not really depend upon the promises made, but upon the one making the promises. God is a God of surprises, of the paradoxical, of the preposterous. This is a God who opens closed wombs, rescinds death sentences, takes an obscure child and makes him the light to the nations. Trust in such a God requires that we sacrifice our own presuppositions. Then, expecting nothing from God, we can be open to everything. In the face of such mystery, the human heart can only sing with gratitude. We live in the presence of God, and this sustains us through whatever seems impossible. Thanksgiving opens us to receive God's promise and God's gifts.

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HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Trinity Our Lady Star of the Sea Holy Family
34 Stevens St 68 John Dory Drive 101 Hitchcock Ave
Queenscliff Ocean Grove Barwon Heads

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

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Star of the Sea Ocean Grove
Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND & WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

**** PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE ****

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please contact Parish office

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Please contact Parish office

Please send in bulletin notices by Thursday



Recently Deceased: Sean O'Neill and Des Hayes.

Anniversaries 27- December to 2- January:

Michael Gillian, Dulcie Duffy, Nora Ellis, Maria Bernes, Joan Shapter, Dola Harrison, Peter Roberts and Bert Klabbers.

Please pray for those who are Sick:

Peg Benham, Mary Blonk, Ellen Bourke, Ron & Helen Carter, Patricia Clarke, Pat Cousin, Jack Davin, Alfred Dickinson, Ian Downing, Margaret Dyer, Isabel Fitzgerald, Nell Fraigneux, George Frances, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Kate Greenwood, Martin & Mary Grundy, Willow Hanan, Peter Harrington, Jeannette & Laurance Hodgkinson, Kerin Hoye, Robert Hurley, Stuart Jarrett, Gary Kingsbury, Jack Loughnan, Cas Lukauskas, Belinda Monterosso, Robyn Nagle, Christine Naulty, Beverley O'Meara, Helen Pearce, Mavourneen Ray, Daniel & Geraldine Richards, Pat Robinson, Bill & Betty Rushton, Kevin Shannon, Mac & Mary Sullivan, Cooper Thorley, Eraldo (Aldo) Trentini, Deanne Warren, Peter Williams.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Please remember, in the state of Victoria, that fitted masks must be worn inside, on public transport and outside where you cannot physically distance.

For updated medical advice and news, please visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

For Diocese and Parish advice, please visit:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

**** NEWS & EVENTS ****

We thank all those who have assisted with taking Mass attendance bookings – a huge task!

After the Christmas long weekend, there is no need to book for our weekend Masses.

However, Church capacities, check-in, contact tracing and all other COVID guidelines apply and remain in place.

If you require Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.

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RADIO BROADCASTS of SUNDAY MASS:

- Sunday 7:00am on Light FM 89.9
- Sunday 10:00am on The Pulse 94.7 FM

TELEVISED SUNDAY MASS:

- Channel 10 / 10HD: *Mass for You at Home*, every Sunday at 6:00am.
- C31 (Channel 44 on digital TVs): *St Patrick's Cathedral Mass*, every Sunday at 11:00am.
- Foxtel Aurora channel 173: *Mass*, every Sunday at 6:00am.

SUNDAY & DAILY MASS STREAMED ONLINE & RESOURCES:

- <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
- <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

ARCHDIOCESE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

This year's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV).

- **24th December:** Carols from 11pm followed by Midnight Mass.
- **25th December:** Christmas Day Mass from 11am.

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Columban Calendars are available for sale, \$9.00 each.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 28th December – The Holy Innocents (Feast)

Tuesday 29th December – 5th day in the Octave of the Nativity

Wednesday 30th December – 6th day in the Octave of the Nativity

Thursday 31st December – 7th day in the Octave of the Nativity

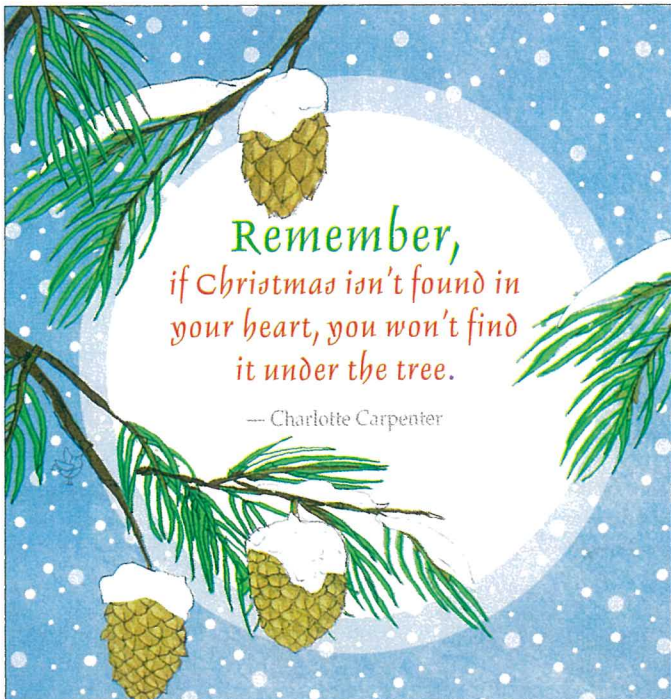
Friday 1st January – MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD (Solemnity)
New Year's Day

Saturday 2nd January – Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (Memorial)

Sunday 3rd January – The EPIPHANY of the LORD (Solemnity)

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Thought for the Week:



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IT'S A FLETCHERS THING



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