

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 84.

RESPONSE:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God. **R**
2. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways. **R**
3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed. **R**
4. One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may give heed to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 27 Dec ST JOHN, AE

1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:2-8

We have all received the gift of faith, but how do we live it? Today's psalm tells us: "Be glad... and give thanks." Joy and gratitude are true hallmarks of our daily, lived faith.

Tue 28 Dec HOLY INNOCENTS, Ms

1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18

What we focus on tends to expand and grow. When we are overwhelmed by a situation, we can either choose fear or we can choose love. Love focuses on God's power and wisdom, not our perceived lack.

Wed 29 Dec (St Thomas Becket, BM)

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96; Luke 2:22-35

Growth simply takes time, and much of our spiritual journey is waiting on this growth. If you are frustrated and impatient with yourself, remember God had to wait 30 years for Jesus to grow to maturity.

Thu 30 Dec Liturgy of the Day

1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96; Luke 2:36-40

The prophetess Anna's promise of hope balanced Mary's pain, prophesied by Simeon. Looking closely at our own lives, the Spirit also sends wise ones to balance our pain with the gift of hope when we are in need of it.

Fri 31 Dec (St Sylvester I, P)

1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96; John 1:1-18

Many of us do not recognise our unique inner giftedness and the contribution we make to life just by being who we are. Each and every one of us are beautiful in God's eyes.

Sat 1 Jan MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67; Luke 2:16-21

Mary's greatness lay in her humility. It is not surprising that Jesus, who lived so close to her, seemed determined to have us learn one thing above all: humility of heart – St Teresa of Calcutta

Sun 2 Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Matthew 2:1-12

How do we know which is the straight path? "Anyone who sets off on the path of doing good to others is already drawing near to God... walking towards the fullness of love." – Pope Francis.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
A=Apostle; E=Evang.; M=Martyr; B=Bishop; P=Pope; D=Dr

Catholic Link

CHRISTMAS

Holy Family • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 26 December 2021

Truly Our Brother

During 2021 *Catholic Link* ran a series of articles on *Fratelli Tutti – Brothers and Sisters All* – the encyclical of Pope Francis inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, that all of creation is God's family. Not just human beings but also Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Brother Wind and Sister Water. This is of course eminently biblical, with St Paul declaring Christ to be the "firstborn of all creation" (Col 1:15) and the "firstborn of many brothers and sisters" (Rom 8:29).

This weekend, Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family are celebrated back-to-back. Let us consider Jesus' humanity in the light of these feasts. Many people find it easier to believe in the divinity of Christ than in his humanity, mostly because we have a problem accepting our own humanity in its corruption and depravity. We forget that when God created humans he said it was "very" good (Gen 1:31).

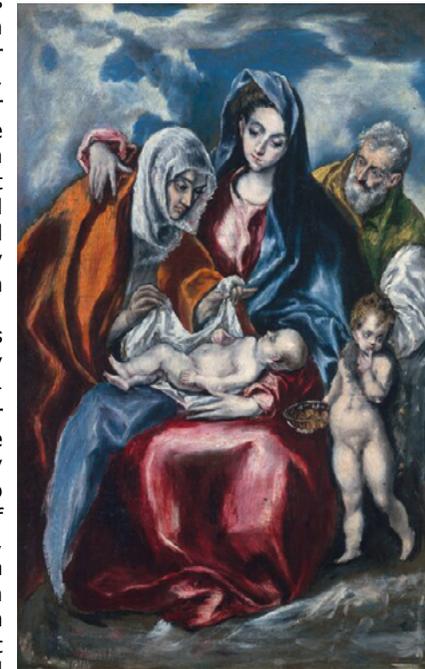
Jesus is truly human. Nine months before his birth he began as a fertilised ovum at the Annunciation to Mary. For about two weeks he was a living cell waiting to be planted on the wall of Mary's uterus. At that stage he became an embryo whose cells were constantly dividing and growing. Eventually, as a spinal column formed, and as a nervous system and vital organs took shape, he became a foetus and began to hear the heartbeat of his mother. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus", we pray to Mary. Finally, the day arrived when this tiny infant was birthed

into the big wide world, took his first gasp of air, let out a cry, and then his own heartbeat took over. Jesus is as truly human as you and me. He is truly our brother, our "eldest" in the new dispensation of God's saving plan.

Being human, as we know, is not merely a physical reality. We are social beings whose humanity is formed (or deformed, sadly) in a family. Our first social contact with another human being is of course in our mother's womb. But then we undergo another gestation in the "womb" of family life. The nourishment we now require most of all is to be loved and to learn to love. It is to grow in "wisdom and maturity" as Jesus did (Luke 2:52). The Feast of the Holy Family highlights this point. Jesus enjoyed the love and affection of Mary and Joseph. Joseph, while not being Jesus' biological father, is a model for us of fatherly responsibility, protecting his family from

danger, setting up a home for them, and teaching Jesus the skills of a carpenter (in the Gospels Jesus is referred to both as a "carpenter" in Mark 6:3, and as "the son of the carpenter" in Matthew 13:55).

Today we celebrate with joy our Christian narrative. It is a narrative that unfolds against the glorious Divine narrative before the beginning of time when God said: "Let there be..." (Gen 1:3,6,9 etc.). It is a narrative that reaches its climax when "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son..." (John 3:16). This is our story; this is our song!



El Greco's Holy Family with Saint Anne and the Infant John the Baptist, c. 1595/1600

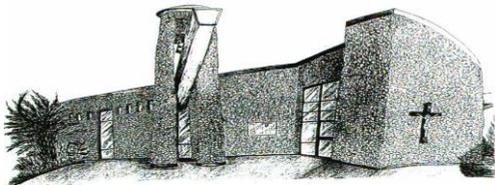


During these days of Christmas joy and cheer we wish you the
Love, Joy and Peace
that only the Christ-child can bring – from all of us at RPP



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Office Hours: **Open – see notice on door**

OFFICE CLOSED ON TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER

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Website: www.stfrancisxavier.org.za

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive, as a Parish,
to grow into disciples of Jesus Christ,
reaching out in Faith into a wider Community.*

Prayer Circle:

Contact Jeannette Nicholson
031 467 7658 / 083 524 5619

REPOSITORY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER

NOTICE: See notice on door for contact numbers for items urgently required.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The seriously sick:

Brian Fuller, Judy Willman, Scarlett Wright, Patrick Marx, Andre Herder, Michael Tunley, Jerelene Naidoo-Chetty, Lyn Rossell, Dale Smith, Andy Hustler and Perry Williams.



ONLINE MASSES: The **9.00am** Sunday Mass will continue to be available online, live-streamed on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisxavier). The **Christmas Night Mass (7pm on Friday 24 December)** will also be live-streamed.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Fri 24 Dec 7.00pm Christmas Night Mass

All Involved Parishioners [Fr Mike]

Sat 25 Dec 7.00am Christmas Dawn Mass

Rosemary Johnson R.I.P. [Ludewick Family]

All Families, Friends and Benefactors of the

Dominican Sisters

Sat 25 Dec 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

Nowell Buckley's Birthday [Family]

Jack & Edith Meth R.I.P. [Meth Family]

Nascimento De Gouveia R.I.P. [John De Gouveia]

Sun 26 Dec 7.00am

Ivan Thompson R.I.P. & Sylvia Martin R.I.P.

[Thompson Family]

Roslyn & Cale Vilbro's Special Intention [Nelson

Hudson]

All Families, Friends and Benefactors of the

Dominican Sisters

Sun 26 Dec 9.00am

Buckley & Summers Families Thanksgiving

Himari Abrahams' Birthday [Family]

The Chetty Family's Intentions

Mon 27 Dec 9.00am St John

Angelo James R.I.P. [Emmanuel Family]

All Families, Friends and Benefactors of the

Dominican Sisters

Tue 28 Dec 5.30pm Holy Innocents

Cecil Foley R.I.P. [Fr Mike]

Nico Frankson's Birthday [Family]

Wed 29 Dec 8.00am

All Parishioners

Thu 30 Dec 5.30pm

Deceased Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Fr Mike]

Fri 31 Dec 8.00am

Pat Vickers' Thanksgiving for Blessings Received

Gregory Magiera, Cecil Buckley & Lance Buckley's

Birthdays [Sheenage Jooman]

Fri 31 Dec 6.00pm Vigil of Mary, Mother of

God

Perry Williams' Special Intentions [Pat & Betty]

Sat 01 Jan 9.00am Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sharon Meth's Birthday [Meth Family]

Sat 01 Jan 5.00pm Vigil of Epiphany

Frankson Family's Special Intentions

Sun 02 Jan 7.00am Feast of Epiphany

Lucy Lawlor's Special Intention [CWL Prayer Partner]

Bev Beard's Special Intention [CWL Prayer Partner]

Sun 02 Jan 9.00am Feast of Epiphany

All Parishioners

NOTICES:

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRIVE THANKS: To our dearest Parishioners – We, the St Vincent de Paul Society, will really like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all of you who have kindly responded to our Hamper drive. We are so thankful for donations in cash and non-perishable groceries. God bless you and your families. May you have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

SOUTHERN CROSS MAGAZINES: The December issue is available from the back of the church at R30 per copy, and older issues at R10 per copy taken. No cash change available. Please place your donation into either of the brass collection boxes near the wooden crucifix.

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Friday 24 December 7:00pm Night Mass

Saturday 25 December 7:00am Dawn Mass

Saturday 25 December 9:00am Day Mass

Please note that the Christmas Mass Collections will be for the **Oblates of Mary Immaculate**.

Sunday 26 December 7:00am Holy Family

Sunday 26 December 9:00am Holy Family

Parish Bank Account details:

BLUFF CATHOLIC CHURCH, F N B Current A/c
Account No. **50844495917**, Branch Code **250655**.

Parishioners wishing to donate to the OMI Christmas Collection via EFT, please only use "**OMI CHRISTMAS**" as your reference – no names.

DEDICATED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022:

These are available at all weekend Masses from the table outside the door of the church, and during regular office hours from the parish office (situated in the hall at present).

CONGRATULATIONS:

RECENT BAPTISMS:

Congratulations to:

Patrick Peters & Genevieve Walljee on the Baptism of Gage,

Kenneth King & Marise Stainbank-- on the Baptism of Mia-Leigh,

Jerome Joubert & Bronwyn Hudson on the Baptism of Michael,

Keenan & Geneé Hustler on the Baptism of Myla, Clayton & Joanna Govender on the Baptism of Gabriella,

Angelo & Tarlia Francis on the Baptism of Miko, Andrew & Shael Mead on the Baptism of Casey, Le-Jea & Randi Michelson on the Baptism of Azairi and, Reece Wynne & Grace Kruger on the Baptism of Keziah.

RECENT MARRIAGES:

Congratulations to the following couples who recently celebrated their marriages:

Aiden Parsons & Bronwyn Oldfield on 2 October,

Tyrell Goodman & Tarin King on 8 October,

Mikail Naidoo & Jessica Hodman on 9 October,

Vernon Callaghan & Crystal King on 6 November, and, Ricardo Dunn & Jodie Marais on 2 December.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:



*May the wonder of Christmas
capture your imagination,
deepen your faith,
strengthen your hope
and fill your heart with love.
Happy Christmas and
a grace filled New Year*

Fr Mike

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
● YEAR C ● 26 DECEMBER 2021
DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK I
DAILY MASS READINGS: YEAR I

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Luke 2:16

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

FIRST READING:

1 Samuel 1:20. 22. 24-28

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." And the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord a yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and abide there for ever." And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine; and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slew the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord granted me my petition which I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

PSALM:

Psalm 84:2-3. 5-6. 9-11

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

...R

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

...R

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.

...R

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

...R



SECOND READING:

1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

Beloved: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is, Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA:

Acts 16:14

R. Alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may give heed to the words of your Son.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey,

and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Baruch 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.