

## GOSPEL REFLECTION ON THE HOLY FAMILY



### Growing Pains

When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

**PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come.**  
**Through Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### Useful links:

Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>

Notre Dame High School, Norwich Website: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

## PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

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**27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 –**

### **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

#### **Sunday Masses – Page 105 of Parish Mass Book**

Saturday	6.00 pm	Mary Reeder
Sunday	9.00 am	Francis Lynch
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

#### **Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass**

**Entry** 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 145 – What child is this ...

**Offertory** Hymn 130 – Angels we have heard in heaven ...

**Communion** *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

**Recessional** 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 152 – Unto us is born a Son ...

#### **CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm**

#### **Weekday Mass Times** (The Octave of Christmas) [*Psalter Week 1*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Rose Rownan - Holy Innocents
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	- St Thomas Becket
Weds.	10.00 am	Mary Gledhill - 6 <sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of Christmas
Thurs.	10.00 am	UCM Int. - 7 <sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of Christmas
Fri.	<b>New Year's Day</b> - 10.00am	Special Int. (Perkins) – <b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>
Sat.	10.30 am	Peter & Bernadette Watkins - St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen
	6.00 pm	Conaty Family - <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

**[Reg. Charity 278742]**

**Anniversaries this week:** Charles Wilfred Hunt, Dorothy Pinner, Harry Dempsey, Helen Phyllis Coyne, Alda Dias and Caroline Rolfe. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits** – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King's Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick List - Please pray for:** Michelle Redmond, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian and Eileen Brockleby.

**Money Matters** – The collection last weekend was £436.06 and the grand total for the Dependant Priests' Fund was £229.65. Thank you very much.

**Diary Dates for this week –**

- Tues. – Please note there is no Queen of Peace Prayer Group this week. Recommences 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- Fri. – SVP 'First Friday' monthly Coffee Morning – after morning Mass. Come and welcome in the New Year over a nice cuppa and friendly chat.
- Fri. – Please note there is no Friday evening Exposition & Silent Prayer or Vespers this week.
- Sat. - Saturday Club is on holiday. Recommences 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Parish Meal and Nativity at Yaxham Village Hall last Sunday** - A massive thank you to all who helped, provided food and company and the Nativity Tableau at Yaxham Village Hall last Sunday. It was a lovely experience. I enjoyed it very much indeed. I really didn't know what I was coming to, but it was a wonderful event. It should certainly be a fixed event in the parish calendar.

**Feast of the Holy Innocents - December 28<sup>th</sup>** - "When the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' " It seems that even today children still have plenty of 'Herods' to fear. Every newspaper, magazine and TV report describe children as victims of war, terrorism, slavery, abuse and of starvation. Today, on the Feast of the Holy Innocents we are called to reach out to those children who need our help. We can reach out by supporting charities that put the needs of children first. There are plenty to choose from, UNICEF, The Barnabas Fund, Save the Children UK to name a few. We can reach out by listening to, and caring for the children in our own community.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God - January 1<sup>st</sup>** - Today we observe the solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This is a natural theme having just celebrated the birth of her son Jesus. The birth of a child is always a sign of hope ... hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.



**Letting God into your New Year's Resolutions** - "What does God want me to do with my life this year?" There's a company that makes T-shirts with spiritual themes. One of them shows an airplane being flown by a frantic pilot. The shirt says "If God is your co-pilot, switch seats." The message is that when we put God in charge of our goals we will succeed. When you make your new year's resolutions, think about what areas of your character you know God would be pleased for you to change.

**World Day of Peace - January 1<sup>st</sup>** - On World Day of Peace, traditionally celebrated on January 1st, we look at some suggestions - We are asked to pray for peace in the Middle East. We are asked to visit another Christian church in our area as part of our commitment to Christian unity. We are asked to set aside time to pray for victims of torture and oppression. Finally we are asked to prepare for Peace Sunday later this month.



**Upcoming:-**

Peace Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Lowestoft** – Head Teacher required from September 2016. Please see Diocesan Website for more details: [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

**Bite Size**

"A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden."

*Buddha*

*Indian philosopher & religious leader (563 BC - 483 BC)*