

Sunday Prayer at Home

Feast of the Holy Family



Introduction and Act of Repentance

Presider:

On this Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. From his earliest days, Jesus' life is fraught with threat and rejection – a fate shared by his parents:

Penitential Act:

We recall our sins and confess our failing to the God of love.

Lord Jesus, you descended to our world from on high. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you were born to a woman, born a subject of the Law. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you have your life that we might live. Lord, have mercy

Opening Prayer

Let us pray (*that God will help us to be faithful*)

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

All: AMEN

Reader: A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 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.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

All:

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.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Reader:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the

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.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to

Lk 2:22-40

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 eve-

rything 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. The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: Inspired by the word of God, we commend to our God and Father the needs of our brothers and sisters

Reader:

For the Church: that the infant Christ revealed as a light for all nations at his presentation in the Temple may be truly visible through the lives of his followers today. Lord, hear us.

For the grace of awareness among people us and particularly through people who are poor, marginalised and too easily dismissed as worthless. Lord, hear us

For all those living in the darkness of loneliness, marginalisation and despair; that the light of the Gospel may open within them a new awareness of people who are no longer strangers, but brothers and sisters. Lord, hear us.

For in our community. Who are sick: that they may feel the prayerful support of their community faith. Lord, hear us.

For those who have dies; that they may live for ever in the presence of our loving God Lord, hear us

Parish Prayer

God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge!
Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Presider:

Heavenly Father, without your constant care we could not exist. Our prayers are acknowledgement of your gifts to us. We ask you to hear and grant them through your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord

(All) Amen

Anima Christi Prayer (Spiritual Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me;
From all harm protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; So that with your saints,
I may praise you forever and ever. Amen



CONCLUSION

Presider:

May God our Father, who gave his Son to us, bless you and keep you.
May the Son of God, who came among us in our humanity, inspire us to do the things of God.
May the Holy Spirit of God with you and inspire you all the days of your life.
And may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

All: Thanks be to God

St Paul Apostle Catholic Community
Endeavour Hills VIC
Produced by Brian Gleeson CP
Email: bgleesoncp@gmail.com
Biblical translation: NRSV