



*Please pray for:* Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

### Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

#### Sunday 27th December 2020 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Feast (B)

Sunday, 27 Dec	<b>10.30 am</b>	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 27 Dec	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 28 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>	The Holy Innocents, martyrs (F)
Tuesday, 29 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>	St Thomas Becket, bishop (Opt)
Wednesday, 30 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>	6th Day – Octave of the Nativity
Thursday, 31 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>	St Sylvester I, pope (Optional)
Friday, 01 Jan	<b>No Mass</b>	Mary, Holy Mother of God (Sol)
Saturday, 02 Jan	<b>No Mass</b>	Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen (M)



### Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)  
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

### Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm  
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am  
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am  
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

### Confession at St James' Church

Saturday: 4.15pm - 4.50pm,  
ahead of Vigil Mass  
(No Confession on Sundays)

**The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office**



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. *Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.*



A VOCATION VIEW: 'Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.' *Unknown*

**\*Holy Cards of the Holy Family are at the back of the church – with compliments of CatholicCare!**

**\*New Year's Day Mass is on at St James', Forest Lodge at 9am on Friday 1st January!**

**Christmas / New Year Weekday (12.35pm) Mass break – from Thurs 24th December – Fri 15th January**  
The last 12.35pm Weekday Mass for 2020 will be celebrated on **Wednesday 23rd December**. Weekday Mass will resume on **Monday 18th January 2021**.

**Parish Office Christmas / New Year Closure – Thursday 24th December – Tuesday 5th January**  
The parish office will be closed after Wednesday 23rd December for a Christmas and New Year break until Wednesday 6th January. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! ☺

**Go Make Disciples – Launch of new Archdiocesan Mission Plan** – On Saturday 12th December, Archbishop Fisher launched our new Mission Plan – **Go Make Disciples** setting our direction and priorities for years to come. **Go Make Disciples Mission Plan brochures** are available in the church, for everyone to take home – *please do not return the brochures to the back of the church* – thank you for your cooperation!

**Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – Feast of the Holy Family (27th December 2020) – <https://youtu.be/zxQM2mdWHTA>**

### Entrance Antiphon:

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

### Communion Antiphon:

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

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** – this feast was established as part of the Christmas season in 1921, following the cult in the nineteenth century. Linked to the octave of Christmas in 1969. The Holy Family, itself subject to difficulties & social pressures of its time, is offered as a model for Christian life today.

**Cana Communities** – Dear all, as you know, Cana Communities normally comes to St Benedict's each year just before Christmas for its annual appeal, to help fund its great works within the community, looking after poor and destitute people. Due to the year it has been, Cana Communities won't be at St Benedict's this year but they look forward to a brighter year, next year when they will hopefully return here. If anyone would like to make a donation to Cana Communities this Christmas / New Year and read about their great story, here is Cana's website – [www.cana.org.au](http://www.cana.org.au) Thank you!

**Aid to the Church in Need** – continues to support the emergency appeal for Lebanon, following the explosion in Beirut a few months ago. If you would like to donate to the appeal, please go to – [www.aidtochurch.org/](http://www.aidtochurch.org/)

**Living Life to the Full at Home** – CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently. To learn more, call – 13 18 19 or email – [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

**Summer Nights 2021** – the Summer Schools of Evangelisation have combined to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021. The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day. For more information or to register, please go to – [www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au)

### Christmas Offerings and the various donations and donation points:

- **Christmas Offering envelopes** will be at the back of the church – for donations to the **Dominican community**
- Donations to the **Tap & Go** Cashless Giving machine – are **shared** between the Dominican community and St Benedict's Church
- Donations to the **First Collection** (Red bucket at Mass) are for the **Dominican community**
- Donations to the **Second Collection** (Black bucket at Mass) are for **St Benedict's Church**





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.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

### 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, 39-40

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*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.

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.

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form Lk 2: 22-40*

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## GOD AT WORK IN THE FAMILY

In today's readings, there is a tension between dreams and reality, between hope and fear, that helps us situate ourselves as we reflect on the Holy Family and our own experience of family life. The letter to the Hebrews speaks rightly of Abraham and Sarah as being models of faithfulness, however, this should not blind us to the very real struggles they experienced.

At times both Abraham and Sarah had lost heart and become fearful that God's promises were only a false hope after all. Abraham had decided to make one of his young relatives his heir. Sarah hoped that her slave Hagar would give them the son they longed for. In the end, God would realise the promises made to them despite their attempts to take matters into their own hands!

As Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple they bring all their hopes and fears for him as they wonder how his life will unfold. Simeon and Anna recognise that God is powerfully at work in this child but Simeon also warns how Jesus' life will be marked by both success, as well as rejection. What Simeon and Anna have the eyes to see is that God's saving plan will be at work in all that will befall him.

While models of family life are placed before us today it is important not to judge ourselves too harshly. Abraham and Sarah had their difficulties, and Mary and Joseph did not always understand how God was at work in their family either!

## FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

**A reading from the book of Genesis.**

*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 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.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

**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

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.**

*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.