

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

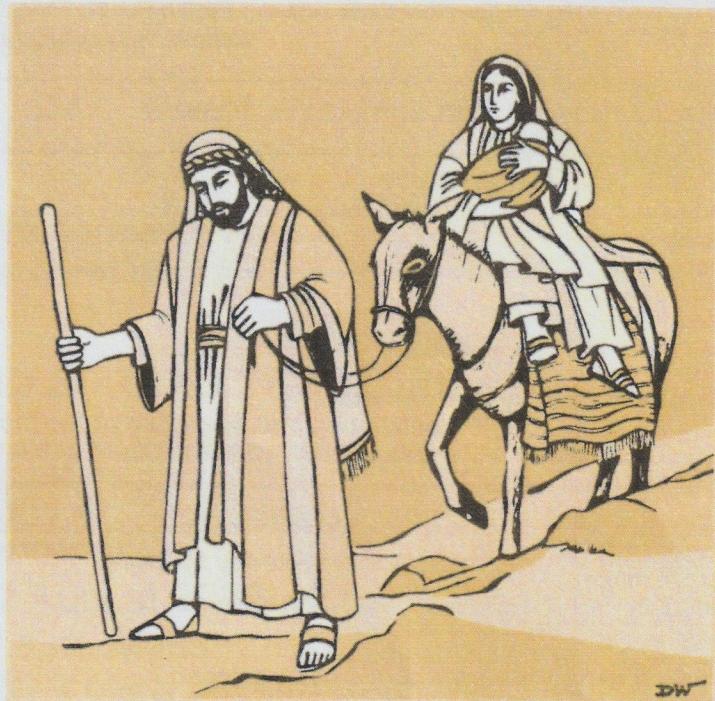
Ps 127:1-5. R. cf. v.1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. 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. **R.**

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

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



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.

SECOND READING

Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

41B South Avenue, PO Box 55, MERREDIN WA 6415; Ph: (08) 9041 1118;

e-mail: merredin@perthcatholic.org.au; Parish Priest: Philip Perreau e-mail: philip.perreau@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: merredincatholicparish.org

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH A/2

28 DECEMBER 2025

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: No Mass
Wednesday: 9.00 am Mass
Thursday: 9.00 am New Year
Friday: 9.00 am Mass
Saturday: 6.30pm
Sunday: 10.30am

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

CHURCH ROSTER: 27/28 DECEMBER 2025

27/28 DECEMBER 2025

Saturday 6.30pm Sunday 10.30 am

Saturday 6:30pm Sunday 10:30 am

Readers: Volunteer Volunteer

Volunteer Volunteer

Collection:

Volunteers Volunteers

Volunteers Volunteers

Offertory:

Church Cleaners:

Sacristy

Altar Servers: Volunteers Volunteers

Volunteers Volunteers

Volunteers Volunteers

Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. Jefferys; D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.

TOGETHER in CHRIST!



Merredin Churches Fraternal

Combined Services 2025-2026

Sunday 28th December	-	Uniting Church	10.00am
Saturday 3rd January	-	Seventh-day Adventist	11.00am
Sunday 11th January	-	St Mary's Catholic	10.30am
Sunday 18th January	-	Church of Christ	10.00am
Sunday 25th January	-	All Saints Anglican	TBC

36th Annual Flame Congress: "Making Disciples of Nations"

Welcome to **Evangelise - Making Disciples of Nations** The 36th Annual Flame Congress. **Dates:** 23rd-25th January 2026, **Venue:** John XXIII College, Mount Claremont, **Speakers:** Rev Fr Jason Yeap, Adam Phillips (director, CYM), Jamie O'Brien (Manager, Communications & Editor, The Record), Kaye Rollings (FMI Senior Director, Retired). And Cyrus D'Souza (FMI Senior Director), **Contact:** fmi@flameministries.org. **More information:** see poster on notice board.

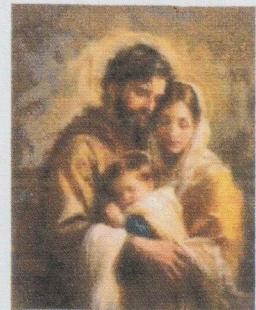
COLUMBAN CALENDARS are on sale in the foyer at \$11 each.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday – 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon 29 St Thomas Becket
Wed 31 Pope St Silvester
Thu 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Fri 2 St Basil the Great, St Gregory of Nazianzen
Sat 27 The Holy Name of Jesus, St Munchin, St Genevieve,
St Kuriakose Elias Chavara



**The Merredin—Kellerberrin Parish
Wishes you a happy and holy New Year**

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD

**St Mary's Catholic Church and St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our**

**Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch**

More details to come in 2026



The Cultural World of Jesus

Though Matthew calls Nazareth a city, it was a hamlet numbering about a hundred people. There were a few families at most, very likely all related to each other. In such a village, first-cousins marriage partners would be easy to find. Nazareth is not far from the sea highway, the principal trade route to and from Egypt. Another major road from Acco toward Tiberias crossed the sea highway near Nazareth. Located so close to a major crossroads, Nazareth understandably gravitated toward the "big" city of Sepphoris at the crossroads.

Mentioned nowhere in the Bible, Sepphoris was very important. In Jesus' time it was the district capitol where King Herod Antipas carried out massive building programs providing work for artisans in the region. Around the year 200 C.E. Rabbi Judah the Prince spent the last years of his life there codifying the Mishna. Galilee thus was the birthplace of both Christianity and post-biblical Talmudic Judaism.

The Middle Eastern family is enormous and quite extended. It is highly probable that Joseph and Mary had relatives in Bethlehem and that all the inhabitants of Nazareth were members of Jesus' extended family. Middle Eastern families relate differently, too. The strongest emotional bond is between mother and the oldest son. It remains so throughout their lives.

(Taken from The Cultural World of Jesus, John J. Pilch)

Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth

2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish

2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Col 3:15,16

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 2123. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

LIVING OUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY

With today's feast we return to one of Matthew's special heroes, Joseph. As we have already seen, Matthew's Joseph is like the Old Testament patriarchal figure—he is a 'dreamer' who leads God's family. In this Gospel Joseph has a dream, a privileged religious experience of divine communication. In this dream, an angel, the Gospel's representation of the presence of God, appears and again directs Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt; Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like ancient Israel through the Old Testament story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt, Matthew's Joseph leads Mary and the child into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic representation of Israel's story and sums up in his being the desire of God to free the people from disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps now an insomniac!—gets another dream to go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem, he takes the family 'into exile' to Nazareth because of the murderous intent of Herod's son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus completes the cycle of Israel's story—being called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into exile. It is from this perspective that the rest of Matthew's Gospel unfolds. The evangelist, writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out Israel's history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the contemporary family: God always accompanies the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter where it leads; trust one's dream. God can communicate in different and, sometimes, unpredictable ways.

Fr Michael Trainor