

# 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.**

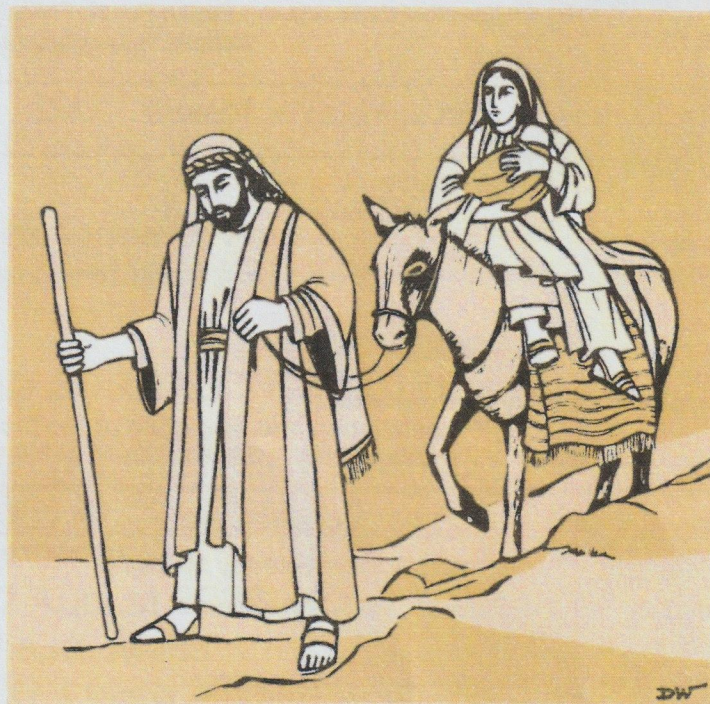
## SECOND READING

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



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.





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

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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

**\*\*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.

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

**Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday**

### CHURCH ROSTER: 27/28 DECEMBER 2025

	Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30 am
Readers:	Volunteer	Volunteer
Collection:		
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:		
Sacristy		
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers

### 27/28 DECEMBER 2025

Saturday 6:30pm	Sunday 10:30 am
Volunteer	Volunteer
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.

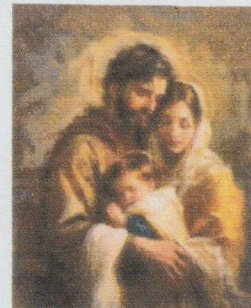


**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm  
or on request prior to Sunday mass  
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

## 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

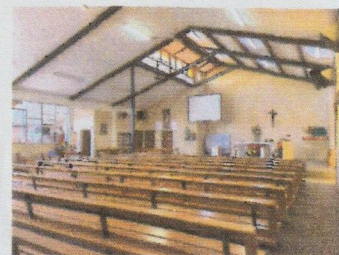
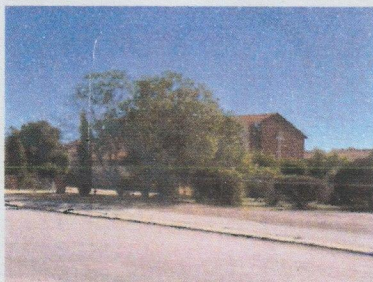
Centenary

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

Col 3:15,16

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

## 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.

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# 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