



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 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.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

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## WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

27 December 2020

### First Reading Sir 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.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see 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

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.

### 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 Lk 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

*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



## St Bridget's Parish Greythorn - Parish Directory:

48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104.

### Parish Priest:

Fr John Salvano

### Assistant Priest:

Fr Lenin Thenamirtham

(Contact the Parish Office of St Bede and St Anne on 9401 6355)

### Priest in Residence:

Fr Kevin Lenehan

### Parish Secretary:

Mario Landini

### St Bridget Parish Contact:

Phone: 9857 6395

Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3.

Email: [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au)

Web: [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au)

### Parish Hall Hire:

Enquiries - Parish Office 9857 6395

### Sacramental Program:

Contact: Edgar D'Souza

0412 183 141

### Child Safety Co-ordinator:

Anne Credlin

(Contact via Parish Office)

### Refugee Action Group:

Chair: Robert Stewart

Contact via Parish Office

### St Vincent De Paul Society

President: Anne Hartley

Help Line 1800 305 330

### Parish School:

Principal: Robyn Thomson

Contact : 9857 6394

**NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.**

**We Remember:** We pray for those recently deceased, our deceased family and friends; and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time: may they rejoice forever with our Risen Lord. We pray for the sick and housebound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

**Parish Office:** St Bridget's Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period and will reopen on Wednesday January 13, 2021. For all parish related enquiries, please call 9401 6355, the Parish Office of St Bede and St Anne, 9-1pm on Tuesday-Friday.

**Stewardship:** Your Stewardship envelopes can now be returned when attending Mass and placed in the baskets in the narthex. For convenience you may continue to do a Direct Credit Transfer to the parish accounts directly online, details are:-

- **Church Account** - for envelopes and donations; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 3829 (Please include your name and if applicable your Stewardship Envelope Number for correct recording)
- **Presbytery Account** - support of the Parish Priest; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 5066

**Meditation Group** will continue to meet via Zoom on Wednesday morning at 9.30am - contact Susie Hii on [susiehii.hc@gmail.com](mailto:susiehii.hc@gmail.com) for connection details.

**Scripture Reflection Group** is in recess until Sunday 24 January, 2021.

**St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal:** Our St Vincent de Paul conference thanks parishioners for their very generous donations to the Christmas Appeal which totalled \$7,424. This is a significant amount for a small parish and the unusual circumstances this year. These donations will support the Conference works in the coming year. Many thanks!

### Lector Roster:

	Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
January 2 & 3	Margaret Stewart	B Potter	
January 9 & 10	B Shepherd	Sr P Watson	

**NOTE: Lectors please ensure that you book your attendance via Trybooking.**

### Mass times:

	St Bridget's	St Bede's	St Anne's	St Joachim's
Tuesday 29 Dec		9.15am		
Wednesday 30 Dec			8.30am	
Thursday 31 Dec		9.15am		
Friday 1 Jan				
New Years Day	10.00am	9.15am	8.30am	
Saturday 2 Jan	5.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm	
Sunday 3 Jan		9.00am		
	10.00am	11.00am	10.30am	8.30am

### NOTE:

- The 5.30pm Sunday evening Mass at St Bridget's is in recess and will resume on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- The Healing and Anointing Mass will be held at St Bridget's on Friday 8 January at 8.30am.

While the DHHS limits remain in place, bookings to attend Mass are essential. Parishioners are welcome to book for any Mass across the affiliated parishes. **Parishioners must continue to book using Trybooking.** The link will be sent out each Thursday from the Parish Office only. If you do not have the internet, then ring the parish office on Wednesday morning to be booked in. If you find that after booking you are unable to attend, please cancel so that someone else can use that place.

Based on the density limits imposed by DHHS, there is a strict limit on the number of people that can attend each Mass. Social distancing applies at all times, and no one may be admitted unless wearing a mask (except people with a medical exemption) or **without a prior booking.** Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass so that you have time to hand sanitise and are marked off the list as an attendee. If you are unwell, please do not attend Mass. Note, once Mass has commenced we are required to lock the doors, and cannot admit late arrivals.

To assist with compliance, ushers and door marshals are required to monitor parishioner seating and mark parishioner names off the booking list. Please see Fr Kevin when you arrive for Mass if you can assist.

**Reflection:** On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honouring them, we also honour our own families, big or small. And in honouring all families, we honour the family of God, the Church.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the God to make your family a holy family.

*Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.*

