



Holy Family Readings

28th December 2025

FIRST READING

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons.

Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure.

Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard.

Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence;

in all your strength do not despise him.

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be blessed and prosper.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

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

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the husband who fears the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from Sion.

May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.



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The Word of God

As we gaze today at the scene of our crib, so peaceful, so silent, yet also so fragile, we consider how the little drama it portrays stands at the centre of all human history: how it is able to touch and sanctify in principle every single human life. Here we see God among us; received with love and veneration; communicating to all around his perfect holiness, his perfect happiness. In the eyes of the world these three are of no consequence whatever. In the eyes of God, in the sight of the angels, in the light of eternity, they are the truly significant ones on this earth.

They remind us where our own focus should be: where our own happiness most deeply lies. If we have all material comforts, if all our earthly projects go well, and all our ambitions are satisfied - yet at cost of separation from Christ - then of all creatures we are most to be pitied. But if we have Christ: then even if all other things whatever are taken away, we are rich, blessed, happy, even now, beyond measure. May we all then rejoice this Christmastide in possession of Christ, in friendship with him: ever in union with his Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph. And may the Holy Family lead all whom we love, all who are in trouble, and all who have gone astray, to come at last to the fullness of joy in God that has no end.



Prayer of the Week



O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.

Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.

Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and
purity.

Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for
your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace.
Amen.

