

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.****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

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

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

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.**

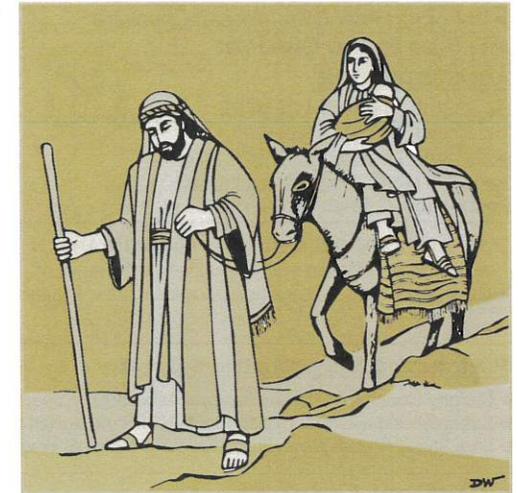
SECOND READING

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.**



Holy Family of Jesus 28th December 2025
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au
www.parihofsouthyarra.org.au
Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joel Sanchez (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Sat)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 28th December 2025

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 27 th December	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 28 th December The Holy Family of Jesus	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 29 th December St Thomas Becket		
Tuesday 30 th December	10am Mass	NO MASS
Wednesday 31 st December St Sylvester I	10am Mass	NO MASS
Thursday 1 st January Mary, Holy Mother of God New Year's Day	10am Mass	9am Mass
Friday 2 nd January Sts Basil & Gregory	10am Mass	NO MASS
Saturday 3 rd January Most Holy Name of Jesus	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

HOLIDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Apart from New Year's Day and the usual 9am Mass on Sundays, there will be **NO WEEKDAY Masses** at St Thomas Aquinas until Tuesday 13th January. Weekday Masses continue at St. Joseph's. Thursday January 1st the Solemnity of the Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by appointment.

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

▶ **RCIA:** Resumes in February 2026

ST AUGUSTINE – ON GOD'S HUMILITY



“Observe what God became for you; acknowledge the teaching of such incalculable humility, even coming from a teacher not yet able to speak. For your sake your Creator

was lying there, a speechless infant, and didn't even call his mother by her name. You, though you were a creature, wished to be like God, and so got lost; he, though he was God, wished to be a creature like us, and so find what had been lost. Human pride pressed down on you so heavily, that the only thing which could lift you up was divine humility. (Sermon 188)



Christmas Offering

Envelopes are available at the church doors to offer a Christmas gift to your parish clergy on the collection plate.

ANOINTING/HEALING MASS

Our next Anointing/Healing Mass will be on Tuesday 6th January 10am St Joseph's.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 9am. If you have any urgent matters that need attending to please contact one of the Augustinian Priests at the Priory – Tel. 98274689



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Ellen Allery, Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Andrea Dreher., Greg Sutton.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased

✦ June Cochrane

Anniversaries

- ✦ Maurice Wallin
- ✦ Joe Di Rita
- ✦ Norma Moore
- ✦ Kevin Carey
- ✦ Dympna O'Sullivan
- ✦ Maria Elena Reyes
- ✦ Bert Huggins
- ✦ Brian Sheehan
- ✦ Milada Marsicek
- ✦ Giovanni Adamo
- ✦ Estelita Alcantara
- ✦ John Edwards

WELCOME BACK & FAREWELL

We welcome home Fr Luca who is returning from his sabbatical leave this week and welcome Fr Tony Banks spending some time with us. Thank you to Fr Michael who returns to Sydney on Friday.

CLOSING OF THE PARISH TIME CAPSULE

We are closing the time capsule this Sunday 28th December after the 10:30am mass to celebrate the end of the Jubilee Year. You are all invited to attend this milestone event.

AUGUSTINIAN MAGAZINE SUMMER ISSUE



Please pick up and take your copy of the Augustinian Magazine from the front porch of the church. The Augustinians have served in our parish for 50 years.

THE SCRIBBLE SUMMER EDITION OUT NOW



The Scribble

Please take your copy of the parish seasonal newsletter today.

Happy New Year!

FAREWELL to 2025 WELCOME to 2026

To all who contributed to our Christmas celebrations in any way, our musicians, readers, ushers and supper helpers we extend our thanks. May the coming year bring you the promise of good health renewed enthusiasm and a deeper love of the faith that unites us.

Thank You

On behalf of the parish and the Augustinian Community we take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support throughout the year, spiritually and financially.