



## HOLY CROSS PARISH ✦ HELENSBURGH

Parish Administrator – Fr. Patrick Vaughan  
Parochial Vicar – Fr Paul Clark

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▲ 31 December 2023 ▲ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph/B



### WEEKEND MASS

HOLY CROSS  
HELENSBURGH

Sunday 8:30am

### RECONCILIATION

Sunday 8-8:20am



Of service and witness to Christ since

Parish Secretary: Kerrie Halloran

Office Hours: Tue Wed,  
Thurs

9am to 4pm

Parish Office ☎: (02) 4294 1009

Parish School ☎: (02) 4294 1588



Holy Cross Parish Community acknowledges the **Dharawal Nation** as the traditional custodians of the land on which this church & school are built.

### Gospel Reflection

Look at any newspaper, magazine, television current affairs program or social commentary and you will be bombarded with the notion that the institution of family is under attack. Rather, what appears to be under attack is a particular view of what it means to be 'family'. Society in general and governments in particular are recognising the reality that 'family' is a much more fluid term than it used to be. Rather than an attack on family, it might be argued that there is in fact an embracing of the concept of family by making its definition much broader.



In this feast we celebrate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The model of family that we have in this Holy Family is a model that would not be entirely out of place in the 21st Century. Mary was a very young woman and Joseph was an older man. There was a degree of scandal about the conception of their child and Joseph seriously contemplated whether or not he would go ahead with the marriage. They were forced to flee their homeland and seek protection as refugees in Egypt. We see from today's passage that the parents are doing their best to be faithful to their religious and cultural traditions whilst worrying about what the future holds for their son. It is a picture that is not too different from the situation in which many families today find themselves. So while we celebrate today the feast of the Holy Family, it is very much a celebration of every family.

### Historical Context – Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

### Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

#### Please pray for the sick:

Bishop Peter Ingham, Pat Brown, Jan Burn, John Green, Hilton King & Luis Veas.

#### For those who have died:

Marie & Jack Higgins (2023), Ricky Lontis (2012), Bob Marshall (2017), Tanya Laws (2017), Maria Barton (2012), Linda Lucke (2018), Elizabeth Sharp (1991), Agnes & John Swanson, Letitia Gordon & Violet Aderson.



### Profession of Faith (Credo) The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us all and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*Bow your head for the following words:*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

*Then continue:*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**MONDAY 1 JANUARY 2024**  
MASS – 9AM

**WEDNESDAY**  
ROSARY & MASS – 9AM

**THURSDAY**  
MASS – 9AM

**FRIDAY**  
MASS – 9AM

ALL WELCOME



### ROSTERS...

#### ACOLYTE

Jan 7 Greg Greening

#### GREETERS

Jan 7 Wallace Family

#### READERS

Jan 7 Teri Shearer & Mark & Mary-Ruth Chester

#### CLEANERS

Jan 6 Phillips Sisters

#### ROSARY STATUE

Jan Trisha Dalton

#### MORNING TEA

Jan 14 Warren & Teri Shearer & Greg & Sue Greening