

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF  
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Year B



Are there any statues or pictures of the Holy Family in church? What can you learn from them?



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

## COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards...

We say these words  
or sing a hymn as the  
priest approaches  
the altar.

We ask for God's help.  
Listen now to the  
priest as he offers  
this prayer.



## DO YOU KNOW?

On **Monday 28 December**  
we celebrate the feast  
of **The Holy Innocents,**  
**Martyrs.** We remember  
those killed by **Herod**  
when he felt threatened  
by the new baby king,  
**Jesus.** We pray especially  
for all the children who  
are suffering and who  
may die in conflict **today.**



## FIRST READING GENESIS 15:1-6; 21:1-3

God speaks to Abraham  
in a vision and makes the  
most amazing promise.  
Abraham will have as  
many descendants  
as there are stars in  
the sky. This would be  
an incredible idea for  
anyone, but for Abraham

it is especially amazing,  
as he doesn't have even  
one child. Yet God keeps  
his promise to Abraham.  
Abraham's wife gives birth  
to a baby boy whom they  
name Isaac. Abraham is  
still remembered as the  
"Father of many nations."

LOOK at the reader  
and LISTEN.  
God promises  
Abraham he will have  
many descendants.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 104

He, the Lord, is our God.  
He remembers his covenant for ever.

The cantor or psalmist  
sings or says the psalm.  
Listen to the verses,  
and then respond by  
using these words.



## SECOND READING HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Abraham had amazing  
faith in God. He left his  
home to go to a new  
country because he  
trusted in God's promise.  
Despite being childless,  
Abraham trusted God  
when he was told that  
he would have as many  
descendants as the stars

in the sky. Abraham's  
wife Sarah trusted in  
God's promise that she  
would have a baby,  
even though she was  
past the age when it  
was possible for her to  
conceive. We look to  
Abraham and Sarah as  
role models in faith.

LOOK at the reader  
and LISTEN.  
Abraham and Sarah's  
faith in God is  
remembered.



We give a shout of  
praise to God, using  
these words taken  
from the Bible.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!



## THINK

Today we are thinking  
about the **Holy Family:**  
**Joseph, Mary and Jesus.**  
Although he was not  
Jesus' birth father,  
**Joseph made a home for**  
**Jesus.** We do not hear  
about their daily life in  
the Gospels, but it must  
have been very special.  
Our families may not be  
famous, but they are  
**very special too.**



## GOSPEL LUKE 2:22-40

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

Having a new baby is a learning experience for all parents, but Mary and Joseph have such a lot to find out! Their trip to the Temple to dedicate their baby to God should have been straightforward. However, Mary and Joseph are met by the holy man Simeon who recognises that Jesus is

the Messiah, the saviour promised by God. He holds the baby Jesus in his arms, praises God and blesses the young parents. While Mary and Joseph are trying to understand what is happening, the holy woman Anna arrives. Then Anna also praises God for this baby who will save Israel.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, on this feast of the Holy Family, please bless my family. Help us to appreciate each other, even when we are finding it hard to get on. Lord, hear my prayer.



### OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you didn't pull your weight at home and then think of a time when you helped someone in your family.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



### MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for becoming one of us. Help me to learn from your family how to love my own family better. Amen.



PRAY

Draw a timeline, starting with when you were born. Try and remember some of the times when you felt loved by your family. Mark these times with a heart and thank God for them all.



DO

Make a card, or do a good turn, to show your family just how much you love them.



# IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

## redemptorist

publications

Ichthus. Edited by Rachel Thompson. Published by Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications. A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbbooks.co.uk. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. Concordat cum originali Ann Blackett. Imprimatur + Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton 13 July 2018. Permission granted for distribution in the dioceses of Scotland.

FSC logo



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

