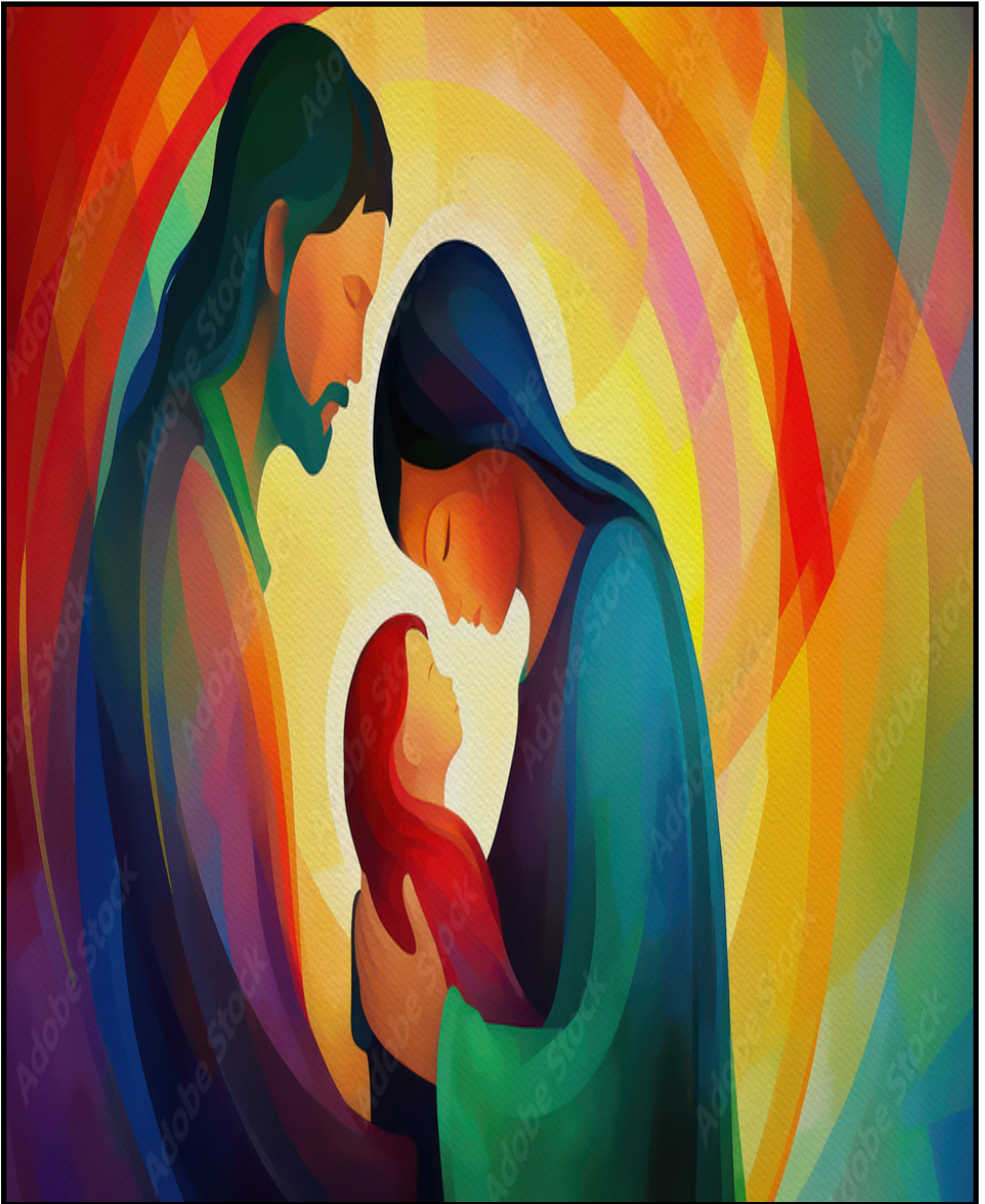


Holy Family



29th December 2024

TAKE ME HOME !



Priest's Tidings

On this Feast of the Holy Family we think of all the Christian families. Are there holy families outside the one of Nazareth? Yes, there are, each in its own unique way, if the members, parents and children, love and respect one another and let God nourish and deepen their affection; yes, if food and joy and cares are shared; yes, if clashes are resolved in a way that lets people grow together in forgiveness and understanding; yes, there are holy families where the door is open in hospitality and where the Lord himself is welcomed in people who are poor and suffering. It is the Lord himself who welcomes us here today.

In today's celebration of the Holy Family our Christian families are given a model. In many ways the Holy Family of Nazareth was unique and impossible to imitate. Today's scriptures stress one way in which all our families can follow them: seeking God's will and obeying it and finding joy and happiness in it even when that will demand sacrifices. Jesus is shown as someone who, from the child he was at Christmas, grew up to full maturity and who would carry out God's will to the very end. Like him, may we grow to maturity in our faith and our love.



Fr. Hugo

Entrance Hymn:

765 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's
power

When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was
born

The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem
straightway

The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

But when to Bethlehem they
came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and
brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Collect:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

First Reading:

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The Lord honours a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children. Those who honour their father atone for sins, and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure. Those who honour their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they will be heard. Those who respect their father will have long life, and those who honour their mother obey the Lord. My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because you have all your faculties do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and will be credited to you against your sins.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R./Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. **R./**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. **R./**

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R./**

Second Reading:

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

Beloved: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with 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 the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs 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, be subject to your

husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

See amid the winter's snow,

See amid the winter's snow
Born for us on earth below
See the tender Lamb appears
Promised from eternal years
Chorus !
Hail, thou ever blessed morn
Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Chorus !

Sacred infant, all divine
What a tender love was thine
Thus to come from the highest
bliss
Down to such a world as this
Chorus !

Lo, within a manger lies,
He who built the starry skies,
He who throned in height
sublime,
Sits amid the Cherubim!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and Mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility
Chorus !

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his

mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ



Prayers of Intercession

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn:

Angels from the realms of glory,

1 Angels from the realms of
glory,
wing your flight through all the
earth;
he who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth!
Gloria, In Excelsis deo

Gloria, In Excelsis deo

2 Shepherds in the fields
abiding,
watching by your flocks at
night,
God with us is now residing:

see, there shines the infant
light!
Gloria, In Excelsis deo
Gloria, In Excelsis deo
3 Saints before the altar
bending,
Watching long in hope and
fear,
Suddenly the Lord descending,
In his temple shall appear
Gloria, In Excelsis deo

Gloria, In Excelsis deo

4 Though an infant now we
view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow
down:
Gloria, In Excelsis deo
Gloria, In Excelsis deo

Communion Hymn:
587 – Amazing grace

Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord..**Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

818 – To God be the glory, great things he has done!

Prayer and Meditation

After the events surrounding Jesus' miraculous birth we are given very few details about his childhood. This passage in Luke and another recorded in Matthew 2 (which we will read next Sunday) are the only two glimpses we are given.

As pious Jews, Mary and Joseph along with their relatives and friends, make their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The occasion is the week-long Passover festival honouring God for saving and delivering their forefathers from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-27).

It was a trip they had made many times before. This year, however, proved to be particularly memorable. Instead of returning with everyone else Jesus, who at the age of twelve was probably on his

first pilgrimage, remained behind in the temple.

When Joseph and Mary realise Jesus is not with their group they return to Jerusalem. After three anxious days searching they finally find him talking to the religious teachers in the temple!

Jesus appears to have been completely absorbed, spending four days at the temple. He was in his element; listening to the religious teachers and asking them questions. What stunned his listeners was his wisdom and understanding, far beyond his age and learning. There was clearly something special about this boy. It was a prophetic sign, giving a glimpse of who Jesus really is.

Mary and Joseph are understandably upset that Jesus didn't return home

with them after the festival and caused them all this worry. Jesus' reply indicates that he took it for granted they would know where to find him; in the temple – 'in my Father's house'.

Mary and Joseph plainly didn't understand Jesus' words or actions although Mary 'treasured all these things in her heart'. After this event Luke tells us Jesus returned with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. He grew up, increased in wisdom and gained favour with both God and man.

Meditatio:

- What does this passage reveal to us about the twelve-year-old Jesus' thoughts regarding himself and his heavenly father?
- What does this passage tell us about Jesus' priorities? How would this be reflected in his future ministry?
- Jesus could have experienced God's presence anywhere. Why do

you think he chose to go to the temple on this occasion?

Oratio:

We might capture something of Jesus' joy at being in his Father's house by praying the words of Psalm 84:2-9.

Today's passage focuses on family relationships with both our heavenly Father and our human family. Give thanks to God that you too are his child. Take time to pray for members of your church and of your own family.

Comtemplatio:

The verses in 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 contain some amazing truths. Allow the wonder of a loving God who calls you his child to fill you.

Consider God's promise that we can live in union with him if we obey him.

What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday – Mass at 9:30 am

TTC

Our Youth Club, Teen Thursday Club (TTC), returns on 9th January. It runs every week from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!

Sunday 5th January Happy New Year!

Everyone at St Matthew's wishes you a very Happy New Year!

TTC

Our Youth Club, Teen Thursday Club (TTC), returns THIS THURSDAY 9th January. It runs every week from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!

Bible Readings

Mon 6th Jan Psalm 72:11 Tues
7th Jan Psalm 2:10 Weds 8th
Jan Psalm 72:1 Thurs 9th Jan
Psalm 72:13 Friday 10th Jan
Psalm 72:17

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