



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Year B — 27th December 2020

The community of the Cathedral of St. Stephen acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands.

*Embracing
Villa Maria Centre
and
St Patrick's
Fortitude Valley*



**Most Reverend
Mark Coleridge**

Archbishop of Brisbane

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Readings for today: Genesis 15:1-6, Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Holiness is not something earned, it is a gift from God. It is a choice by God. We live with the fear that we are not good enough, we live with the not-so-silent voice that says we have failed. We are defeated by the self-doubt that convinces us that others are superior, happier and more gifted. Everyone else's grass is greener. Their family is better than ours. They are better parents. Their children are more successful. Jealousy and envy lurk at the heart of every family.

God sees with different eyes. God sees us for who we are, not who are not. Confident enough in human beings, God entrusted his Son to an ordinary human family. And we call that family "Holy".

So why do we hesitate at calling our family "Holy"? For it is, each in their own way. "Holiness" comes in the softest of shades and in the smallest of gestures.

In these days when we have recalibrated both our personal relationships and collective responsibilities, our sense of family has loomed large in our conversations of what we value and what is foundational.

Real family is what we need no matter how messy, and Holy families face realities together.

Holiness is simply human beings at their best, and being at our best together is the making of families and, in this way, almost by accident, families become holy.

Families can be full and empty – the raucous celebrations which filled our hearts and homes might now have lulled and we are left with the empty space that had full just yesterday.

Families can fill us with all that we need to live life to full, no matter how clumsily they may do this.

Families can also leave us empty, separated by a hurtful distance, a disappointed sense of being unappreciated or simply invisible.

Given all our quiet grievances with one another, all our blind insensitives, all our sad estrangements, God chooses to see human beings who are struggling together in love, as best as they can.

And God smiles at each and every holy family.

The family is the perfect place to learn forgiveness, acceptance, patience, joy and laughter.

The family is God's way of teaching human beings how to love one another, however imperfectly.

The family is God's way of making the world "Holy".

And God chooses people like us. Holiness is not something earned, it is a gift from God.

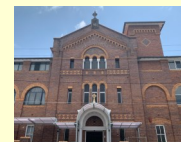
Fr. Anthony



**Cathedral of
St. Stephen**
249 Elizabeth St
Brisbane



St. Patrick's
58 Morgan St
Fortitude Valley



Villa Maria Chapel
171 St Pauls Tce
Spring Hill
*No public Masses
until further notice.*

Cathedral Parish Mass Times this week

Monday 28th – 10:00am; **Tuesday 29th to Thursday 31st** – 8:00am; **Friday 1st January** – 10:00am (all live-streamed)
Saturday 11:30am (live-streamed)

Sunday

Cathedral of St Stephen

St Patrick's Church

Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am; 10:00am; 12 noon & 7:30pm (8am & 10am live-streamed)

Reconciliation:

Tuesday to Thursday:

9:00-9:30am only

Saturday:

10:00am-11:00am; 4:30-5:30pm

