

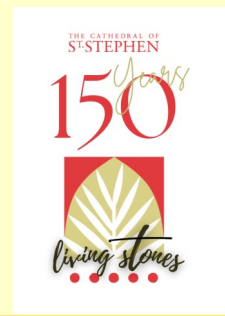
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

YEAR B – 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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

The Cathedral Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Readings for today: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22, 39-40



Holiness is Not Earned. It is Lived

A holy family is not a perfect family.
 If it were, we would all be defeated before we started. Holiness is not something earned, it comes as a living gift from God.
 It is the fruit of God's choice for us.
 Like a nurturing parent, God feeds our desire for the good. This is why we simply need to drink deeply from the fount of God's delight.
 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 overcome 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.
 Their life seems easy and happy and free.
 They reap the rewards, while we miss out.
 Jealousies and envy lurk everywhere and can sour the heart of any family.
 God sees with different eyes. God sees us for who we are, not who we 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 all our "unholiness" our families are holy, each in their own way.
 "Holiness" comes in the softest of shades and in the smallest of gestures.
 Real family business is messy.
 A Holy family just simply faces the messy reality together. Holiness is simply human beings at their best. Being at our best together is the making of families.

It is in this way,
 almost unintentionally, by gift and grace,
 families become holy.
 Families are a paradox; they 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 been full just yesterday.
 Families can enrich us with all that we need to live life to the 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 insensitivities, 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,
 comforts in sorrow.
 laughs in the midst of simple joys,
 brings healing to hurt
 and the courage to forgive.
 This is the making of
 every holy family.
 Family, no matter how complicated, 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 families like ours.
 Holiness is not something earned;
 it is a gift from God.

Fr. Anthony



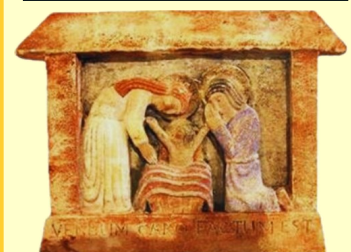
**Most Reverend
 Mark Coleridge**
 Archbishop of Brisbane

Cathedral Office
 (07) 3324 3030
 E: cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au
 W: cathedralofststephen.org.au

Cathedral Staff
 Fr Anthony Mellor (Dean)
 Fr Ejikeme Ntamaka
 (Associate Pastor)
 Deacon Chad Hargrave
Director of Music
 Mr Christopher Trikilis
Cathedral Organist
 Mr Dominic Perissinotto
Pastoral Assistant
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Cathedral Operations Officer
 Mr Allan James
Wedding Coordinator
 Ms Diana Bello
**150th Anniversary Event
 Co-ordinator**
 Mr David Todd

Safeguarding Representative
 Ms Susan McKay
 M 0418 401 609

1300 304 550
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Cathedral of St Stephen
 249 Elizabeth Street
 Brisbane City



St Patrick's Church
 58 Morgan Street
 Fortitude Valley



Villa Maria Aged Care Chapel
 171 St Paul's Tce
 Spring Hill

No public Masses until further notice.

Cathedral of St Stephen Mass Times

Monday to Friday	8:00am *		12:30pm	
Saturday	11:30am			6:00pm Vigil
Sunday	8:00am	10:00am *	12:00pm	7:30pm

Webcasts from the Cathedral of St Stephen will be in hiatus from Wednesday 27 December to Friday 5 January 24. They will recommence on Sunday 7 January 2024.

Cathedral Reconciliation Times

Monday to Friday		1:00-1:30pm	4:30-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00-11:00am		4:30-5:30pm

St Patrick's Mass Times

Sunday	9:00am	11:00am
Brazilian Catholic Community (Portuguese Mass)		5:00pm

Cathedral Exposition Times

Monday to Friday	N/A
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Cathedral Benediction Times

Monday to Friday	N/A
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MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL

Music at today's Mass is drawn from the Catholic Worship Book II, with congregational hymn texts on this sheet.

All Masses are led by a cantor.

Processional Hymn Angels we have heard on high (CWBII 255)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains;
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

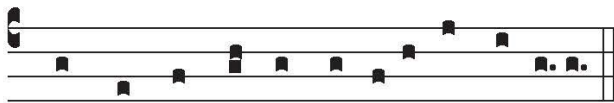
Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels sing;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Kyrie Mass of St Francis (CWBII 22a)

Gloria Mass of St Francis (CWBII 22b)

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 104



R The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation Hebrews 1:1-2



*In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.*

Sanctus Mass of St Francis (CWBII 22c)

Memorial Acclamation (ICEL #1):

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection,
until you come again. (CWBII 12a)

Agnus Dei Mass of St Francis (CWBII 22h)

Communion Hymn What child is this (CWBII 275)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds worship and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him praise,
the Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear: God's Son is here,
his love, all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Saviour comes,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and people own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let ev'ry heart enthrone him:
Raise, raise a song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby,
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

Recessional Hymn Hark! The herald angels sing (CWBII 262)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Acknowledgements:

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Hark! The herald angels sing Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Tune: MENDELSSOHN and refrain; vv.1-2 adapt.
William Hayman Cummings, 1831-1915, from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809-1847 v.3; arr. David
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