

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year A

Entrance Antiphon

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

First reading from the book of
Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Resp Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1
(R.) Happy are those who fear the
Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading from the letter
to the Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in
your hearts, and the fullness of
his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Communion Antiphon

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

Next Week:

The Epiphany of the Lord Year A

First: Isaiah 60:1-6

Respons: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13,
R. see v.11

Second: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Flight to Egypt

The night was still, yet Joseph's heart raced as he woke from a dream that felt more like a divine command. The angel's words echoed in his mind: *"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Herod seeks the child to destroy him."* Without hesitation, Joseph stirred Mary gently. Her eyes widened as he whispered the warning. She clutched the sleeping infant closer, sensing the urgency in his voice.

By moonlight, they gathered what little they had—bread, a flask of water, and the gifts from distant Magi, now their lifeline. The streets of Bethlehem lay silent, unaware of the storm brewing in Herod's palace. Every shadow seemed to hold danger as Joseph led his family away from the town, his steps quick but cautious.

The journey was harsh. Days stretched into weeks as they crossed barren deserts and rugged paths. The sun scorched by day, and the cold bit deep at night. Mary shielded Jesus from the wind, humming soft lullabies to soothe his cries. Each time the child's tiny fingers curled around hers, hope stirred anew in her weary heart.

Parish Notices

“As the Jubilee Year of Hope concludes, we close the Holy Doors with gratitude and renewed faith. This symbolic act marks the end of a sacred time of grace, inviting us to carry hope forward into daily life, living as witnesses of God’s mercy and love.”

Come share in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in thanksgiving for 2025 and welcome the New Year 2026 with us at the Carmelite Missionaries residence on December 31st, 10:45-11:45 pm.

The Art of Dying Well: a four part series based on Eternal Rest (a powerful video program from the Augustinian Institute). This series helps us honestly and prayerfully confront questions about death, dying and our hope in eternal life. Commencing on Saturday 10 January at 10.30am and concluding on 31 January 2025 in our parish meeting room. Each session opens with a short video from the Eternal Rest Series, followed by small group discussion so everyone can share, ask questions and learn together. Light refreshments will be provided.

Pastoral Care Team will not be meeting again until Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are in need of a member of the Pastoral Care Team to visit please advise the Parish Office.

Looking for Quality Vacation Care This School Holidays?

CatholicCare offers safe, fun, and engaging Vacation Care programs at 11 schools across our Diocese. Children enjoy exciting activities, make new friends, and are cared for by experienced staff—giving parents peace of mind and kids a holiday to remember. Secure your child’s spot today: Call (02) 4227 1122 OR visit <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> for locations and enrolment details.

Stouthearted men's program- coming in 2026 Stouthearted is a new Jesus centred men's program designed to meet a desperate need in men. It's an 8-week program that draws from well-known experts, shares powerful teachings and models real world conversations. Stouthearted fosters learning, discussion, prayer, reflection, healing and builds essential practical strategies. In addition to the main sessions, there are short daily reflections that include video input, bible study, and self-reflection. The Stouthearted program will be running in Wollongong in 2026, starting on Monday 2 Feb and finishing on the last Monday of March. Register now: dow.sh/stouthearted

New Year’s Eve and Day Masses

9am Mass New Year’s Eve

9am Mass New Year

8pm Mass Samoan Mass





Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran,
Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins,
Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella,
Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys,

Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently departed Maria Cuaresma, Graham Henneberry,
May Whitlock, Paul Crawford, Alex Sitjar

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Lily Pereira, James Pereira

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

4 Jan 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul & Lori	Nelia,, Anita & Francia	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Berna , Christian , Elijah & Arland	Vu	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Irene & Aura	Niya & Effie
Refreshments	Josephine & Glenda	4th Sunday Choir & Karen	Fev , Maree & Patricia
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Tracey , Richard	Church Vacuuming	Marites & Sarah
Counters	Bing & Cynthia	Church Foyer	Margaret Mc D & Arland



Parish Office: **Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm**

Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

Address: **193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**

Email: **varroville@dow.org.au**

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.



After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and,

taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt. After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate: *Two Holy Families*

Herod is seeking to annihilate all the male children in Bethlehem. The child Jesus is in mortal danger. 'Arise, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' And Joseph did so. *That* night and *by* night, such was the urgency.

Have you ever thought: What if Egyptian border guards had turned back this refugee family? What if, instead of finding safe haven and sanctuary, this desperate family had been denied entry? The Divine plan to rescue Jesus from a murderous tyrant depended not only on Joseph but, also, on the Egyptian people.

And so we discover two Holy Families in this Gospel episode. One is the little Holy Family with Joseph, Mary and Jesus. The other is the larger Holy Family of humanity embodied in those Egyptians who provided sanctuary, who opened their land to allow Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle out of danger.

We might pause for a moment to ask: Can we be as hospitable and open as the Egyptians of today's Gospel? Another baby in another family of refugees may depend on our answer!