

Holy Family Sunday

28th December 2025



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.

Amen.

First Reading (Isaiah 63:7-9)

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their saviour
in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of
old.

Psalm (Psalm 128)

Response:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.
O blessed are those who fear the Lord
And walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
In the heart of your house:
Your children like shoots of the olive
Around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
The man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
In a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R**

Second Reading (Hebrews 2:10-18)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:13-23)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Post Communion

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.

For your prayers

In our Prayers: Tommy Lacken, Martin Fletcher, Terry Folan, Sheila Hoppenbrouwers, Eamon Irvine, Fr Michael Shier, Carol Martin, Philomena Sorrenti, Maggie Stevenson, Hope Oram, Sherry Lacken, Doug Williams, Neville Thomas, Lynn Williamson, Juan Carlos Mandich, Nancy Mandich, Eliane Ferreira Batista, Joanne Dack, Jacqueline Ives, Joan Rivellini, Tommy Naylor, Albert Kwasi Kkwateng, Lenny Shaw, baby Maison

Among the departed: Derek Silk

Anniversaries of Death: Ronald Palmer, Sidney Shilton, Dorothy Dawn, Mona Shier, William Henry Bailey, Lewis Eustace Ford (Pr), Johnny Field, James Drane, Harriet Mann, Constance Yates, Anne Drane, Maurice Berkeley, Michael Foley

In our parish: We pray for The Bower and Old Street Station

In the wider world: We pray for the Middle East and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Gaza and between Israel and Iran. We pray for all those suffering in those conflicts.

Notices

This week in church...

No open church or midweek mass

Next Sunday Epiphany

10.30am Sung Mass

Parish Giving

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing One-Off donations and Direct Debit giving to St Clement's. It is free and reduces the burden of work on church volunteers and provides a simple and secure service to givers. For more information speak to Emke or Father David or go to

www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/

Can you help?

Please speak to Sherry in you'd like to help set up for the service and with the refreshments or clear away on Sundays. We're looking for volunteers to help share out these jobs.