

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 105.

### RESPONSE:

*He, the Lord, is our God; he remembers his covenant forever.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name.  
Make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! R
2. Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. R
3. Remember the wonders he has done,  
his marvels and his words of judgement.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O descendants of the Jacob he chose. R
4. He remembers his covenant forever;  
the promise he ordained for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac. R

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2:22-40.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

*May the Holy Family  
inspire, bless, and bring you  
hope in the coming year.  
From all of us at RPP.*



## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 28 Dec HOLY INNOCENTS, Ms

1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18

When we choose love over fear, we choose to focus on God and on God's power and wisdom rather than our own perceived lack. We choose the peace that transcends understanding. Always choose love.

### Tue 29 Dec (St Thomas Becket, BM)

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96; Luke 2:22-35

The Church invites us to take Simeon's prayer, the Nunc Dimittis, for our prayer at bedtime. Make it a Christmas gift to yourselves and your families and let it open your eyes to the glory we already hold.

### Wed 30 Dec Liturgy of the Day

1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96; Luke 2:36-40

As the prophetess Anna gave Mary the promise of hope in her praise for Jesus' life, we too can find hope during the painful moments in our lives through the words and kindness of others.

### Thu 31 Dec (St Sylvester I, P)

1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96; John 1:1-18

When we treat deepening our relationship with God as just another resolution, we can run into danger. 'Giving up', as we so often do with other resolutions, is not an option. Put God first this coming year!

### Fri 1 Jan MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67; Luke 2:16-21

What does the coming year have in store? Whatever highs and lows it presents, travel it with Mary. Surrender, as Mary did, to all that lies ahead and you can be assured of God's presence with you.

### Sat 2 Jan Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, BDs

1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98; John 1:19-28

Just as Jesus promises to remain with us, so as members of his body we are moved by God's Spirit in us to give to those in suffering and need a sense of security.

### Sun 3 Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Matthew 2:1-12

Today's feast not only celebrates the longing of the Magi to see the newborn king of the Jews, but also our searching, our longing right here and now to recognise the face of God in our midst.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)  
M=Martyr; B=Bishop; P=Pope; D=Doctor

# Catholic Link

## CHRISTMAS – HOLY FAMILY

Holy Family • Year B  
Divine Office: Week 1 • 27 December 2020

# From the Inside

*The Provincial, Fr Gerard McCabe, and all the Redemptorists of the South African Province, grateful for the bond of faith we experience with all readers of Catholic Link, assure you and your families of our prayerful good wishes and blessings this Christmas and into the coming year.*

**W**hat just happened? What am I doing here and how did I get here? Where is this place?

These questions could arise in a myriad of scenarios, from an accident or other medical trauma causing unconsciousness followed by waking up, to natural disasters requiring flight from danger (think Australian or Californian wildfires recently). Imagine the same questions arising for a little family suddenly finding itself in exile, fleeing political persecution and the paranoid megalomania of a leader intent on stamping out

potential rivalry from a new-born boy who had been declared by some foreign visitors to be "king of the Jews". This vulnerable family arrives in Egypt as refugees, lonely, confused, wondering at what happened to all its hopes and expectations of leading a quiet life back home.

On this, the final weekend of the year 2020, we too can look back and ask: what just happened? What are we doing here and how did we get here? What is this "place", this experience of a global pandemic that made refugees of us all, seeking safety and security? Levels of lockdown, levels of emotion, levels of fear, levels of faith. We, like the Holy Family in reality, have been through a virtual flight into Egypt. We've been thrown off course: plans cancelled and lifestyles changed.

Christmas 2020, unless we are in complete

denial, has a different feel to most Christmases we've known. And maybe that's not a bad thing. Maybe it's a good idea to look at the down sides of the original Christmas – the birth of Christ – and recall things like a cowshed as labour ward cum recovery room, the warm breath of ox and donkey as the central heating, unrestricted visiting hours to simple country shepherds, and then a hurried dash to a foreign country instead of bringing the baby home.

May this year's Christmas put us in touch with the

real narrative that underpins our faith, for it is only when we look past the presents, the turkey, the lights and the incessant piping of Christmas carols in shopping malls or on the radio, that we begin to understand that our faith identifies with and speaks to experiences like pandemics; like unemployment and loss of income; like exile from oppression. The Word was made flesh. The Word shared our humanity. God is with us. God is inside our very history. Since the birth of Christ, grace and blessing works from the inside, not up in the sky.

May the Holy Family be on the inside of your family, to inspire, to bless, and to give you unfailing hope. May Christmas 2020 have a depth of meaning that leads to the deep gratitude that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."



The Holy Family's Flight into Egypt is represented in an icon by artist Br Richard Maidwell CSsR