



It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2: 22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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GOD AT WORK IN THE FAMILY

In today's readings, there is a tension between dreams and reality, between hope and fear, that helps us situate ourselves as we reflect on the Holy Family and our own experience of family life. The letter to the Hebrews speaks rightly of Abraham and Sarah as being models of faithfulness, however, this should not blind us to the very real struggles they experienced.

At times both Abraham and Sarah had lost heart and become fearful that God's promises were only a false hope after all. Abraham had decided to make one of his young relatives his heir. Sarah hoped that her slave Hagar would give them the son they longed for. In the end, God would realise the promises made to them despite their attempts to take matters into their own hands!

As Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple they bring all their hopes and fears for him as they wonder how his life will unfold. Simeon and Anna recognise that God is powerfully at work in this child but Simeon also warns how Jesus' life will be marked by both success, as well as rejection. What Simeon and Anna have the eyes to see is that God's saving plan will be at work in all that will befall him.

While models of family life are placed before us today it is important not to judge ourselves too harshly. Abraham and Sarah had their difficulties, and Mary and Joseph did not always understand how God was at work in their family either!

FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless . . .' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, / make known his deeds among the peoples. / O sing to him, sing his praise; / tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

2. Be proud of his holy name, / let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. / Consider the Lord and his strength; / constantly seek his face. **R.**



3. Remember the wonders he has done, / his miracles, the judgements he spoke. / O children of Abraham, his servant, / O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever, / his promise for a thousand generations, / the covenant he made with Abraham, / the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.



Sacred Heart Parish Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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PRIESTS: FR JAMES POOVATHINKAL MS. P.P., VF

PPC Chair: Mrs Sharon Hollis

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger—67224066

Parish Secretary: June Turner—67221103. Office Hours

Mon & Fri 8am—1pm; Thurs 8am—12 noon

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church Inverell

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 9.00am

Monday, Tuesday and 1st Saturday 9.30am

Wednesday and Thursday 12 noon

1st Friday Mass and Benediction 12 noon

First Wednesday Anointing Mass 12 noon

McLean Village Each Friday except 1st Friday 11.00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8.15am - 9.15am

Sunday 8.00am - 8.30am

Tingha St. Francis' Church Saturday 4.00pm

Ashford St Patrick's Church 1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am

Bundarra St Mary of the Angels 2nd & 4th Sun 11.00am

Yetman St Joseph the Worker 5th Sunday 11.30am

**Baptism (Saturday only) 11am;
Marriages and Funerals by Appointment
For emergencies please phone 0428-126703**



O' Sacrament Most Holy
O' Sacrament Divine.
All Praise and all Thanksgiving,
be every moment Thine...



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

THE HOLY MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

MON 28th	Rosary Mass	9.00am 9.30am
TUE 29th	Rosary Mass	9.00am 9.30am
WED 30th	Rosary Mass	11.30am 12 Noon
THUR 31st	Rosary Mass	11.30am 12 Noon
FRI 1st JAN	Feast Day of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	
	Rosary Mass	11.30am 12 Noon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Terry Manuel, Lucy Hii Hiong, Gladys Lanfranchi, The McNally Family, Relatives & Friends of Pat Bailey

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

John Crabbe, Lorraine Welsh, Mike Ward, Jenny Turner, Wayne Jones, Emma Donaldson, Wayne Lackey, Tony Starr, Mary Kramer, Leo Germany, Baby Isabel Akhil, Joan Hiscox, Paul Saint, Kerrie O'Keeffe, Sr Leo (Josie) Clancy, Rhonda Lee Watts (daughter of Phyllis Nichols) John Sanders, David Sanders, Rex Parry, Danny Dickins, Katrina Newbiggin, Bob Kneipp, Brian Barker, Dorothy Ball, Denise Taveira, Joanne Essey, Graham Tom, Fred Boight, Agnes Hannigan **and the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.**

We Pray for the Recently Deceased & for the Anniversaries of

Robert Muggleton, Margaret Tome, Mary Una Strahle, Sr Eleanor Dawson (RSJ), Peter Tilocca, Ruth Lewis, Val Beveridge, Ian Searston, Geoffrey Noel Hardy, John Portass, Betty Joan Cook, Veronica Walker. **Eternal life grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

Teach Us to Pray



COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN FOR OUR PARISH

Mass attendance, Weddings, and Funerals: The Sacred Heart Church can accommodate a maximum of **150** worshippers at a time. **Contact Sheets:** placed at each opened entrance to the Church. **Parishioners** attending the Church are required to record their full names. **Visitors** are required to record their name **and** contact details. This is a health tracing requirement in case of a Corona Virus outbreak. The contact sheets will be removed after each Mass and kept confidential. **If you prefer to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please wait until all other parishioners have been before approaching the altar. If you are unwell please stay at home. If you require Home Communion contact the office.**

DECEMBER 27TH - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YEAR B

"No one can doubt that in this Holy Family was displayed every virtue [...] with its mutual services of charity, its holy intercourse, and its practices of godly piety, since the Holy Family was destined to be a pattern to all others. For that very reason was it established by the merciful designs of Providence, namely, that every Christian, in every walk of life and in every place, might easily, if he would but give heed to it, have before him a motive and a pattern for the good life." - Pope Leo XIII

HOME ROSARY

Tingha Bernie & Colleen Graham

11 Diamond Street

Wednesday 30 Dec at 4.30pm

(Every Wednesday)



Inverell No Home Rosary this week

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.



Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

PLAN GIVING FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH (2nd Collection)

Weekly Plan Giving envelopes are available from the office. Alternatively, if you would prefer to submit your Plan Giving by direct debit, please advise the office and use the following bank details:

BSB No: 082-105 Account No: 001001010

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

Please quote your surname for the reference

Thank you

PRAYER TO GOD FOR HELP

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us you sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and bodies. Look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief. Deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, and eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all evil. We ask this through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HAVE A BLESSED AND HOLY CHRISTMAS

Fr James and the parish team wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted in the running of the parish this year.

Thank you to the Members of the Altar Society, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance



Committee, the Liturgy Committee, all those involved in the parish ministry roster, Parish Staff, Staff and Pupils at Holy Trinity School, Members of the McLean Ministry, and Members of the Music Ministry.

May you all have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



St Vincent de Paul Appeal

Thank you to everyone who gave to the appeal. The SVDP Care & Support Team appreciate your generosity. The \$1588 donated will go towards purchase of bedding & linen in preparation for the winter demand next year. **Anthony Dale, President of the SVDP Care & Support Team**

Due to Covid19 we have suspended some of our Ministries and reduced numbers rostered in others. Thank you for understanding.

ROSTER	26thDec-Sat 6pm	27thDec—Sun 9am	2ndJan-Sat 6pm	3rdJan-Sun 9am
GREETERS	VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS
PROJECTOR	J KELLY	P GIRLE	S SZUMOWSKI	R MCGREGOR
READERS	J MONIE	J THIVAKON	M CASEY-RANSOM	J HARRIS
COMMENTATOR	N MCCOSKER	G TAVEIRA	M WARD	C BRUSE
COMMUNION MINISTER	VOLUNTEER	MJ GUEST	A MICHAEL	J RAINGER
GIFTS	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED
ALTAR SERVERS	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED
MUSIC MINISTRY	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED
COLLECTION	Collection Baskets are at each of the Church entrances. Thank you.			
MORNING TEA	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED
COUNTERS		R & G JOHNSON		G HENRY, P GIRLE, L MACDONALD.