

St Saviour's Church

31 December 2017 - Christmas 1 (Holy Family)



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Our source is found within the gospels of Matthew and Luke who give us very brief insights into what happened to this family after the birth of Jesus. It is a relatively recent feast that has a particular focus: to present the Holy Family as the model of all Christian families (in a similar way in which Mary is often held up as a model for Christian discipleship). Yet not everyone agrees as to what defines 'family'. However, spiritually what cannot be dismissed is the kinship we enjoy with Jesus the Son of God and by extension with The Father and the Holy Spirit. This kinship alone is cause enough for our joy and this celebration.

Parish Notes:

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter Many thanks to all who continue to support our Nightshelter. We've now been open for two nights and are grateful for the opportunity to help our guests in this way. We are pausing our collections of clothes etc for now as your generosity means we now have more than enough for the next few months. For more details and how to help please see Fr Phelim.

8:00am Said Mass each Sunday in St German's for our homeless guests and other helpers for the duration of our Nightshelter this Winter only.

Candlemas - 2 February 2018 - we welcome the Cathedral Boys Choir for a service of Choral Evensong in St German's. All are welcome. Details and times to follow.

Croeso - Please take a copy of the Winter Croeso home.

Cardiff Foodbank - Urgent items: tinned tomatoes, fruit juice (concentrate), rice pudding tins, sponge pudding, tinned fruit. Not needed: beans, cereals, tea, pasta.

Epiphany - The feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated in St German's on Sunday 7 Jan at 11am and on Monday 8 January we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord at 6pm.

Christian Unity - the week of prayer for Christian Unity is from 18-25 January 2018. There will be a Churches Together joint service in St Alban's Church on Sunday 21 January 2018 at 6pm.

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS THIS WEEK

Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3
Ps 105
Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19
Luke 2:22-40

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 55:1-11
Isa 12
1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11

PSALM RESPONSE

'Let us see, O Lord,
your mercy, and give
us your saving
help' (3vs)

This week:

Mon 1:

6pm Mass (St G)
Mary Mother of God

Tues 2:

10am Mass (St S)
St Basil the Great &
Gregory Nazianzen

Wed 3:

10am Mass (St G)
Holy Name of Jesus

Thur 4:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 5:

6pm Mass (St S)

Sat 6:

11am Mass (St S.)
EPIPHANY

Sun 7: Baptism of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8:00 am Said Mass
(Nightshelter);

11:00 am Sung Mass
(Epiphany)

Keep in touch:

Parish Priest:

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GATHERING:

Unto us a boy is born,
King of all creation:
Cradled in a stall was He,
The Lord of every nation,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'In Jewry!'
All little boys be killed
At Beth'lem in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

OFFERTORY:

Born in the night,
Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need,
Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world,
Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life,
Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true,

Mary's Child,
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.

COMMUNION:

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they say that his name is Jesus

*He come from the Glory,
He come from the Glorious Kingdom
Oh yes, believer, oh, yes, believer
He come from the Glory,
He come from the Glorious Kingdom*

The angels sang
when the baby was born
The angels sang
when the baby was born
The angels sang
when the baby was born
And they sang that his name is Jesus

The shepherds came
where the baby was born
The shepherds came
where the baby was born
The shepherds came
where the baby was born
And they say that his name is Jesus

The wise men saw
when the baby born
The wise men saw
where the baby born
The wise men went
where the baby born
And they said that his name is Jesus

They saw the star over Bethlehem
They saw the star over Bethlehem
The trailed that star over Bethlehem
To the crib of the child named Jesus

They found a manger in Bethlehem
They found a manger in Bethlehem
And in that manger in Bethlehem
They worshipped the child named
Jesus

FINAL HYMN:

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Chorus

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height
sublime
Sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your
sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light; [1]
Angels singing peace on earth
Told us of the Saviour's birth".

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By Thy Face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee,
In Thy Sweet humility! Chorus

1ST READING :

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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. 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

This is the word of the Lord.

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

2ND READING :

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

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.

PSALM

Response:

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

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/**

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/**

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/**

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/**

Psalms 105

GOSPEL:

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, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;