

St Francis of Assisi Church

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SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

NEWSLETTER

31st December 2017

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

To prepare for Sunday Mass, the feast of the Holy Family, it is a good idea to read and give thought to the readings in your missal or Bible. Here are some questions to ponder.

First Reading [Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3] Abram asked God: "What do you intend to give me?" What would you hope that God might give you in 2018? What are the most important things God has given you already?

Second Reading [Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19] In this reading faith is a sort of trust. Where do I find it most difficult to trust God's guidance and protection?

Gospel [Luke 2:22-40] Through the Holy Spirit, mentioned three times, Simeon recognized Jesus as the light of the world. Do you let the same Spirit who lives in you help you recognize Jesus in your daily life? How?

The trouble with pictures of the Holy Family is that they always look so holy. Even when they had the terrible experience of rushing off to Egypt as refugees, most illustrations give the impression that they're going off on holiday with Mary sitting side-saddle, sedately holding the baby.

This first Sunday after Christmas, is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The prayer at Mass is that our family should be like the Holy Family and when you hear that, you may feel that with all the squabbling that goes on in our house we could never be like that. I think this may be due to the way the Holy Family at Nazareth is portrayed: as if everything was calm and neat and quiet and clean. A more realistic image of what it must have been like was when I got some nine-year-olds to act as the Holy Family. Joseph came in tired from work looking for something to eat and Mary said, "I haven't managed to get the dinner yet, this baby is driving me mad. I don't know what's wrong with him, he's probably teething or something." And Joseph picks up the baby and makes gooey noises at him.

In the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, there was a strong, powerful love of each other, so they must have been brought up in loving families themselves. But being a loving family doesn't mean to say that all is calm and sweet. We need to accept the worry and frustrations that Mary and Joseph suffered when they first had the child and even later on when he was growing up.

Today, as we emerge from the celebrations of Christmas, still reflecting on the wonder of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let us ask God's blessing on our own families, thanking the Lord for such a wonderful gift.



*To welcome in the New Year and to thank God for the blessings of 2017 we will have a **Mass at 10.30** this Sunday evening and then go into the garden to celebrate and watch the midnight fireworks over the sea.*

[bring some nibbles or drink]

MONDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

is the Feast of Mary the Mother of God

Mass at 9.30 am

Farewell Mass for Fr. Charles Dominique

Friday January 5th at 6pm in the Cathedral

Let us come out in numbers to bid farewell to Fr. Charles on the eve of his reassignment to Grenada.

CHRISTOLOGY A Certificate Course Of Five Saturdays

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY – SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Who do YOU say that I am?

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who is Christ for us today?

Facilitated by Reverend Dr. Winston Layne in the Upper Room, St. Patrick's Cathedral

Email: formationinstitute@gmail.com or tel: 426-3510 to register

COLLECTIONS The Offertory collection for last Sunday and Christmas was **\$8,882.69**

The number of people at our Christmas Masses this year was 649;

the number at our Sunday Masses doing the year averages about 250.

Please would you also pray for these people who are ill : We pray especially for Eleonora Alejandra Torres, little Sebastian Peichl, Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Basil Cozier, Paddy Melville, Kathy Winterhall, Kenneth Miller, Carlos Phillips, Phillip Alleyne, Lucille Alleyne, Joan Mahon, Mervin Mahon, Carolina Restrepo, Marie Edmund, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Cornibert, Aurelija Vasilev, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>

A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday

and after the Sunday on: [Michael A J Barrow Youtube](#)

