

# Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✕ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✕ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✕ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 90-92 Prayer of the Church, 4

THE HOLY FAMILY  
YEAR OF ST MARK  
DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

The word 'family' is used in various ways in modern English. Leaving aside special uses such as in the classification of plants and animals, it can still be defined in very different ways: it can be as broad as 'all the descendants of a common ancestor' or as narrow as 'two parents in a committed relationship,



together with their children. Some sociologists even stretch its meaning to include close friends who 'feel like family' and even pets. Particular devotion to the holy family developed in the post reformation church and became part of the universal liturgical calendar as recently as 1921. The focus of the feast is, of course, the daily life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph during the hidden years at Nazareth. This holy family is presented as a model of family life for Christians. The trouble is that it truly was hidden; we know practically nothing about it. The gospel today tells us only that they were devout Jews who were punctilious in carrying out the requirements of the Law and that as Jesus grew to maturity he was, "filled with wisdom". Slight though this may

be it tells us a great deal. The 'wisdom' it refers to is divine wisdom, the wisdom of God. To be wise is to understand how to live as God would have us live. It is nothing less than the ability to , "Hear the word of God and keep it," (Luke 11:28). We also know from Luke's gospel that the child Jesus, even when old enough to dispute with legal scholars in the temple, 'lived under the authority' of Joseph and Mary. (Luke 2:51) This goes a long way to help us towards an understanding of Christian family life. It is what led the fathers of the Second Vatican Council to teach that, "The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them..." (Lumen Gentium, 11) The particular circumstances of the families to which each of us belongs vary, but are always as different as can be from those of the holy family. Jesus grew up in an obscure Galilean village with no more than a few hundred inhabitants, many of whom he would have known quite well. Many of us live in wider societies dealing with people of whom we have no personal knowledge. He lived at a time when 'education' was informal; a natural part of life. We live in an age in which education is formal and, like most areas of our lives, 'industrialized'. For us, to hand on divine wisdom as a family group in imitation of the holy family of Nazareth is an awesome task. It on which clashes with the aspirations of many around us. Is it not fitting, then, that we gather together and pray for the grace to do it well?.

from FRATELLI TUTTI

*"Paradoxically, we have certain ancestral fears that technological development has not succeeded in eliminating; indeed, those fears have been able to hide and spread behind new technologies. Today too, outside the ancient town walls lies the abyss, the territory of the unknown, the wilderness. Whatever comes from there cannot be trusted, for it is unknown, unfamiliar, not part of the village. It is the territory of the "barbarian", from whom we must defend ourselves at all costs. As a result, new walls are erected for self-preservation, the outside world ceases to exist and leaves only "my" world, to the point that others, no longer considered human beings possessed of an inalienable dignity, become only "them". Once more, we encounter "the temptation to build a culture of walls...to prevent encounter with other cultures, with other people. And those who raise walls will end up as slaves within the very walls they have built. They are left without horizons, for they lack this interchange with others."(27)*

**Remember: You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:**  
[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

*"The child was filled with wisdom: God was with him."*

## CHURCH OPENING

As the current lockdown ends on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we enter 'tier 2' restrictions, the churches will once again be open for Mass as well as private prayer at the usual times from Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham:**

Sunday 10.30 Mass

Monday to Saturday 9.30 Mass

(followed by exposition on Monday. Confessions on Saturday)

Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer

### **Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea:**

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Thursday 9.30 Mass

### **St Peter's, Blakeney:**

Sunday 11.00 Mass

Wednesday 9.30 Mass

### **St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:**

Sunday 9.30 Mass

Friday 9.30 Mass

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

From December 26<sup>th</sup> we have been in Tier 4 Covid restrictions. Mass will be celebrated as usual in each of our churches unless there is a government instruction to the contrary.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

## FINANCE

We are refurbishing the house at St Peter's Blakeney in order to let it; for details, see the Distanced but Together section on the website. This will involve considerable expense and the parish income is diminished because of Covid 19 restrictions. If you are able to contribute something towards this it would be greatly appreciated. I would ask those who do not already do so to consider supporting the parish by standing order. Please contact Fr Keith for bank and gift aid details.



## THE YEAR OF THE WORD

**Befriending the Scriptures** cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3	Psalm 104	Hebrews 11:8-19	Luke 2:22-40
Monday		<b>Feast of the Holy Innocents</b>		
Tuesday:	1 John 1:5-2:2	Psalm 123		Matthew 2:13-18
		<b>Feast of St Thomas Becket</b>		
Wednesday:	Colossians 1:24-29	Psalm 22		Luke 22:24-30
Thursday:	1 John 2:12-17	Psalm 95		Luke 2:36-40
Friday:	1 John 2:18-21	Psalm 95		John 1:1-18
		<b>Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God</b>		
Saturday:	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 66	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:16-21
	John 2:22-28	Psalm 97		John 1:19-25

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

It is hard to keep in touch under the present circumstances and to know who amongst us is suffering from ill health. Please pray for all of them and keep Tom and myself informed. Tim Matthews, Mary Pegg, Brenda Winch, Fr John, Maureen and Derek Schofield, Len Judge, Charles Butler, Paula's grand-nephew, Marie Strong and, I'm sure, others are in need of your prayer at this time.

## THANK YOU

To all of you who were kind enough to send us greetings and presents at Christmas.

The Marist Community

*Keith, Tom, Kalia & Juan*

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,

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