



Parents are to be honoured, not with mere feelings but with concrete action, patience and care, particularly in old age. This honour is seen as a spiritual act of just living and filial piety. We learn that a family is to be a sanctuary of mutual support, and the home is where ties are strengthened through duty and reverence.

The Holy Family exemplifies all the virtues mentioned. The gospel speaks of the flight to Egypt and the family becoming refugees, facing uncertainties. Mary and Joseph's unshakeable trust in God and His Providence help them overcome all odds, and eventually to settle down in Nazareth.

Today, more than ever, we face the stark realities of dysfunctional families. Dysfunction arises from a breakdown in the virtues rooted in the Holy Family, and it exists on a wide spectrum. On the list are broken trust and betrayal, ineffective communication leading to crisis, pressure which leads to financial strain, addiction, mental challenges and the list go on. Lest we think it is too tall an order to emulate the Holy Family, St Paul gives us bite-size advices in his letter to the Colossians.

First, he says to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. These virtues are synergistic and they exist not in isolation but that one virtue builds on another. Thomas Aquinas teaches us that the moral life is not a series of isolated actions but an interconnected web of good habits, where fruitfulness in one area fuels growth in another.

Let the Word of God dwell in us richly, as we teach and admonish one another in good faith, putting on love, the bond of perfection so that the peace of Christ will control our hearts and reign in us. Journeying together as families is a lifelong process, but so long as we remain faithful and respectful; spouses toward each other, children honouring parents, we will have the strength to face life's challenges, come what may.

Blessed the holy families who fear the Lord and walk his ways.✙

Blessed are the merciful, they shall have mercy shown them.

Matthew 5: 7

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalms 127: 1-5

Colossians 3: 12-21

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

NEWBEC

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | 28 December 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE:
CHURCH (MERCIFUL)
CALLED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AND EMPOWERMENT TO EVANGELISE

Reverence & Honour in Families

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, where Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St Joseph are honoured as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for us. The reading from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) lays the foundation. It gives precise and practical guidelines for family life.