

"My hope is that the Good News of Christ will enter every home and help families to rediscover that only in Christ can man find salvation."

St. Pope John Paul II



**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14
or 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Psalms 127: 1-5 or 83: 2-3,
5-6, 9-10

Colossians 3: 12-21 or
1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Luke 2: 41-52

The family have to flee to Egypt to avoid Herod's wrath. They were refugees for some years!

Once, someone remarked after a reflection on the Holy Family: 'What can we learn from what we cannot see?' The Holy Family live obscure lives. Nothing much is mentioned of how the child is being brought up, except a narration of finding the lost child in the temple ending with a one-liner that says, 'And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favour before God and man.'

Yet, **the Holy Family is a model for Christians who endeavour to build families rooted in love.** We know that the Holy Family observes the Law and its requirements faithfully. Mary is docile to the Holy Spirit. Her prayer, the Magnificat is drawn from Scriptures. Joseph is 'a just man' as Scripture says. Jesus' life is steeped in Scriptures and traditions. The atmosphere in the home at Nazareth will be that of love and respect, with Jesus being trained in the trade of His foster father. Plus, Jesus already knows he must be about His Father's work by the tender age of 12!

Sirach teaches us to *honour our parents, for God sets a father in honour over his children; and a mother's authority over her sons.* The first reading and St Paul's letter to the Colossians speak of the deep respect that the family members need to have for one another.

Paul teaches on the values that we ought to cultivate in our families: *heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.* And most important of all, over all these values, put on love.

Let us remember that we are blessed those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways. We turn the table around by asking instead, "How can we learn from what we cannot see?" ✦

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

newbee

29 December 2024
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary And Joseph

**SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).**

MONTHLY FOCUS **PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

What Can We Learn From What We Cannot See?

Each time when the calendar year comes to a close, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. As Christian families, we are asked to imitate Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Lest we think that's a tall order, let us recollect a bit of background on the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Mary is a teen who conceives before she is married. Joseph contemplates leaving her to avoid a scandal. A stable in the manger is where Jesus is born.

