



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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2: 22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

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.

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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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GOD AT WORK IN THE FAMILY

In today's readings, there is a tension between dreams and reality, between hope and fear, that helps us situate ourselves as we reflect on the Holy Family and our own experience of family life. The letter to the Hebrews speaks rightly of Abraham and Sarah as being models of faithfulness, however, this should not blind us to the very real struggles they experienced.

At times both Abraham and Sarah had lost heart and become fearful that God's promises were only a false hope after all. Abraham had decided to make one of his young relatives his heir. Sarah hoped that her slave Hagar would give them the son they longed for. In the end, God would realise the promises made to them despite their attempts to take matters into their own hands!

As Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple they bring all their hopes and fears for him as they wonder how his life will unfold. Simeon and Anna recognise that God is powerfully at work in this child but Simeon also warns how Jesus' life will be marked by both success, as well as rejection. What Simeon and Anna have the eyes to see is that God's saving plan will be at work in all that will befall him.

While models of family life are placed before us today it is important not to judge ourselves too harshly. Abraham and Sarah had their difficulties, and Mary and Joseph did not always understand how God was at work in their family either!

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Your own son shall be your heir.

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 her. 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. 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.**
2. 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.**



3. 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.**

4. 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.**

SECOND READING Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

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.

27Dec 2020
Year B Christmas

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>



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WEEKEND MASSES	Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm	CONFESSIONS Sat: 4.30-5.15pm *Or by appointment
	Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass	
WEEKDAY MASSES	Wed: 12 noon Thurs: 9 am	
	Fri: ** 12 noon New Year's Day Mary, The Holy Mother of God	
	Sat: 9am	

Entrance Antiphon The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.



May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Janice Press, Sr Helen Cooke, Stuart Betts (Sydney), Doanh Tran (Vietnam), Sr Eleanor Dawson (rsj), Max MacDonald, Joan Ryan (Sydney), Thomas Brown.

Anniversaries: Stan Hobbs, Perce McInnes (2/12), John-Paul Vella (4/12), William Coulston (22/12), Rod Kelly (20/1), Pauline Gatt (2/1), Mary Sampson (2/1), John O'Brien (3/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

Deceased: Dudley Ryan, Jack Sampson, Hugh O'Brien, Dalis O'Brien, John O'Brien, Beth Galvin, June Foley.

Sick: Mimmie Bennett, Norm Moran, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Brindley Cavallaro, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS

*What's the smartest animal?
A fish because they stay in schools!
My email password has been hacked. That's the third
time I've had to rename the dog.
What is a vegan's favorite Christmas carol?
Soy to the World!*



COMING EVENTS

1 Jan New Years Day 3 Jan Feast of the Epiphany
1 Jan 54th World Day of Peace 26 Jan Australia Day

*Try to make yourself happy
and do not give way to low spirits or anxiety of any kind. (1873)*



SOCIAL DISTANCING - **PLEASE**

- ** REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE AT ENTRANCE OR PAPER REGISTER AT ENTRY TO CHURCH
- ** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
- ** STICKER MARK YOUR SEATING & **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



REMOVAL OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS: Please see the Bishop's letter on the notice board. With the re-opening of our churches and the continued lifting of restrictions, to the capacity of our parish churches, everyone now has opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. Bishop Michael Kennedy has lifted his dispensation effective 18th-19th Dec, 2020.

CHRISTMAS DUES: Envelopes are available on the seats. Your generosity in this challenging financial year would be very much appreciated.

NEW YEAR ROSTERS: As 2020 is all but behind us we would love to see more of our previous volunteers and new ones come back to assist with what can be done during Masses particularly readers and cleaners after Masses. If you can assist please call the office or let Father know.

Prayer for The Year of St Joseph

"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."



WEEK 1 ROSTER: 27/12/20

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown G Clout 5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Sat Cleaning Roster: 26/12/20 J Cunningham and K O'Brien 2/1/21 J Hutt and J Moran
Altar Linen: J Hutt

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 3/1/2021

Vigil: R C Greer P Bamford
9am Sun: R R Paull M Donaldson 5.30pm Sun: Readers M and J Murray
Sat Cleaning Roster 2/1/2021 J Hutt and J Moran 9/1/21 M Vella & R Pace
Altar Linen: E Smyth

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