

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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MASS TIMES

Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Weekdays

9.30am

Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

Holydays

9.00, 10.30 &

7.30pm

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday 26/12/21

Luke 2: 41-52

A PRECIOUS GIFT

Families nowadays come in all shapes and sizes. For some, family is two happily married adults with children growing up in a stable home that has close links with grandparents and other related families. For many, the experience is very different. It may be a single-parent family, supported or not, by a good network of brothers or sisters and other friends. Or it may be a family of orphaned or deserted children almost rearing each other. The experiences are very varied. Whatever form our family experience takes, its effects on us continue to be profound throughout our lives.



This was also true for Jesus Christ, growing up in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. The obvious facts about this family are well known. What we focus on in this Sunday's feast is the giftedness of the relationships between members of this best known family. Each one in their own way enriched and influenced the lives of the others and made demands on them.

It would be too easy to dismiss this family as being so out of the ordinary as having nothing to say to us in our home situations. But the fact is that in God's plan to make His love present in the world, family life was to play a central role. This has not changed. This Sunday is our opportunity to recall the gifts of life and love we have received in family as well as advert to the pain and loss we have experienced or inflicted there. It is a day for showing appreciation, a day for forgiveness and new beginnings. Above all, it is a day to remember that no matter what form family takes, it is one of God's principal ways of caring for us and making love possible in our hearts. Family is a precious gift that goes through many stages but must always be treasured and protected, nurtured and enjoyed, paid for and renewed.

Sunday is remembrance day in a special way.

Fr. Tom Clancy.



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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.

