

27 dec 1970  
29 dec 1974

Feast of the Holy Family Catholic Centre  
Broadcast  
(Sun. in Octave Christmas)

Good morning once again from the Catholic Centre chapel, and in this Christmas week, the grace and joy of the Festival and every blessing in the coming New Year. On this last Sunday of the year, Christmas and its meaning remain very much in mind; and if you've been ill or lonely over these days of holiday and celebration, perhaps a short time of prayer and reflection during this broadcast of Mass may bring you the consolation and comfort of the close presence of Christ our Lord with you. For today, in our community worship, thanksgiving and prayer here, we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family; the presence of God Himself in the ordinary human family setting we've all had some experience of, which is a basic human relationship giving us some insight (since Christ was born into our world) into the reality and meaning of the love of God. The Word of God you'll hear in the <sup>Scriptures for today is</sup> Gospel for today is St Luke's account of that family crisis Mary and Joseph experienced when Jesus stayed behind after the festival for which they'd brought him to Jerusalem when he was 12 years old. The other scripture readings (the O.T. Bk of Sirach, and St Paul's letter to Colossae) are also concerned with family relationships, and the depth given them by the Word of God and the peace of Christ. But to prepare ourselves first to listen to God's word, the Mass begins with an introductory rite of prayer, repentance and praise of God's mercy. An entry song is sung as the priest and his assistants approach the altar.

CHOIR

Penit.:Kyrie:Gloria: ORATIO After the Assembly Prayer for today's Feast, priest and congregation sit down, to listen to the first of the scripture readings, which is followed by part of Ps 127 as a responsory prayer.

CREED: After the scripture, and the homily by Fr <sup>Joseph Shields</sup> ~~Peter Morris~~, celebrant of today's Mass, the Nicene Creed is now recited, a profession of Faith in God's revealing of Himself and His Word which we've been listening to in this first part of the Mass.

OFFERTORY: The family prayer of the Church, the Prayer of the Faithful you've just heard, with its intercessions for various needs, brings the first part of the Mass liturgy to an end. The Offertory rite begins now, with the assistants bringing to the altar where the priest takes them with a prayer of blessing, the bread and wine required for the offering of the Eucharist and for the sacrament of Holy Communion later on when they've been made His Body and Blood by the power of Christ in the offering of His Pasch. CHOIR

PREFACE: The formal Prayer over the Gifts ends the Offertory rite and leads to the Prayer of the Eucharist which begins now with the special Preface for Christmastime. Today you'll hear the 2nd of the Eucharistic Prayers.

PATER After the central prayer and action of the Mass, in the Eucharistic Prayer, we begin the Communion rite now, reciting together as a preparation the family prayer of all Christians, the Our Father taught us by Christ.

COMMUNION: ~~(The verse for the Communion Song, from that passage of St Luke you heard earlier as the Gospel reading)~~ As the priest now receives Christ in Holy Communion himself, those of the congregation wishing to share in this Sacrament of the Eucharist today begin to go up to the altar rail where in a moment or two the giving of Holy Communion will begin. And as the people here return to their places for some minutes of private prayer and thanksgiving, you may like to join them in spirit while the

Communion <sup>takes place</sup> ~~Song is being sung.~~ CHOIR

In these few minutes [that remain while the priest continues and finishes giving Holy Communion,] some reflection together on this Eucharist today and the Christmastime festival of the Holy Family. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is especially the food and strength, the nourishment of the Church, the sacred meal we share together as members of the Body of Christ, brothers and sisters in the household of God. We come together to share this celebration in love of Christ and in obedience to His command; and He is present with us, and through us in the world, as He promised always to be. But the family community of the Church on earth is not, normally, the first family we've known and been members of, nor is it the final and fullest community with God which He calls us to. The Eucharist makes a bond of union between us & Christ and between each of us who receive Him and are being formed into God's people, to be transformed in Christ into members of the family life of God Himself who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the relationships of a human family at its best, we can begin to see and understand in some degree the relationships of love in the unity of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, and also how there is place for each of us with Christ in the life and love of God. It's also, normally, in a family setting that we first learn the love and obedience which God's grace builds into Charity, Faith, Hope, trust, fidelity. In any family, the human love and sharing and giving is a reflection of the life of God who created it; since God Himself became man, it's open too to the grace of God's love uniting its members with Christ. A Christian family sharing

the Eucharist together bring to their human love and the bonds between them the unifying power of Christ's love helping them to grow in closeness to Him and to one another. Of course, there are difficulties and troubles and anxieties at times in every family — but it is the presence of Christ in each one that is, ultimately, the solution to these, and the link that will keep God's love and grace alive in them.

When Jesus lived our human experience in the family life of Mary and Joseph at Nazareth, there was no exception to the normal worries and troubles of a family. Just before He was born, Mary and Joseph had unexpectedly to undertake a long arduous journey to Bethlehem — and it was there, away from their home, that Jesus was born. And Joseph couldn't find a decent place in that town for his wife to give birth — they had to make do in an unused cave. Then they had to make a quick departure as refugees to Egypt with their small, precious child for whom they had the heavy responsibility. At the age of 12, they lost Him in Jerusalem; and Mary found it very hard to understand. This is the Holy Family we celebrate today — God himself was their child, their love, the bond that united them. In every Christian family, God is present too — the difficulty is to see and recognise Him in each other. Through the Eucharist, uniting us in love, we've been given the best opportunity of knowing and recognising Christ among us, and most of all in the close union of our family lives. Christmas is not make-believe — what we've been celebrating these days, the meaning of all the customs and gifts and carols is that God is really with us, having become one of us, so that there's no place or person or circumstance that His love cannot reach, to unite each of us & all of us with Himself in His family life and love. He made

Himself visible in Bethlehem, in a way that is understandable for any family; let us, living elsewhere & in a different age, not give up looking for Him, and finding Him with His family — wherever people are born, love each other, go in need or trouble; in families, in communities, in the Church, in the whole family of mankind He was born to redeem and save.

The Communion is now over, and the priest has returned to the altar, putting away in the tabernacle the sacred hosts that remain, and then cleaning briefly the chalice and patens used during Mass. After a few moments of silent prayer, he'll now recite the final Prayer after Communion and give the blessing.

**END** The Blessing and Dismissal bring the Mass to an end, and the priest leaves the altar with his assistants, while the congregation for today's celebration in honour of the Holy Family begins to disperse. And here we end also this broadcast of our worship and prayer which you've heard directly from the chapel at the Catholic Centre in Connaught Rd. Central.

servants for whom we entreat your mercy, health of mind and body, so that they may love you with all their strength, and do your good pleasure with all their hearts: through Christ our Lord.  
 ALL : Amen. (Sit)

**Offertory Song**

ALL SING : (See p. 1 or any suitable hymn from the Hymn Book)

**Prayer over the Gifts**

O Lord, we offer you this sacrifice in atonement for our sins. May the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Blessed Joseph, ever bestow your peace and grace upon our families. Through Christ our Lord.

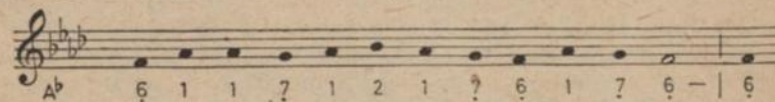
ALL : Amen.

**After Consecration (First acclamation)**

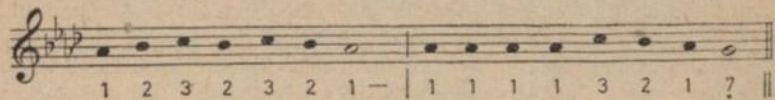
**Communion Song**

LEADER : Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.

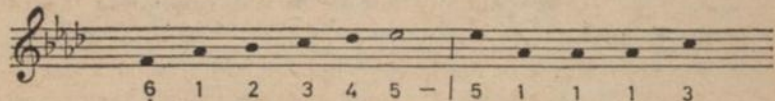
ALL SING : (Hymn Book No. 5)



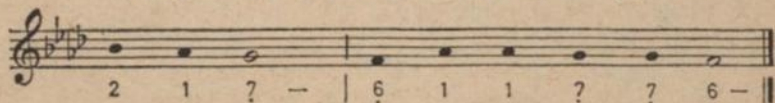
1 A Boy is born in Beth-le-hem, al-le-lu-ia! Your



King has come, Je-ru-sa-lem, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!



Let grate-ful hearts now sing a song of joy and



ho-ly praise to Christ our new-born King!

**Prayer after Communion**

P. Let us pray.

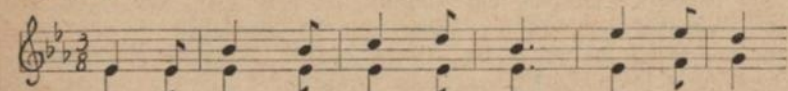
We are refreshed by your heavenly sacrament, O Lord Jesus. Help us always to follow the example of your holy family, that your glorious Virgin Mother and Blessed Joseph may meet us at the hour of our death, and find us worthy to enter with you into your eternal home; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
 ALL : Amen.

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**(Sunday within the Octave of Christmas)**

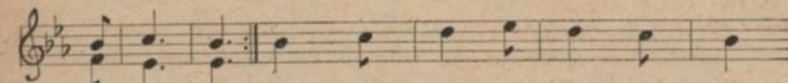
**Entry Song**

LEADER : The Father of the just one greatly rejoices. Let your father and your mother be joyful, and let her who bore you be glad.

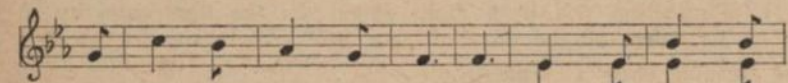
ALL SING :



1. Praise to God in heav-en's heights. Peace on earth
2. Beth-le-hem, be glad and sing with the choir
3. See, the stars are shin-ing bright o'er the Son
4. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace, Is-ra-el's
5. On the men of gen-tle will, peace He pours



1. and bless-ing, for to us a child is born,
2. of ang-els, for to-night the King of kings
3. of glo-ry. Shep-herds hear the heav'n-ly songs
4. own glo-ry, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord,
5. and just-ice. On the path of right-eous-ness,



1. this night of great re-joic-ing. Praise to God in
2. is rest-ing in your man-ger. Beth-lè-hem, be
3. and ha-sten to the sta-ble. See, the stars are
4. Re-deem-er, long a-wait-ed. Hail, the heav'n-born
5. He leads them to the King-dom. On the men of



1. heav-en's heights. Peace on earth and bless-ing.
2. glad and sing with the choir of ang-els.
3. shin-ing bright o'er the Son of glo-ry.
4. Prince of Peace, Is-ra-el's own glo-ry.
5. gen-tle will, peace He pours and just-ice.

**Prayer of the Assembly P.** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sanctified home life with untold virtues by being subject to Mary and Joseph. May they assist us to imitate the example of your holy family, so that we may share with them their eternal happiness; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ALL : Amen. (Sit)

**First Reading (Old Covenant):**

**A reading from the Book of Sirach (3:2-6, 12-14)**

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother. O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you. This is the word of the Lord. ALL : Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 128)**

READER : Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

ALL : Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.\*

READER : Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

ALL : (repeat the refrain\*)

READER : Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! ALL : (repeat refrain\*)

**Second Reading (New Covenant):**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians (3:12-21)**

BRETHREN: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke

your children, lest they become discouraged.— This is the word of the Lord.

ALL : Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia (All stand)**

READER SINGS : (Alleluia, Alleluia) ALL : (repeat)

READER : May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; and the fullness of his message live within you. ALL : (sing alleluia)

**Third Reading:**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (2:41-52)**

ALL : Glory to you Lord.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. — This is the gospel of the Lord.

ALL : Praise be to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

PRIEST : The Holy House of Nazareth is the inspiration of all Christian family life. Obedience and love are here united. Let us ask God, through his Son, Jesus, to strengthen these virtues in the whole family of mankind.

LEADER : That God may grant that all Christian people may know and find the unity for which Christ prayed, we pray to the Lord. (ALL : Hear your people, have mercy, O Lord.)

That God may bless the families of this place, that, following the example of Nazareth, they may show forth the Christian virtues, we pray to the Lord.

That God may grant all nations true peace and understanding, we pray to the Lord.

That God may console all those who mourn, and bring them comfort, we pray to the Lord.

PRIEST : O God, who by the grace of your Holy Spirit have filled the hearts of your faithful with the gifts of charity, grant to your