

Readings at Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family (Year A)

FIRST READING

SIRACH 3.2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement 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 indulgence; 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 128(127). 1-2, 3, 4-5; R. CF. V. 1

**R. Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.**

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be blessed and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!
R.

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3.12-21

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with 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 one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing 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, submit 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. **R.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2.13-15, 19-23

When the Magi had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose, and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel; for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judæa in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and, being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing:**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

*The numbers of this evening's Entrance and Offertory
hymns are displayed on the boards on the pillars*