

humility
gentleness
kindness
love
compassion
patience
forgiving
heart
put

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 29th December 2024

First Sunday After Christmas

*Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise
together on the ABC*



Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that **God Is With You.**



Have you ever asumed you know the way only to realise later that your on the wrong path. Mary and Joseph asumed Jesus was with then on their journey home. A day out, they realised they had left him behind. Eventually they found him in the temple. In frustration they scolded him. Jesus answered *did you not know that I would be in my Fathers house.* What Luke is telling us in this narrative is that Jesus knew exactly who he was and where he should be.



. opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you.

Pray:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Here, and throughout the world,

**We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world. Amen**

Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.

Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings.

A reading from the first book of Samuel 2 18-20 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.



Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in

favour with the Lord and with the people.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 — A.P.B.A. page 378

Praise the Lord praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

Praise him all his angels:

O praise him all his host.

Praise him sun and moon:

praise him all you stars of light.

Praise him you highest heaven:

and you waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

He established them for ever and ever:

he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.

O praise the Lord from the earth:

praise him you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, mist and snow:

and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

Mountains and all hills: fruit trees and all cedars;

Beasts of the wild and all cattle:

creeping things and winged birds;

Kings of the earth and all peoples:

princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens:

old folk and children together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel a people that is near him.

Praise the Lord.



A reading from the letter to the Colossians 3 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,

meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with 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; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with

gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs 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.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2 41-52

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to



look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for 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. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.



The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.

Colossians 3.14-15

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Luke 2:49 "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called

Our life with Jesus is not to expect Him to keep up with us in the journey. Jesus stresses that we should follow him. To follow Him we need to know where He is. It is Jesus who brings us to the Father. That way we are not rushing off on our own tangents. We are focused on who He is, therefore, we are confident in where we are going. Because of this we too come to an assurance of who we are as our Father God sees us. In this we gain purpose for our lives, knowing we are cherished and loved. Our Father God knows exactly who we are and where we should be. In this we know we can put our absolute trust in Him. This is Faith in practice.



prayer-time We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith. We offer our prayers for those in need, those looking for peace and reconciliation.

Father God, help us to remember that the Christmas story did not end in the stable but continued as Jesus grew, unnoticed by the world until his appearance at the temple which was for him his spiritual home on earth. As 2024 draws to a close and a New Year begins and with it the next chapter of our lives, help us to grow in faith and wisdom and to recognise your presence with us in all we do and say.



We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel (Bill *& Margarets daughter), Steve (Fr Dennis and Mary son), Ebony (Peter and Heather's daughter in law) Deryn recovering from surgery, Pat, Jean,

Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne ,Joyce and Ted, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Colin , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Ursula Pridham; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Gordon; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father



Prayer of the Day

God of community,
whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:
may we so respect and love those whose lives
are linked with ours
that we fail not in loyalty to you,
but make choices according to your will; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service spend some time reaching out to others, a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Wish them the blessings of Christmas and let them know of the hope God gives them for the year to come.

Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....' Or What did you think of.....

