

## Holy Family Year A – 29th December 2019

### Introduction

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family.

The Gospel today reminds us of the journey the Holy Family made to Jerusalem that was a yearly event to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

### Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week, and in particular on this Feast of the Holy Family if they have been kind to family members, helpful to parents, brothers, or sisters, as well as being respectful to those out with their families by listening to their teachers etc. For the times when we have not behaved as we should, and especially when we have been disobedient or thoughtless towards our own family we say sorry to God.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”.

We are sorry,  
Truly sorry,  
Heal us Lord, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)  
In Your love,  
Help us to do better,  
Help us to be kinder.  
Forgive us,  
Forgive us.

## **Gloria (sung)**

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia

He is come

Born for us

Jesus, Lord and Saviour (same tune as above)

Sleeping in a manger

Joyful news!

He is come!

## **Gospel**

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 13 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 2:13-15

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

**Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart** (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

**“The Gospel of the Lord”.**

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”.**

Ask everyone to be seated.

### **Lead a Discussion on the Gospel**

What happened in the dream St Joseph had?

(An angel told him to wake up and quickly take Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt and to stay there until he told them it was safe to return).

Why did they have to leave quickly in the middle of the night?

(This was because King Herod had heard about the baby Jesus and wanted to kill the infant King. However, he did not know exactly where to find the baby Jesus so he had sent out his soldiers throughout the land to kill all the first born boy babies).

The angel of God warned St Joseph so that he could protect his family from King Herod. Today is the feast of the Holy Family so let's think about our own families and how we look after each other.

How do we show God's love to each other in our own family?  
(Discuss with the children)

- being obedient to our parents or guardians
- helping with chores
- being kind to our brothers and sisters
- sharing our toys..... etc.

Remember, that we are all God's family and we must treat everyone with God's love.

### **Prayers of the Faithful ( optional/ time dependent)**

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus, Look after all of your family here on earth, especially those who are poor, homeless, hungry, or ill.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus, You are our good shepherd and we are your sheep. Keep us always close to You and never let us be lost or separated from you.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

### **Closing Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank You for our families, our brothers and sisters and those who care for us. We pray today for those who have nobody to care for them.

Amen.

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.

