

## Holy Family Year C – 26th December 2021

### 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  
Sing with joy  
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 C)

Luke 2:41-52

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

**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**

Where was the Holy Family travelling to and why? (To Jerusalem - to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover)

What age was Jesus when they made this journey? (12 years old)

What happened that made Mary and Joseph very worried? (They could not find Jesus as He had stayed behind in Jerusalem)

How long did it take Mary and Joseph to find Jesus? (Three days!)

Can you imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when they found Jesus? (Discuss with the children ..... relieved, happy, etc.)

Ask the children to imagine being lost or if anyone has ever been lost? Ask how they felt when lost and when found?

Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (In the temple, speaking with the teachers and questioning them)

What did Mary say to Jesus? (Mary asked why Jesus stayed in Jerusalem instead of returning home with his family)

What did Jesus say? (Jesus said that they should know he was in His Father’s house. Mary and Joseph did not understand that he meant the temple was His Heavenly Father’s house).

Was Jesus worried about being alone in Jerusalem? (No, He was quite at home in the temple in the care of His Heavenly Father!)

### **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.