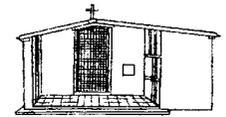


Gospel commentary for the feast of Holy Family

For Christian families the Holy Family reveals that all of our lives are enfolded in the great mystery of Christ. The Gospels only give us glimpses into the life of the Holy Family, yet it is clear that before he began his public life, Christ lived for most of his sort life in the circles of that family in the small village of Nazareth. This life with his family is called the hidden life, yet it was from this secret time that the human thoughts of Jesus emerged. The parables of the kingdom come from his experience as a human being among human beings. What is the kingdom of God like? It is like the life of Jesus, and what he saw of human yearnings for happiness in Nazareth.

The family, if it is treated as an end in itself, cannot be sustained. When it is seen as being for the sake of the kingdom, then it flourishes. This explains the paradox of how the Church praises family life, yet also expects some people to renounce family life for God's kingdom. Renunciation of a good in Christian life is always for the sake of that good. By showing that the family is not the ultimate purpose of human life, but that life is to be lived in faith in the "something more" that God is always offering us, the family grows in strength. Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple. They left the Temple and it was in his family that Jesus "grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom". In short, the family becomes the temple.



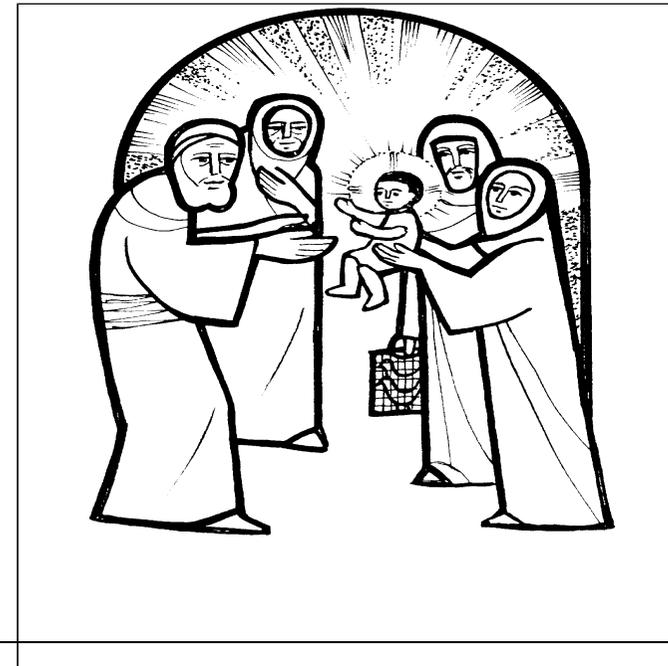
St. John Fisher
Wellington

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St. Richard
of Chichester
Wiveliscombe

Parish Priest: Fr Ikeokwu Nduh MSP. e/mail: iykemary@yahoo.co.uk
Parish administrator: Mrs Veronica Gaywood
Parish office: 01823 662283 57 Mantle Street, Wellington Somerset TA21 8AX
www.our-parish.org e/mail: wellington.stjohnfisher@parish.cliftondiocese.com

Parish Bulletin for Sunday *31st December, 2017*



Parish mission statement: Our mission is to witness, in our daily lives, to the presence of the living Christ in our parish and local community. To this end, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are a people grounded in the sacraments and prayer, in the Word of God, and in the teachings of the Church.

At Wellington unless noted				
Mass this week:				
Holy Family	Sunday	31st	9.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i> For the parish
			11.15am	
Mary Mother of God	Monday	1 st	NO	MASS
Sts Basil & Nazianzen	Tuesday	2 nd	NO	MASS
	Wednesday	3 rd	NO	MASS
	Thursday	4 th	10.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i>
	Friday	5 th	9.15am	
	Saturday	6 th	10.00am	
Epiphany	Sunday	7th	9.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i>
			11.15am	For the parish
Confessions: Usually Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am				
Readers / Communion ministers:				
Sun 31 st 9am:				
11.15am: Alma Hamilton, Liz Stafford/Jimmy Jose				
Sun 7 th 9am: Anna Bingham, Mary Hutchings/Mary Crabtree, Adrian Kellett				
11.15am: Jim Hawkins, Steve Tapsfield/Alma Hamilton				
Hymns for 11.15am Mass				
Ent: ; Kyrie said; Gloria:; Gifts: Holy Holy:47; Mem acc:47;				
Amen47 ; Agnus Dei:29; Comm:., Recess:				
Psalm response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord				
and walk in his ways!				
Tea/Coffee after 11.15am. Mass: Sun 31 st : Jackie & Steve				
Sun 7 th : help needed				
Collection: Cash: £786.44 (includes Christmas Day) + direct debits c.£350				

Please pray for SICK: Mary Wallace, Kathleen O'Connor, Joy Bellekom, & sick in our hospitals & nursing homes around the parish.

General.

Parish Safeguarding. Meeting at St John Fisher for those who still need to complete/return their safeguarding forms; Saturday 6th January at 10.30am.

Red box holders please collect your 2018 Missio calendars from the porch asap, There are also spare copies if anybody else would like one. Thank you.

Flowers at St John Fisher. Please sign the list in the porch if you would like to volunteer to arrange flowers. There are now so few people who are willing

to do this that there will be NO FLOWERS in future unless there are several more volunteers.

Diocesan directory price £5, and diocesan liturgical diary price £6 available at the back of the church. Please place money in the box on the table.

Today.

Holy Family 2017. Contemplate the beauty and dignity of family life using the prayer cards which are available, and produced as part of the preparations for the World Meeting of Families in 2018. The prayer on the back of the card can be used as a blessing on families for the new year ahead.

December 200 club draw after 11.15am Mass

Coming Events

Annual Parish social: 28th January at Matthew Upham's house. Posters are in both churches; please indicate what you would be able to bring.

YEAR OF MISSION

Holy Family

We can imagine eyes opened wide and hearts beginning to race at the sight of the simple family of Nazareth coming into the Temple. Simeon recognises God's promise of salvation before him and within his grasp. Anna sees freedom and deliverance in the flesh. They encounter something extraordinary in the ordinariness of a baby and a family in their midst. This *Year of Mission* calls us to see God in our midst precisely in the ordinary and the everyday, to encounter God in the midst of our own families and, like Anna, to speak of that presence to the world around us...and speak God's love through the lives we lead. Christ is the light to enlighten all men and women. May our mission this week be one to enlighten others with the loving presence of Christ shining through who we are.