

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

# Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

ANN M. GARRIDO

he most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his

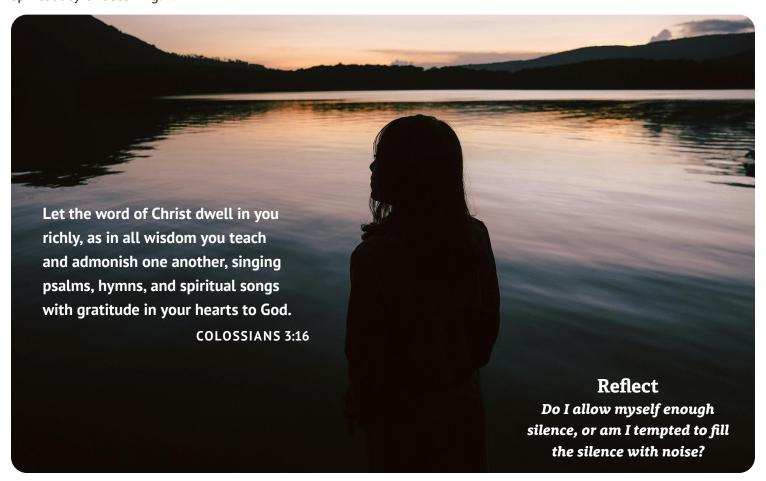
family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important,



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR ANN M. GARRIDO

even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening?





### St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928. It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda. Telephone: (441) 234-2321

Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

### **PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES** (441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



### **Mass Schedule** Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**Baptism** By appointment: one month in

advance

Weddinas By date: one year in advance (approx.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Filipino Mass – Saturday Kids & Youth Ministry

January

Children's Mass Pastoral & Finance Council

Coffee Social

Second Collection

Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.

11th January 2026 February

12th January 2026

**February** Second weekend of the Month

### **DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA** Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

### **Parish Team Leaders**

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson

**Walette Cross** Stewardship Representative

Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader

Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul

Society Representative Natalia Walker & Justin

**Tavares** Religious Education -Kids & Youth Ministry

Mrs. Jane Farge -Music Ministry

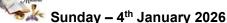


**Entrance:** Sing of Mary #472 Offertory: Away in a Manger #324 **Communion: O Little Town of Bethlehem** #316 Recessional: God of Eve & God of Mary #325

**Leader of Song: Aiden Stones** 



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



**Proclaimer of God's Word Opening/Closing of the Church Eucharistic Minister Collection Counters Altar Server** Music

Stefano Ausenda **Annette Barclay Elizabeth Card Joanne Smith Liam Stones** Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially llene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Mavburv.

### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Sunday, 28th December New Year's Day

For the people of St. Joseph's **Lucy & John Moffat** 

# **BIRTHDAYS**

Maria Silviera

31st December

May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you with many more special days

### ST. JOSEPH'S - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, 1st January – Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass: 9:30 a.m.

### ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Sunday 21st December - 9:00 a.m.		430.00
Flowers		200.00
Bingo	48	100.00
Christmas Eve Family Mass	59	490.00
Christmas Day	19	196.00
TOTAL:		\$1416.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish - Account Number: 20006060757062100 -Bank NT Butterfield

We extend our congratulations to Fr. Jacob who will celebrate his 37th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination and Ministry on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026.

Fr. Jacob we hope,

as you mark another year of priesthood, you may continue to find renewed energy and enthusiasm in your sacred duties, and that God, our loving and heavenly Father will continue to bless you in your

Please know that your service to this little parish is very much appreciated.

Next Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, therefore, after Mass, please join us for coffee and King Cake in the Parish Centre.

### **PARISH MESSAGE**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Another year ends as we bid farewell to 2025 and welcome 2026. Reflecting on the past year, it is a time to express gratitude to God for the blessings He bestowed upon us and to seek His continued blessings in the year to come. The transition from one year to another, marked by a change in the calendar, prompts us to contemplate: what truly describes the freshness of a new year?

Preparing for this new year involves an internal cleansing of our minds, attitudes, and behaviours. Getting rid of any unwanted baggage from the previous year that may be detrimental to our personal happiness and peace, is crucial. Just as we cleanse ourselves before putting on new clothes, we must rid ourselves of negativity and undesirable behaviour. So, as we enter 2026, we must prepare ourselves to shed what is old and let go of what is no longer of any use to us.

Communicating our appreciation to God is vital to this process. Recognizing His continued blessings. especially the gift of life and the New Year, sets the tone for our readiness to accept positive change. Gratitude becomes a daily practice, helping us traverse each day with the hope that new blessings of joy and happiness will reveal themselves.

We can make the New Year a wonderful experience by spending time with God in prayer. This companionship can guide us in being a blessing to others through our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Drawing inspiration from the feast of Mary, Mother of God, on the 1st of January, let us imitate her humility in accepting God's will and carrying it through life's journey. Like Mary, may we find strength and joy in doing the will of God, even in the face of adversity, trusting that, in the end, we too will receive the glory.

As we start out on the journey of 2026, let us seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, asking her to teach us how to live each day with compassion, humility, and devotion to God. May this New Year not only bring us health, happiness, and prosperity, but a renewed and deeper devotion to our Catholic faith.

May God, our loving Father, bless you all abundantly.

We now take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Feast of the Holy Family and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ, Fr. Jacob Gomes, Pastor Liz Card, Chairperson, Pastoral Council

### **BISHOP's CORNER**

Dear Fellow-Catholics.

The Vatican's Christmas tree and Nativity Scene were lit up and officially inaugurated in St. Peter's Square on Monday, 15th of December by Sister Raffaella Petrini, President of the Governatorate of the Vatican City State. Sister Raffaella said, "Today, in this square that embraces the world, the Nativity scene and the Christmas tree are not merely Christmas decorations, but signs of communion, calls to peace and to the care of creation, and invitations to universal fraternity, which St. Francis placed above all else and which became the hallmark of his charism." Religious and civil representatives from the dioceses that donated the elements were present and the Vatican Gendarmerie's band, as well as different choirs and bands from the dioceses, performed traditional Christmas songs and dances.

Link to the video: https://tinyurl.com/yc7m764m

The Diocese of Nocera Inferiore-Sarno, in southern Italy, developed the Nativity Scene. It is set on 56 feet by 39 feet rectangle platform, with a 25 feet height. It features many traditional architectural and cultural elements from the Agro Nocerino-Sarnese area, as well as nods to certain saints and religious figures important to the region. It also includes symbols that highlight the food and wine heritage of the area. The paving shows ancient Roman roads in stone slabs, and life-size shepherds and animal figures have been anchored to it.

The Christmas tree came from the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone, in northern Italy. It is a European spruce and measures 82 feet and weighs over 17,000 pounds. In addition to the main tree, 40 other smaller trees will also be brought to the Vatican and will be used to decorate offices, public places, and buildings there.

At the end of the Christmas period, essential oils will be extracted from the branches of the tree, while the rest of the wood will be recycled by an association, in keeping with the principle of respect for creation.

Thank you for our journeying together in 2025! Have a healthy, happy, and heart-warming 2026!

Bishop Wes

# Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

### **WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

### Monday

December 29 Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

### **Tuesday**

December 30 Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

### Wednesday

December 31 Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18

### **Thursday**

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Friday** January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28

### Saturday

January 3 Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34

### Sunday

January 4 The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

