Holy Family Year C December 26th

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa – Haere mai. Good morning and a warm welcome to you, on this day, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Family is a pinnacle of creation. Children spend years soaking up everything that is offered in their family. In great wisdom, God chose to place Jesus in the heart of a human family. We can do little but stand in awe at the wonder of this. I warmly welcome you to ………………………… (Parish name). Let us become silent for a moment, as we prepare to meet Jesus in this liturgy **(20 seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome! Let’s stand and sing together.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

The reader reads each petition. In the **silence**, the people pray in their own hearts for that petition. It is important to give a time of silence, so each person can form their prayer.

**For the Church** – that the call of the Gospel will make each of us love-bearers, taking the love of God firstly to those we share a home with, those we live with.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our national and community leaders –** that in all decisions, impact on families will be considered and the needs of children and families given priority.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For every family –** that they be warm loving and caring, providing well for children as they grow to adulthood.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people living in violent or abusive situations** – that that violence and abuse end, that peace will pitch its tent in their midst and that pathways to healing will open.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For families unable to be together at this time** - that the strain of separation may be eased by knowing the loving bonds which holds a family united do not depend on proximity and are not broken by distance.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For those who are very ill or dying –** that they will be blessed by the patience, care and gentleness of loving family.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For those who grieve the loss of loved ones –** that they might be at peace with their sorrow, walk with it, be transformed by it, and that the light of peace shine with new intensity on the heart that has carried sorrow.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our local community of**………………….. That\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add a prayer for your local community.

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(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**Concluding Prayer:**

O God, you cradle us at the beginning of life and embrace us at journey’s end. You are with us always. You entrusted your son to the care of Mary and Joseph did not spare them the pains that touch the life of every family. Teach us to be open to your word and rely on you in times of trial. May we live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in the love of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit…**Amen.**