

# Year C - Feast of the Holy Family

## Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

*Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.*



An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him." That night Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt." After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel.

The people who wanted to kill him are now dead." Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."



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We are a family of faith



### Introduction

- Ask the children about their families, who is in their family, who lives in their house, where do the rest of their family live?
- Point out that our families all look very different and the Holy Family looked different, Joseph was a 'foster' father to Jesus.

### Message

- Families are made up of lots of different people, people we love. Some families all live together and some live in different houses.
- But we all belong to a great big family, the family of the Catholic Church - there's about a billion of us!
- Jesus, invites us into his family of faith, to be in a relationship with him and with each other.
- In this great big family of faith, there are those who are nearby like all of us together, but there are more all across the world.
- Some of them live in safe and happy places and others live in poverty or they live in dangerous places where they have to flee from their homes like Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to flee to Egypt.
- In a family, we love each other and we care for each other, in this family of faith, we can love and care for these people too by remembering them in our hearts when we pray.
- And if we are lucky enough to meet some of them, in our schools and in our communities we can be a friend to them.

### Discussion

- Who are the people in our families at home?
- How do you feel about being a part of a huge family of faith?
- How are ways we can show love to those people like the Holy Family who have had to flee from their homes to be safe?

