Sermon at a baptism

**Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life** (Proverbs 22.6)

The usual Nativity stories end in the wrong place – the nativity scene with shepherds and magi. Wrong because inaccurate, *and* because it is not the end. Eg Matthew’s has stories about Herod and fleeing to Egypt. Today we look at Luke’s account ending.

How did Mary and Joseph effect the TEXT?

[1] **By following what God required** (v39)

After 7 days – circumcision; after another 33 days – ceremony for purification (double, if a girl!).

Bethlehem to Jerusalem was c6 miles – not easy shortly after giving birth.  
**“Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord.”** (Lk 2.23)

This was done to satisfy the requirements of the Law; Mary and Joseph were good Jews.

Would not expect Christians to do the same today – we have our own customs – eg baptism.

Today when most do not believe even that does not occur, but most want to do well for babies. TEXT.

[2] **By returning home** (v39)

Whether via Egypt (Matthew) or more directly (Luke) the family went home to Nazareth.

I sometimes wonder if my nomadic lifestyle has been unhelpful to my family. But…

Home is where the heart is, it is where you belong. It is a foundation for life.

Children are not the same as their parents, but strongly influenced by their attitudes, habits and example.

The most confident children have the strongest foundation – not just a physical home, but a sense of values, faith, from which they can explore themselves and the world around them.

I see this in Jesus, even with his nomadic lifestyle – he had a self-assurance, a home within. TEXT.

[3] **By loving their son** (v40)

When we see how Jesus turned out it is a reflection of Mary and Joseph.

How do we show love? Ask congregation for examples including ‘not always giving in’!

What will Cyraul do when older – any indications already?

How will Cyraul turn out? With love from Jeremy & Carla, who could ask for more? TEXT.