

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

First Sunday of Advent Year C

29 November 2015

#1.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

Pastor Gerard McCormick msc

Email: gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au

Associate Pastor Paul Browne msc

Email: paul@stjohnkippax.org.au

Parish Manager/Pastoral Associate

Marian England

Email: marian@stjohnkippax.org.au

Parish Secretary Sharon Greaves

Email: kippax@cg.org.au

Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT

Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm Mon-Fri

Telephone: 6254 3236

Fax: 6254 4819

Web www.stjohnkippax.org.au

MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am

LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sun 11:30 am

Reconciliation: Sat 11:00 – 11:30 am or by
appointment with the priests

PRAYER

Charismatic Prayer: Thursday 7:30pm

Maida: 0423 658 326 Rosary 7:00pm

Meditation [Library] Friday 7.30-8.15 pm

Morning Prayer: Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am

Stations of the Cross First Fri Monthly 5:30pm

From the Pastor's Desk.....

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. We also begin a new cycle of readings: Year C. And so we are reminded of the cyclical nature of our lives: the unfolding of the seasons only to be repeated at the beginning of another year.

The cycles of nature, night and day, the phases of the moon, the yearly cycle of seasons give shape and meaning to our lives. But of course we are not caught up in endless repetitions. We are also aware of the lineal nature of time. We are constantly moving forward. We have an end point, a goal, a destiny.

Advent is not only about preparing to celebrate the annual celebration of Christ's birth but also about our future in Christ. As we are reminded in the Church documents: *Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar # 39)*

And so, as Christmas comes around again for another year Advent invites us to ponder our future, a future pregnant with the promise of joy and fulfilment in Christ. The protestant theologian Paul Tillich sums this up beautifully: *Our time is a time of waiting; waiting is its special destiny. And every time is a time of waiting, waiting for the breaking in of eternity. All time runs forward. All time, both history, and in personal life, is expectation. Time itself is waiting, waiting, not for another time, but for that which is eternal.*

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

HOPE

Hope is a vision of life that guides itself by God's promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time. Hope is believing in the promise of God and believing that God has the power to fulfil that promise.

What is that promise? God has promised that history (our private histories, our communal history, and cosmic history) will one day come together in an ecstatic oneness, a heaven, a paradise, a community of life around Christ and in God within which there will be no tears and no death. This will not be a community of life focused on "food and drink" but one that takes its very breath from love, justice, peace, friendship, affection, and shared delight in a common spirit, the Holy Spirit.

And what power will bring this about? The power that God showed in the resurrection of Jesus, the power to bring a dead body back to life, to redeem what's been lost, to write straight with crooked lines, and to bring people together, despite and beyond hatred, sin, selfishness, mistakes, tragedy, resistance, death, and all that will ever be seen on the nightly news.

To live in hope is to live in the face of that promise and that power and, in that light, to fundamentally shape both our memories and our future. As regards memory, to hope is to look back on our lives and see no need to count the losses, underline the hurts, play the victim, or stew in bitterness because all our wounds and losses can be redeemed as part of a greater promise.

An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

Advent is a time for examination in such areas. It is also a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires and allowing them to surface. They can ride up, so to speak, on the scripture texts that the Church puts before us at this time.

God's only wish in our regard is to communicate to us the life and love for which we long. Each Advent should expand both our longing and our capacity to receive the gift of God.

Resources used: *Gestating Hope into Realty*, by Ronald Rolheiser
OMI & Reflections at LiturgyHelp by Dianne Bergant CSS & Brendan Byrne SJ

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology and Climate

On Universal Communion: Here I would reiterate that "God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement".

PARISH NOTICES



The Parish Office has a new email address. Please update your email contacts: kippax@cq.org.au


Refugee Resettlement Committee

next meeting: 1st December at 7:00pm in the parish centre. All are welcome to attend.

Social Justice Committee will meet in the parish library on Sunday 6th December at 11:00am. All welcome to attend.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

"I know why the caged bird sings" 

By Maya Angelou

Sunday 20 December 3:00 pm Parish Library.

St John the Apostle Parish Bookshop:

Columban Calendars \$9.00

Majellan Christmas Cards \$6.00 pk 10

"Beloved" - Daily Advent Program

A pocket-size book that contains short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord primarily for personal use, but also appropriate for group. Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong.

Available in the bookshop for \$5.00

SAVE THE DATE



Second Rite of the Sacrament of Penance

Page: Thursday 10 December 7:00pm

Evatt: Friday 11 December 7:00pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
29 1st Sun of Advent I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	30 St. Andrew I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	1 I will secretly do a kind act for someone.

MAKE CHURCH MATTER

The movement of the kingdom of God is the movement of love. Ultimately we're helping to restore the reign of love. And we won't see it - we'll miss it – unless we're serving one another.

Only if I serve my neighbour can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much God loves me. The saints – consider the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta - constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord, and conversely this encounter acquired its realism and depth in their service to others. Love of God and love of neighbour are thus inseparable.

Christian service is about more than proper care of another's needs. It isn't necessarily doing anything for those in need. It is about recognising the image of God in others through our service. It is about allowing our service to open our eyes to God himself and fall more deeply in love with God. Mission work is the practice or program of love by the Church as a community of love.

Taken from: Rebuilt, by Fr. Michael White & Tom Corcoran.

Have you seen the tree in the foyer?

It is a Chrismon tree.

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them.

They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth.

The word Chrismon is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol).

Chrismons are traditionally coloured white and gold. White symbolises that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolises His majesty and glory.



St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

There will be a leaving collection after each of the Masses next weekend 5/6 December.



Parishioners are again invited to make a contribution to the Christmas hampers by taking a gift card or grocery card home (from the giving tree and on the table located in the church foyer) and returning the items in the next week or so.



Singers and musicians are invited to join our Christmas Choirs

Children's Christmas Eve 6:00pm Mass

Practice in the church

Thursdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Christmas Eve 9:00pm Mass

Practice in the church

Thursdays 7:30pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Practice in the Church

Wednesdays at 8:00pm

Contact the parish office on 6254 3236 for more information.

POSITION VACANT –

Secretary, St Matthew's Parish, Page.

Part-time position, 18 hours per week.

All expressions of interest and for duty statement, contact the parish office 6254 1827 or email: stmattsp@bigpond.net.au

Applications close 31 December 2015

The position requires a person who is committed to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church, can work collaboratively with the parish team.

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED to help prepare Missionaries of God's Love novices for IELTS test during 2016. Interested? Need more info?, contact Fr Ken Barker on Tel: 62810132 or frkenmgl@gmail.com.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Affirm somebody for a quality which tends to be taken for granted.	3 I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	4 Forgive somebody who has offended you.	5 I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.

**St John the Apostle
Primary School
fete
Sat 19th March
2016.**

ROSTERS

6 December Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Helen Kennedy, Eric French, Debbie Milne, Joe & Maria Catanzariti.
8:30 am	Carmel Screen, Sigrid Kropp, Victoria Scarano, Lyn Duck, Agnes Pham.
10:00am	Robert Greig, Jenny Howarth, Robin Williams, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos.
6:00 pm	Margaret Curry, Anthony Dunnicliff-Hagan, Maria Devine, James & Toni Cox.

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Therese Kercher, Marie Murphy.
8:30 am	John O'Heir, Violet Duve.
10:00am	Robin Williams, Ann Reynolds.
6:00 pm	Mary & Robert Sharf.

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Joe Catanzariti.
8:30 am	Ann Clementine, Robert Breen.
10:00am	Libby Kain, Bryan Cowman.
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin.

Other Rosters

- 30 Nov **Altar Society** Maresa Laird
30 Nov **Church Cleaning:** VACANT
12 Dec **Presbytery Cleaning:** Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
6 Dec **Counting Roster:** Pat Sheppard, Ted and Clare Kell
5 Dec **Grounds:** Barry Dwyer, Peter Onstenk, John Dudley

School of Religion: – 9.15 am-10.00 am
Sundays Parish Centre (School Term Only)
For children not attending a Catholic School



Hearing Loop: - We have a hearing loop in the body of the church. To access it turn your hearing aid to the T-Switch setting.

LIBRARY NEWS: "The 5 love languages: the secret to love that lasts", "The Father of the family: a Christian perspective" and , "Mothering matters: the source of love and how our culture harms infants, women and society" are three new titles on display this week.

On A Lighter Note:

Every time I pass a church I always pay a visit. Then when I'm carried in feet first God won't say "Who is it?"

Let us pray for those who are sick.
We remember them in our Masses.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: *Darren O'Brien, Leslie Lincoln, Conelly Andrae, Vin Stewart, Nancy Selvatino, John Soetens, John Martin, Martina Forjanic, Brodie McMahon, Ryan Jasczyk, Dinah Muench, Leo Hill msc, Maria Gillard, Margaret Woodland, Maria Tabisz, Kevin Hiscock, Winifred Lilley*

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL [Lk 21:25-28. 34-36](#)

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy.

In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol.

Resources used: Reflections by Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.