

## St John the Apostle Parish

*A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

31 January 2016

# 10.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

### Parish Administration:

**Pastor** Gerard McCormick msc

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**Associate Pastor** Paul Browne msc

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Marian England

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**Parish Secretary** Sharon Greaves

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### Parish Office:

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Web [www.stjohnkippax.org.au](http://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: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.....

In last week's gospel we had Luke's account of the beginning of Jesus' ministry where he enters the synagogue of his home town of Nazareth and reads from the prophet Isaiah. Today we continue with that episode.

After Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah he announces "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." At first, the listener's respond favourably to Jesus. But then the mood suddenly changes, the air turns sour, and their hostility is of such intensity that they try to kill him.

The key to understanding their hostile reaction is in the word 'prophet'. The theme of the prophet runs thick in this passage: Jesus quotes from the *prophet* Isaiah, he refers to *prophets* being rejected in their home town, and he refers to the *prophets* Elijah and Elisha. But above all, Jesus himself is the *prophetic* Messiah.

Like the prophets of old who provoked the ire of the listeners by challenging their complacency and their exploitation and lack of compassion for the poor, so Jesus upsets his listeners by challenging their narrow mindedness and parochialism.

In this particular context, Jesus has used the examples of Elijah and Elisha to point out that God's mercy and healing was bestowed upon foreigners in preference to the Jewish people. His audience doesn't want to hear this and they obviously miss the point. God's salvation is for all people. They want to hang on to their narrow understanding of God: a provincial God whose love is limited to his own people. (One thinks of many wars that have been waged where each side believes that God is on their side).

Jesus' prophetic action harks back to an earlier passage in Luke's gospel – the scene where the infant Jesus is presented in the Temple and the prophet Simeon (another prophet) who witnesses this event exclaims, "my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

There is a hymn titled "There is a wideness in God's mercy". It is a beautiful image of the boundless love of God for all people.

***Peace & blessings,  
Gerard***

## Weekly Reflection:

### Christian Love

Heroic stuff is at the heart of today's readings. Even though the crowd hated what they heard, Jesus preached boldly to his own people. Jeremiah was similarly courageous in his teaching, in the face of enormous persecution from his people. And Paul knows the only reason one can endure hardships and rejection and even be seen as stupid in the eyes of the world is for the sake of love.

St Paul teaches today that love is not primarily about warm fuzzy feelings and violins. Paul knew that Christian love is an intensely practical business. There is no point in any of us saying we love anyone unless our actions follow the profession we make.

Christian love always and everywhere involves sacrifice. We can love sacrificially because other people have loved us in the same way. When anyone has been gentle, kind and patient with us, when they did not insist on their own way, were not irritable, resentful or enjoy our downfall, we were on the receiving end of love. They showed us how to do it.

We can take this enormous gamble to love like this only when others have loved us enough to tell us the truth about ourselves and we in turn have spoken the truth to them. That's love.

And we can plunge into the unknown, even to the brink of death, because along with others we have held on to hope in the face of difficult times. That's sacrificial love and that is what Christian love is all about.

Jesus does not promise us in the Gospel that any of this is going to be easy, just necessary if we are going to live life to the full. And we also have legions of companions who have been down this road before us.

We can say with certainty that God calls us to a new way of living. We may chafe under the suffering that it could cause us, but we will not be left alone in our distress. As God was with Jeremiah so we can depend upon God to be with us in our need. We must remember that, however we do react, our response must be born out of love.

Resources used: Homilies at LiturgyHelp by Richard Leonard SJ & Dianne Bergant CSS

## Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

**Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology & Climate On The Gaze of Jesus:** In talking with his disciples, Jesus would invite them to recognise the paternal relationship God has with all his creatures. With moving tenderness he would remind them that each one of them is important in God's eyes.

### LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS - *Mercy*

If you would like to join a Lenten prayer group please add your name and contact details along with your preferred meeting date & time on the sheets provided in the foyer. If enough people put the same time & date we will form a group for that time slot. A group will meet on Wednesday mornings in the parish Library.

Cost: \$8:00

Contact: Sabina Van Rooy 0400 269 951.

## 2015 Appeals

Below is a list of donations made by St John the Apostle parishioners during 2015. In addition to these appeals parishioners supported the St Vinnies Christmas Giving Tree and hampers.

MSC Missions	\$ 250.00
St Vincent De Paul Appeals	\$ 6,831.85
Refugee Resettlement Appeal	\$ 1,446.15
NET Ministries	\$ 1,851.20
Good Friday Collections	\$ 1,150.95
Project Compassion	\$ 6,315.71
Mission Sunday	\$ 2,743.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,454.66</b>
Every year the parish tithes to our St Vincent de Paul Conference	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,454.66</b>

Thank you for your generosity.

## THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - 9:30am Mass

### Blessing of Candles

You are invited to bring your prayer candle to this mass. The "blessing of candles ceremony" will take place during the mass. Your candle can be placed on the table provided in front of the altar before mass. You will then collect your blessed candle at the conclusion of mass.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** meets 7 February at 11:10am after 10:00am mass in the Library. New members needed. All Welcome

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# Jubilee of Mercy

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## Corporal Works of Mercy

Listed below is the 5th in the series of practical suggestions for living the Corporal works of Mercy in everyday life.

The 7 Corporal Works of Mercy

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- clothe the naked
- shelter the homeless
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead

### VISIT THE SICK

*Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.*

- ✚ Give blood
- ✚ Spend time volunteering at a nursing home
- ✚ Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbour.
- ✚ Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.

Resource used: The Corporal Works of Mercy at USCCB.

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## 2016 – DATES FOR YOU CALENDAR

1 <sup>st</sup> Feb :	School Returns
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb:	The Presentation of the Lord Mass at 9:30am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	RCIA
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.30am Opening School Mass
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb:	Ash Wednesday
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb:	Second Formation Evening for the Sacrament of Penance
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Feb:	Presentation Masses for the Sacrament of Penance
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	RCIA

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## SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

**“A Spool of Blue Thread”**

By Anne Tyler

**Sunday 21 February**

**3:00 pm Parish Library.**



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**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE** meets on Tuesday 2 February at 7:30pm in the Library. New members needed. All Welcome

## PARISH EMAIL

The parish office currently does not have access to the internet. The line was damaged in the thunder storm on Monday 25 January. We are unable to receive or send emails. Telstra has advised that the line might not be repaired until 4 February.

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## St Vincent de Paul

### DOORKNOCK 2016

#### PLEASE HELP, THE POOR NEED YOU

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society are very grateful for the generous response from parishioners so far, which has enabled us to cover 81 of the 161 areas in which we need to doorknock. The demands on the Society are expected to increase in 2016 and so it is important that we obtain 80 NEW volunteers, if we don't, that means 4000 houses will be missed. If you can spare a couple of hours and are willing to help the needy and marginalised in our community, come and see one of the society members at the tables in the foyer.

Kits can be picked up after each mass this weekend. Detailed instructions are included in each kit.

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## National Day of Prayer & Fasting –

*Healing the Wounds of Disunity –  
Celebrating Our Unity in Christ*

When: Sunday 7 February.

Time: 2.00 – 3.00pm

Place: Great Hall Parliament House.

Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse at this Ecumenical Gathering. The purpose is to see a national revival and transformation that will affect every church and every facet of Australian society for the greater good of all. For more information go to [www.40daysofprayer.com.au](http://www.40daysofprayer.com.au)

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## LIBRARY NEWS:

“Homecoming: reclaiming and championing your inner child” and “Simplicity: the freedom of letting go” are two books on display this week.

# ROSTERS

## 7 Feb Ministers of Communion

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

## Reading Roster

6:00pm	Therese Kercher, Judy Netting
8:30 am	John O'Heir, Violet Duve
10:00am	Ann Reynolds, VACANT
6:00 pm	Mary and Robert Sharf

## Hospitality Roster

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

## Other Rosters

- 1 Feb **Altar Society** Pauline O'Gorman
- 1 Feb **Church Cleaning:** Debbie Milne, John O'Heir, Pat Keenan, Peter Hofman
- 6 Feb **Presbytery Cleaning:** Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
- 7 Feb **Counting Roster:** Pat Sheppard, Ted & Clare Kell
- 6 Feb **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.

**On A Lighter Note:** After sending our son away to university, he would often [too often] call up asking for money. One time when he called my husband answered, "sure we will send you money" he said, "and I also noticed that you left your Physics book here, should we send that also?" "Uh, oh yeah, OK," he responded. I asked my husband afterward how much he sent up "\$1,100" he said. When I gave him a surprised look, he explained, "Don't worry, I taped a \$100 cheque on the cover, and the other \$1000 cheque inside the cover!"

## Recently Deceased:

**Anniversary:** Janelle Sykes, Desmond Jones, Rupert Waterford, Declan Morris, Margaret Hill, Alice Tonna, Alexander Powell, Robert Thomas, Doreen Kennedy, Salvatore Nasca, Julian Oakley, Annie McCreath, Clements Cox, Bruce Walker, Carmelita Godfrey, Maria Carrusca, Victoria Wilkinson, Kenneth Vella, Faye Menegazzo, Stella Bell, Margaret Ephgrave, Margaret Davis, Elias Kiki, Roberto Millucci.

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

I will sing of your salvation.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Luke 4:21-30**

The Nazareth event, described in last week's and this week's gospels, provides a 'snapshot' or a summary of the whole of Luke's gospel. This week's gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus' declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus' teaching. The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that 'no prophet is ever accepted in his own country'.

Jesus is clearly positioned as the one who fulfills the Messianic expectation of scripture. His message of release and acceptance of the poor, afflicted and oppressed is put right up front and the hope of salvation is offered to all people – Jews as well as gentiles.

This is one of many passages that feature gentile people receiving God's acceptance and favour. It's a clear message that the salvation promised by Jesus is available to all who seek it.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.

✠ Let us pray for those who are sick.

We remember them in our Masses. 🙏