

# COMPACT

## St John the Apostle Parish

*A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Year C**

**6 March 2016**

**#15.16**

**“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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**Parish Manager/Pastoral Associate**

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**Parish Secretary Sharon Greaves**

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### Parish Office:

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### 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 today's gospel we hear about a feast. In the parable there are two sons who both, in their own way, hurt their father: the first, by his self-centred behaviour, the other, by refusing to celebrate his brother's return. But in spite of this the father shows nothing but love and solicitude. He invites them both to a feast. It is a feast of reconciliation. The Eucharistic, among other things, is also a feast of reconciliation. For in the Mass we are called to be reconciled to one another and to God in this banquet that expresses our unity.

After the Eucharistic Prayer the assembly stands to pray the Lord's Prayer which is followed by the Sign of Peace. These two actions help prepare us for Communion by reminding us of the intrinsic connection between Eucharist and Reconciliation. In the Lord's Prayer the fourth petition, "give us this day our daily bread" relates to the Eucharist in which we are about to partake. The fifth petition, "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us", is a reminder that of our need to be reconciled with God and one another in order that our communion be holy.

We pray to "Our Father", not "My Father..." conscious that we belong both to God and God's family. The Sign of Peace naturally follows the Lord's Prayer, reinforcing our oneness in Christ. Thus we are prepared to receive communion in its widest, deepest and truest meaning: communion with Christ and one another.

The gospel story has both a happy and a sad ending. While the younger son *is* reconciled to his father, the younger son remains embittered and estranged. This parable is a challenge for us as followers of Jesus to be ambassadors of God's reconciliation through our own practice of reaching out in healing love. May our celebration of the Eucharistic be for us a source of peace and reconciliation.

***Peace & blessings,  
Gerard***

## Understanding God's Grace

In a masterful book on grace, Piet Fransen suggests that we can test how well we understand grace by gauging our reaction to this story:

Imagine a man who during his whole life is entirely careless about God and morality. He's selfish, ignores the commandments, ignores all things religious, and is basically consumed with pursuing his own pleasure – wine, sex, and song. Then, just hours before his death, he repents of his irresponsibility, makes a sincere confession, receives the sacraments of the church, and dies inside that conversion.

What's our spontaneous reaction to that story? Isn't it wonderful that he received the grace of conversion before he died? Or, more likely: The lucky beggar! He got away with it! He got to have all that pleasure and still gets to go to heaven!

If we felt the latter emotion, even for a moment, we have never deeply understood the concept of grace. Rather, like the older brother of the prodigal son, we are still seeing life away from God's house as fuller than life inside God's house, are still doing the right things mostly out of bitter duty, and are secretly envying the amoral. But, if this is true, we must be gentle with ourselves. This is an occupational hazard for good, faithful persons.

If we look back on our lives and are truly honest, we have to admit that of all the invitations that God has sent us, we've probably accepted and acted on only a fraction of them. There have been countless times we've turned away from an invitation.

Like the older brother, our problem is ultimately not the excessive love that is seemingly shown someone else. Our problem is that we have never fully heard or understood God's words: "My child, you have always been with me and all I have is yours, but we, you and I, should be happy and dance because your younger brother who was dead has come back to life!"

Resources used: *Embittered Moralizing - An Occupational Hazard for Good, Faithful Persons*, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI

## SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

*St Vincent's Aranda:*

*Wednesday 9 March - 7:30pm*

*St Thomas Charnwood*

*Wednesday 17 March - 7:30pm*



## Sacrament of Penance:

*We pray for the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance. The children will receive the Sacrament on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. May they continue to grow in faith and recognise God's forgiveness and love.*

## HOLY WEEK

**Holy Thursday:** 24 March

**No 9.30am Mass**

Mass of the Last Supper 7:00 pm

**Please bring bells to ring during the Gloria**

**Prayers at the Altar of Repose:**

Concluding with night prayer 10:00 pm

**Good Friday:** 25 March

Stations of the Cross – 10:00am

**The Lord's Passion:** 3:00pm

**Holy Saturday:** 26 March

**No confession on Saturday morning**

Easter Vigil – 7:30pm

**Please bring bells to ring during the Gloria**

**Easter Sunday:** 27 March

8:30am, 10:00am

Mass of the Resurrection

**No 6:00pm Mass Sunday night**

## Help needed for St Vinnies Veggie Run

We now have **three** vacancies for the St Vinnies Veggie Run! What's involved? Sunday evening at Belconnen Markets for about one hour from 5:30, once every 4 or 5 weeks. Collect surplus fruit, veggies and bread, pack boxes and then deliver them to 4 families in our local area. Work in a team with one other volunteer. **Please** contact Michael Blyth if you can help – 0419818410.

## 2016 – DATES FOR YOU CALENDAR

11<sup>th</sup> Mar

Stations of the Cross 5:30pm

14<sup>th</sup> Mar

**Parish Office Closed:** Canberra Day

17<sup>th</sup> Mar

English Conversations 10:00am



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# JUBILEE OF MERCY

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## THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- ✦ Counselling the Doubtful
- ✦ Instructing the Ignorant
- ✦ Admonishing the Sinner
- ✦ Comforting the Sorrowful
- ✦ Forgiving Injuries
- ✦ Bearing Wrongs Patiently
- ✦ Praying for the Living and the Dead

### ADMONISHING THE SINNER

*Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.*

- In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see [Mt 7:1-2](#)).
- When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.
- We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith.
- "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" ([Mt 7:5](#))

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### KEY QUOTE – Social Justice Statement 2015-16

*“As a nation, we harm innocent people by detaining them, pushing back their boats and transferring them to other impoverished nations. We pretend that the pain and diminishment of one group of people, including children, is a justifiable price to pay for sending a message to others. This policy dishonours the human dignity of people who seek protection and denotes the truth of their humanity.*

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**SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING:**  
**Sunday 6 March 2016 – 11:15am.**  
**Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.**

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**FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE:** There is a flyer in the church foyer which focuses on this topic and highlights the products and shops who offer Fair Trade chocolates.

**RCIA:** Please remember in your prayers, Jessica Lewis, Tiffeney Ronneberg and Melissa McCarthy. Jessica will be baptized at the Easter Vigil mass and Melissa will be received into the church. Tiffeney will be received into the church at Pentecost.

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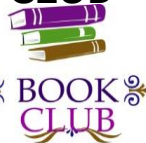
### Leaving Collection for Fiji

There will be a leaving collection after each of the masses this weekend.

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### SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

**“Borrowed Finery: a memoir”** 

By Paula Fox

**Sunday 20 March 3:00 pm Parish Library.**

There are 3 books available to borrow in the parish office.

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### ENGLISH CONVERSATION and a CUPPA.

If English is not your first language then come and join in the conversation.

Thursdays - Next Meeting 10 March

10:00am Parish Centre

Pre-school age children welcome.

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### SVDP DOORKNOCK 2016

The Members of St Vincent De Paul Society are sincerely grateful to all our helpers for their time, prayers, donations and any assistance they have given to the doorknock appeal, and a special THANK YOU to those who collected for the first time. Our target this year is \$20,000.00. The returns to date are encouraging but we may not reach our target. This is partly due to a very poor response to our appeals for volunteer doorknockers, plus there has been a significant drop in the amount of donations collected from each area. There are still 24 kits that have not been returned. They can be returned before or after any mass this weekend. If you're unable to return your kit at these times please contact Colin Fox on 0421758550 to make alternate arrangements

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### The Calvary Hospital Auxiliary meeting

- Monday 7th March 2016 at 12.30pm
  - Lewisham Building at the Hospital.
- New members are always welcome.  
Contact Mary Cruickshank 62544084 for further information.



# ROSTERS

## 13 March Ministers of Communion

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6:00pm  | Sharon Loiterton, Rob Caskie, Elaine Laycock, Amanda Stewart, Margareet Conlon  |
| 8:30 am | Brian Green, Fay Stephenson, Fay Hodgetts, Margaret Stanford, Shane Murtagh     |
| 10:00am | Anthony Noakes, Pat Sheppard, Cathy Madsen, Shyni Jojo, Francesca Deklin        |
| 6:00 pm | Andrew Webster, Andrew Luck, Marian Crowley, Henri Clementine, Barbara Gardiner |

## Reading Roster

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 6:00pm  | Mary French, Tom Halloran    |
| 8:30 am | Mariana Rollgejser, Lyn Duck |
| 10:00am | CHILDREN'S MASS              |
| 6:00 pm | Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony  |

## Hospitality Roster

|         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 6:00pm  | Michael Horan                   |
| 8:30 am | Joe Pisciotta, Pauline O'Gorman |
| 10:00am | Anthony Noakes, Marie Flint     |
| 6:00 pm | Judith Deklin                   |

## Other Rosters

7 March **Altar Society:** Margaret Ferguson

7 March **Church Cleaning:** Meg Millband, Carmel Martin, Sabina Van Rooy

19 Mar **Presbytery Cleaning:** Maresa Laird, Meg Millband, Pat Cowburn, Sabina Van Rooy, Lynnne Traynor

13 March **Counting Roster:** Margaret Sheehan, Denis Donoghue, Margaret Stanford

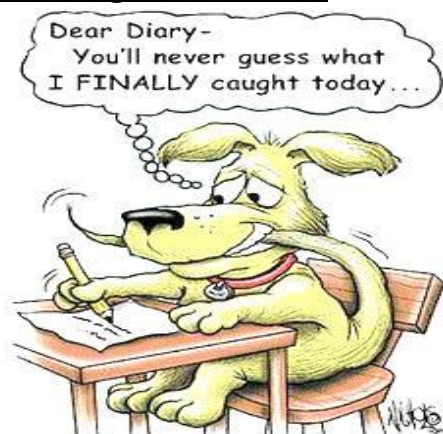
12 March **Grounds:** Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Green

**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:



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

## Recently Deceased:

**Anniversary:** *Giuseppe Mammoliti, Vincas Puzas, Judith Hickey, Rodney Chapman, Rudi Meyer, James Wiley, Johanna Garratt, Reg Lazaro, Ivan Mikulic, Angeles Arranz, Lillian Luke, Elena Zamora, Adrian Newton, Ashley Kent, Adrienne Stewart, Hayden Ricketts, James McKay, Dorothy Jeffrey, Leo McDonald, Rachael Netting, Francisca Benedictos, Sharon Williams, Ian Coffill, Evelyn Swaris, Dorothy Hornick (Potts).*

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

Resources used: Reflection by Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

**LIBRARY NEWS:** Three titles on display this week are taken from the library's psychology section – "Set yourself free", "Finding your voice" and, "The Universal heart".