

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

6 December 2015

#2.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

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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: 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 coming Tuesday (8 December) we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary which will mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Jubilee Year will end on the feast of Christ the King (20 November 2016). The papal bull announcing this extraordinary jubilee *Misericordiae Vultus* (“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy”) is a brief document but in it Pope Francis outlines a number of themes, images and gestures which will give shape and meaning to this Year.

In his pastoral letter on the Jubilee Year Archbishop Christopher Prowse mentions that since their origin in the church about 700 years ago, there have been 26 Jubilees and only three have been ‘extraordinary’ including this one. Obviously Pope Francis is placing great hope and importance on God’s mercy and it is an invitation to us all to explore and enter into this mystery of God’s love.

Gestures are important. We use them every day. The handshake, for example, expresses friendliness to the other person, or it may seal an agreement. So with the jubilee year there will be a number of symbolic gestures. The first will be the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica in Rome to mark the opening of the Jubilee Year. At St Christopher’s Cathedral, Canberra, a local Door of Mercy will also be opened at this time. To open a door is a symbolic act. On a theological level it is a profound signal that God’s mercy and forgiveness can always be found and God never shuts out or withholds his love.

And while we may not have a designated ‘door’, nevertheless, may the doors of our parish be a place of welcome for all who enter.

Peace & blessings,
Gerard

Love

Love is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God. We are absolutely assured of God's love.

There's a real price to be paid for love. The cross tells us this. Love, in order to be love, must contain gratitude, respect, selflessness, and a willingness to let the other be free. Selfishness, envy, taking-another-for-granted, disrespect, and violation of all kinds can never pass themselves off as love. They are its antithesis.

"Love is a harsh thing," Fyodor Dostoevsky once said, costing "not less than everything," T.S. Eliot adds. That's one of the messages of the cross. The cross says: "If you want real love beyond romantic daydreams, if you want to keep any commitment you have ever made in marriage, parenting, friendship, or religious vocation, you can do so only if you are willing to sweat blood and die to yourself at times. There is no other route. Love costs. What you see when you look at the cross of Jesus is what committed love asks of us."

We often feel that we are undeserving of God's love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

Resources used: *The Cross as Revealing the True Cost of Love*, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI, & *Reflections at LiturgyHelp*, by Dianne Bergant CSS

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology and Climate

On the Ecology of Daily Life: Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. These settings influence the way we think, feel and act. In our rooms, our homes, our workplaces and neighbourhoods, we use our environment as a way of expressing our identity. We make every effort to adapt to our environment, but when it is disorderly, chaotic or saturated with noise and ugliness, such overstimulation makes it difficult to find ourselves integrated and happy.

MASS ON TUESDAY – 8 December *Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am

This marks the start the
Jubilee of Mercy

PARISH NOTICES



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

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.

LIBRARY NEWS: Some more new books on display at present are: "Sexuality explained for parents and children", "Redeeming grief: abortion and its pain" and, "Silences and stillness in every season: daily readings with John Main".

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
6 2 nd Sun of Advent Light the 1 st & 2 nd candles on your Advent Wreath.	7 St. Ambrose I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Jubilee of Mercy

MAKE CHURCH MATTER

Leadership

God has crafted the gift of leadership, and he's shaped all of us to lead, because bringing lost people to Christ is an exercise in leadership.

Israel's greatest leader was David. And the Bible describes many of the attributes that qualified him for that title: courage, conviction, determination. But more than anything else, David was distinguished by a heart that was fully devoted to God, David followed God's leadership.

Disciples are leaders, and discipleship is all about leading. And, of course, it's a hierarchy. It begins with God. God wants

leaders in his church who are like David, in other words, fully devoted to him. God uses and blesses people who accept his leadership over their lives.

God wants you to lead where you are. He actually intends to use you to awaken others to the purpose of their lives. He expects you to help people follow him. He is calling you to lead. Wherever and however you serve, he wants you to lead.

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

The tree in the foyer is a Chrismon tree.

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. 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 John the Apostle Parish Bookshop:

Columban Calendars	\$9.00
Majellan Christmas Cards	\$6.00 pk 10
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards	\$4.00 pk 8



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
St Matthew's Page - 7:00pm 10 Dec
St Monica's Evatt - 7:00pm 11 Dec



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.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

Leaving collection after each of the Masses.



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

We thank you for your generosity. We are pleased to advise that all of the gift tags for presents for the children have been taken. Thank you for your support.



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 I will recognise God in the face of those I meet.	10 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at St Matthew's Page. 7.00pm	11 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at St Monica's Evatt.	12 Donate a gift to a "Giving Tree" or to the St.V. de Paul.

*Hope
Love
Joy
Peace*

ROSTERS

13 December Ministers of Communion

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

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Tom Halloran
8:30 am	Mariana Rollgejser, Lyn Duck
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Libby Kain
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Lesley Givens
8:30 am	David Mather, Therese Mather
10:00am	Margarete Gill, John Blackwell
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin

Other Rosters

- 7 Dec **Altar Society** Pauline O'Gorman
- 7 Dec **Church Cleaning:** Debbie Milne, John O'Heir, Pat Keenan, Peter Hofman
- 12 Dec **Presbytery Cleaning:** Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
- 13 Dec **Counting Roster:** James & Toni Cox, Bryan Cowman
- 12 Dec **Grounds:** Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Breen

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:

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street a coupla blocks and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday...I'll show you how to get to Heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle. "You're joking me, right? You don't even know the way to the Post Office!"

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

Recently Deceased: Marie Lowe,
Lidia Stella (mother of Christine Zuk)

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 **Luke 3:1-6**

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive.

Resources used: Reflections by Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.