

COMPACT

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

20 December 2015

#4.16

“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.....

In the Church's documents Advent is described as "a period for devout and joyful expectation". With only a few days to go before Christmas, this 'expectation' is heightened as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of the Lord. But what is our expectation, what do we hope for, what does the birth of this child mean for us and our world?

Our Christian faith informs us that all the hopes and dreams of all humanity are discovered in the gift of Jesus, of whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. The beautiful custom of exchanging gifts during Christmas is but a pale reflection of the priceless gift that is Jesus: God's gift of himself. Jesus is our Emmanuel: "God-is-with-us". God, who existed before time began, is born in time; born to save us from our sins so that we in turn will be born anew in Christ.

In today's gospel we have two expectant parents: Mary and Joseph. What was their expectation as they prepared for the birth of their son? We can only speculate. But surely Mary and Joseph were well aware that this was no ordinary child. Like Mary and Joseph, we too have our part to play in bringing Christ into our world.

Peace & blessings,

Gerard

USHERS NEEDED for all the Christmas Masses

The role of the usher at the Christmas masses is to facilitate the flow of the liturgy. There is a sheet in the church foyer if you are willing and able to take on this role please put your name against the mass you will be attending. You will be contacted on Monday regarding the tasks involved. Thank you for your assistance.

Weekly Reflection:

The Incarnation

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

The incarnate God is called Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us. Our world remains un-whole and the wars, strikes, selfishness and bitterness linger. Our hearts too remain un-whole and pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold hungry lonely days of bitterness and a virtual lifetime of in-consummation. The incarnation does not promise us heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. Here, on earth, it promises us something else – God's presence in our lives. When God is with us then pain and happiness are not exclusive of each other and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually re-enact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.

For God to take on human flesh is the most merciful thing He could do to draw all of humanity back to Himself and obtain our voluntary love and obedience.

May this Christmas be a time when you experience the joy of family visitations, and you become for others the symbol of God's loving hospitality. May God's Spirit be a cause of joy and blessing in the depths of your life.

Resources used: *Reflections at Liturgy/Help* by Dianne Bergant CSS & *Incarnation as God with Us*, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI.

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' encyclical on Ecology and Climate

On the Ecology of Daily Life: In the unstable neighbourhoods of mega cities, the daily experience of overcrowding and social anonymity can create a sense of uprootedness which spawns antisocial behaviour and violence. Nonetheless I wish to insist that love always proves more powerful.

PARISH NOTICES



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

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

invites you and your friends to

THE 9th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL

Where: St John the Apostle Church
Address: Cnr Blackham & Chave Streets, Holt
Date: Thursday 31st December 2015
Time: 8.30pm

Exposition from 8.30pm until midnight

Supper available after midnight

All inquiries:-Judy & Joe Mewburn Ph: 6254 6202

St John the Apostle Parish Bookshop:

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

LENTEN PROGRAM 2016

We have ordered the program from the Wollongong Diocese this Lent. The program is titled "Mercy" to celebrate the Year of Mercy. Lenten groups and orders will be taken in early January as lent begins on Wednesday 10th February. For more information contact Sabina 0400 269 951.

LIBRARY NEWS: "Christmas to Calvary", "A Way to the heart of Christmas: biblical mediations for Advent and the Christmas season", "Banner designs for celebrating Christmas" and "Starlight: beholding the Christmas miracle all year long" are some of the titles on display at present.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
20 Lk 1:39-45 3rd Sun of Advent Light all of the candles on your Advent Wreath.	21 Lk 1:39-45 Pause to consider one gift/blessing you have received today.	22 Lk 1:46-56 Give thanks for life and creation.

Jubilee of Mercy

Works of Mercy

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are those kind acts by which we help our neighbours with their material and physical needs.

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

Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbours with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- ✚ counsel the doubtful
- ✚ instruct the ignorant
- ✚ admonish sinners
- ✚ comfort the afflicted
- ✚ forgive offenses
- ✚ bear wrongs patiently
- ✚ pray for the living and the dead

Tribunal of the Catholic Church: Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of their marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6201 9802 or by email tribunal@cg.org.au. All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 Lk 1:57-66 Read an article that might challenge your point of view.	24 Lk 1:67-79 Be open to transformation.	25 <i>Today a Saviour has been born.</i>

MASS PRACTICE

There will be a practice for children's mass at 11:00am in the church on Wednesday 23 December. All children are invited to attend.



MASS TIMES

Thursday 24 December

6:00pm – the Children are invited to come dressed as angels, kings or shepherds

9:00pm

Midnight – Carols start at 11:30pm

Friday 25 December

9:00am – No evening mass



Archbishop's Christmas Appeal

There will be a leaving collection after all of the Christmas Masses.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will close on **Friday 25 December 2015** and will reopen on **Monday 4 January 2016**.

2016 – DATES FOR YOU CALENDAR

1 st Feb :	School Returns
5 th Feb:	St John the Apostle Primary School Opening Mass
10 th Feb:	Ash Wednesday
17 th Feb:	Second Formation Evening for the Sacrament of Penance
20 th /21 st Feb:	Presentation Masses for the Sacrament of Penance
27 th /28 th Feb:	Ministry Expo
3 rd March:	Ministry Discernment Night
5 th /6 th March:	Ministry Commitment Masses
17 th March:	Children's celebration of the Sacrament of Penance



RS

27 December Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Judy Netting, Marie McKie, John Drury, Maresa Laird, Judy Mewburn
8:30 am	Ljiljana Argy, Violet Duve, Ted & Clare Kell, VACANT
10:00am	Anthony Pitt, Ann Reynolds, Libby Costello, Rachel & Marissa Blackwell
6:00 pm	Margaret McMahon, Judith Deklin, Matthew Toohey, Stephanie Cox, VACANT

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Marie Murphy, Elaine Laycock
8:30 am	Carmel Screen, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Louise Honan, Joe Ots
6:00 pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Marie McKie
8:30 am	Margaret Ohlin, Kay Dwyer
10:00am	Judy Kenny, Mark McMahon
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin

Other Rosters

- 21 Dec **Altar Society** Mary Cruickshank
21 Dec **Church Cleaning:** John & Jenny Maher
19 Dec **Presbytery Cleaning:** Maresa Laird, Meg Millband, Pat Cowburn, Sabina Van Rooy, Lynnie Traynor
27 Dec **Counting Roster:** Kay Dwyer, Joseph Lai, Trevor Williams
26 Dec **Grounds:** VACANT

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:

It's not the gift but the thought that counts,
So I thought about getting you a gift



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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Dora Roberts, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, Patrick Laverty, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Jarrod Smith, Luis Soria, Elana Powell, Cara Newman, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkins, Robert Wise, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Meham, Nita Smith, Geoffrey Bogg, Willy Raadts

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Luke 1:39-45

The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John's birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunner of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

Resources used: Reflections by Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.