

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

**Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C**

25 September 2016 #44.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

Pastor Gerard McCormick msc

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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

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Matthew Egan-Richards

Pawsey Circuit Florey

Phone: 6258 3592

Email: office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au

www.sjaps.act.edu.au

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Today's gospel makes no bones about the consequences of inaction. To ignore the poor at our door in the eyes of God is indeed a very grave omission. The parable of a rich man who ignores the needs of his destitute neighbour at his doorstep is suddenly reversed. The poor man, Lazarus, is now being comforted in heaven while a great gulf separates the rich man from sharing in the feast of heaven.

The message is stark and plain. As individuals and as a society we have a moral obligation to care for all who are disadvantaged which includes both those within our society and those beyond our borders. There is simply not a choice between the two. Economic growth is important to any nation. But it must benefit all the citizens. Unfortunately we witness an increasing gap between the rich and poor. It is the parable of Lazarus told anew in our own times. Whether it is cutting back on foreign aid or social welfare, it amounts to the same thing: an indifference to the plight of the poor.

The title of the Social Justice Statement for 2016 is “A Place at the Table: Social Justice in an Ageing Society”. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta sums up the concerns of this year's social justice statement: “At this time in Australia, we face a threefold challenge: to work for an inclusive society that brings older people into the heart of the community; to ensure the dignity and care of people who are frail and most vulnerable to neglect or abuse; and to foster solidarity among all generations, recognising the special affinity that exists between young and old.”

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

LIBRARY NEWS: “When a friend dies: a book for teens about grieving and healing” and “Helping children grieve when someone they love dies” are two of the titles on display this week.

Weekly Reflection:

Conversion Experience

The rich man in this story is not wicked or vicious in any other way; other than seemingly self-absorbed. Being absorbed in his comfortable life, he simply does not notice the poor beggar lying in such need at his door. By the same token, we are not told that Lazarus is notably virtuous or deserving. It is simply his desperate situation that will attract the attention of God.

The problem is not so much the rich man's wealth and luxury in itself but, as so often in Luke's gospel, the fact that living such a life blinded the man to the need of a fellow human being and a wider social responsibility. The opportunity to attend to such obligations will not last for ever. When God acts on behalf of the poor and all is reversed, the rich will find themselves trapped in a painful and unchangeable predicament of their own making.

Ultimately, then, the parable is about conversion and about the difficulty that riches and luxury put in its way.

The word conversion (*con-vertere* means to turn around) there is a clear before and after. Conversion is not a moral achievement accomplished by good behaviour or New Year's resolutions. Conversion is a mystical, unitive knowing that usually comes to people who need it intensely, who realize that only holding one side of life's equation--the glory or the agony--has gotten them nowhere. Holding everything together becomes enlightenment itself.

The sacred text is inviting you slowly, little by little, into a conversion experience, a very different sense of who you are: You are not our own. Your life is not about you; you are about Life!

Until the mind changes the very way it processes the moment, nothing changes long term. "Be transformed by a renewal of your mind," Paul says (Romans 12:2), which hopefully will allow the heart to soon follow.

Resources Used: *Commentary* by Brendan Byrne SJ & *What is Conversion*, by Richard Rohr

Social Justice Sunday 25 September 2016

A Place at the Table:

Social Justice in an ageing society



**As a Christian
community we are
all called to reach
out to one another**

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
[ACSJC] web link to 2016-17 statement
<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements#SJS2016>

God in the Here and Now:

*A retreat for those living with a
life-limiting / life threatening illness*

**St Mary's Towers Douglas Park
4-6 November 2016**

This retreat is offered to those who are living with a life-limiting illness that causes them to face the prospect of their dying. The aim is to reflect on the meaning of life and how faith can encourage and enrich the grace we are being offered to live life in our present condition.

Retreat presenters: Michael Fallon msc,
Therese Compton, Michelle Vass,
Application forms and further information
available from:

<http://towersretreat.abundance.org.au>

The Administrator,
St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre,
PO Box 19A Douglas Park NSW 2569
phone: 02 4630 0233 fax: 024630 9364
email: towersretreat@bigpond.com

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The next breakfast is:

TUES 27 September - 7:30 am

**Little Chef Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen**

JUBILEE OF MERCY

"God is love" (1 Jn 4:8,16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion. #8

Misericordiae Vultus – Pope Francis

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology & Climate

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. #158

OZANAM SUNDAY – TWINING APPEAL

Gold Coin Donation after each mass
2 October 2016

We support two Twin Conferences

INDIA

Saints Peter and Paul
Thuraiyur, Tamil Nadu

INDONESIA

St. Maria Dikandung Tanpa Noda
Lembata

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Marian Procession

Sunday October 9

St Clement's Galong.

Bookings: Judy & Joe Mewburn on 6254 6202

St Thomas More Forum:

"How beliefs can get in the way of faith"

Presenter: Hugh Mackay AO

Social Researcher and Author

Date: Friday **7 October 2016 7:30pm**

Letter from the Vicar General

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN

Dear Father,

The Belconnen Working Parishes Group has finished its work of consultation and has submitted its recommendation to the Archbishop and the Council of Priests.

The Council of Priests considered the recommendations at its last meeting, held on the 25th August 2016.

The Council of Priests has asked me – the Vicar General – to provide some more demographic statistics for the next meeting of the Council of Priests on the 10th November 2016.

With this added information, the Council of Priests will then recommend a course of action to the Archbishop.

The Archbishop wished me to convey his deep gratitude to the Working Group and parishioners who have participated in the consultation process.

Very Rev Father Anthony Percy

Vicar General 22 September 2016

The **MSC Chapter** which is held every six years commences on Monday 26th September. Fr. Paul will be attending the Chapter and Marian will be working in the Chapter Secretariat, they will be away until 5 October 2016. Please pray for the success of the Chapter and the election of a new Provincial.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

"Too much happiness"

By Alice Munro

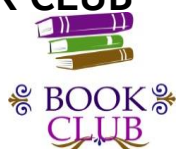
Sunday 16 October- 3:00 pm - Parish Library.

3 Copies of the book are available from the parish office

On A Lighter Note: Riddle

Q: A man was outside taking a walk, when it started to rain. The man didn't have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes got soaked, yet not a single hair on his head got wet. How could this happen?

Answer can be found somewhere in Compact



ROSTERS

2 October Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Helen Kennedy, Debbie Milne, Joe & Maria Catanzariti, VACANT
8:30 am	Carmel Screen, Sigrid Kropp, Agnes Pham, Maria Scarr, VACANT
10:00am	Farid Naoum, Jenny Howarth, Nunga Umaru, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos
6:00 pm	Margaret Curry, Maria Devin, Anthony Dunnicliff-Hagan, James & Toni Cox

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Therese Kercher, Dennis Puniard
8:30 am	John O'Heir, Volet Duve
10:00am	Robin Williams, Tony Kennedy
6:00 pm	Nicole Mikkonen, Judith Deklin

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Joe Catanzariti
8:30 am	Ann Clementine, Rob Breen
10:00am	Libby Kain, Bryan Cowman
6:00 pm	VACANT A: The man was bald.

Other Rosters

- 26 Sept **Altar Society:** Violet Duve
 26 Sept **Church Cleaning:**
 Marilyn Calliess, Ann Clementine
 1 Oct **Presbytery Cleaning:** Maresa Laird,
 Meg Millband, Pat Cowburn,
 Sabina Van Rooy, Lynnie Traynor
 2 Oct **Counting Roster:**
 Pat Sheppard, Ted & Clare Kell
 1 Oct **Grounds:**
 Barry Dwyer, Peter Onstenk, John Dudley

PARISH ACTIVITIES

PRAYER LIFE

- 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
 Children's Mass Second Sunday monthly 10am

SOCIAL LIFE

English Conversations	Thursdays during school term 10:00am Parish Centre
Coffee Club	Second & Fourth Sunday after 10:00am Mass
Over 45's	Last Wednesday of the Month 9:30am Mass and morning tea
Pins & Needles	3 rd Thursday of the Month 7:15pm Parish Library
Book club	3 rd Sunday of the Month 3:00pm Parish Library
Women's Breakfast	4 th Tuesday of the Month 7:30am Little Chef Café Belconnen

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

Recently Deceased:

Kath Bramwell (sister in law to Joan Breen)

Anniversary: James Sharah, Zoila Wait, Philip Hazell, Lidia Torelli, Patrick Clarke, Georgina Kukolic, Hok Tung, Edmond Sarrah, Joseph Sciberras, Vic Puzas, Patricia Tyers, Antonia Prieto, Antonella D'Ambrosio, Victor Bitterman, Robert Smith, Martino Salvaneschi, Maxine Kennedy, Anne Bynum, Fred Aschenberger, Gaeto Vella, Patricia Richardson, Renee Tozer, Wendy McCarthy, Frederick Jackson, Norma Hall.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my Soul!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Jesus Christ was rich
 but he became poor,
 to make you rich out of his poverty.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Lk 16:19-31

In the Old Testament, it is made very clear that how well the people are living in relationship with God is measured by how well the very least in the society are being treated. The poor man, Lazarus, is described as sitting at the gate of the rich man. We have a picture of Lazarus sitting on the outside looking in at all that he cannot have. Gates are used both literally and metaphorically throughout the gospel of Luke. In the cities and towns of Palestine, gates marked a physical barrier between those who were 'in' and those who were 'out'. But they also marked the boundaries of society. Those who were permitted to sleep within the walls were the acceptable of society. Those who were shut outside the gates and outside the city of an evening were the unacceptable.

Resources used. Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

School of Religion: – 9.15am-10.00am
 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. Adjust your hearing aids according to audiologist's advice.