

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

17 January 2016 #08.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

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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.....

In the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar, King Herod is presented as something of a buffoon, and when Jesus is brought before him on trial he sings, “Prove to me that you're divine/Change my water into wine.”

Of course, Herod misses the point. Jesus' miracles are not conjuring tricks to impress or even to prove his divinity. As the evangelist John states clearly in his gospel the changing of water into wine is a “sign”. The Johannine meaning of the word “sign” carries deep theological meaning. The American scripture scholar Dianne Bergant comments: “The miracles of Jesus were never mere exhibitions of supernatural power. They were always revelations of the inbreaking of the reign of God”.

In this first sign recorded in John's gospel the changing of water into wine is rich in theological significance. For example, the water is contained in vessels set aside for the Jewish rites of purification. From this we can understand the religious significance of the miracle. Jesus is the fulfilment of all the messianic desires of Israel, the wine, that replaces the water set aside for ritual ablutions, now becomes a sign of the kingdom – wine being a symbol of joy.

The signs of Jesus are not meant to impress but to elicit faith. Mary, the mother of the Lord, ignores the seeming rebuke of Jesus and orders the servants to do as Jesus commands. Mary initiates the miracle and it is her faith that makes this possible. Mary's demonstration of her faith in Jesus will later be then taken up by his disciples. But it is Mary who is the primary model of faith.

Over the last three weeks we have celebrated the theme of epiphany, or the manifestation of God in Jesus. Beginning the feast of the Epiphany, followed by the Baptism of the Lord and concluding in today's gospel where we read: “Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

Sign of the Kingdom of God

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of several references in the Old Testament that use wedding imagery – bride and groom – to describe the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The imagery is never that of an 'old married couple' but rather young lovers entering into a new life together full of hope; full of romance; and full of passion. This image of God and the people as bride and groom would not have been lost on the first audiences of today's gospel passage. Immediately, they would have recognised the significance of Jesus' first outing in public ministry being at a wedding feast – at the coming together of God and God's people, Jesus is present!

The changing of the water into wine is a sign of the Kingdom of God where joy and life are in abundance, where shame ends and all tears are wiped away. It is no accident that in John's gospel the mother of Jesus is present at this first sign and remains faithful until the end, right up to the culmination of all the signs: his being lifted up on the cross. The wedding feast at Cana is a taste of the fullness of life we celebrate here every Sunday. The Eucharist is always and everywhere a first course in the eternal banquet of heaven. But it is also an invitation to see beyond the signs, to the faithful relationships that require sacrificial love and years of fidelity.

All parents who sacrifice so much for their children, all spouses who remain faithful and good to their wife or husband, all friends who attend to their companions with devotion and care, share in the Kingdom of God and are the signs of Christ's presence in our world. Every time we are kind, Cana occurs again.

Sometimes these actions can be very lonely and the cost can be high. However, Jesus is always with us especially when the going gets tough.

Resources used: Richard Leonard SJ & Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology and Climate

On Wisdom: The creator can say to each one of us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason "each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary".



ST JOHN THE APOSTLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The next breakfast is:

TUES 19 January 2016

*This is the 3rd Tuesday of the
month as the 4th Tuesday is
Australia day*

Little Chef Café

Nettlefold Street Belconnen

Pins & Needles Craft Group

Third Thursday Monthly

Next Meeting: 21 January

7:15pm Parish Library

***All Welcome . If craft is not your thing,
maybe conversation is.***

Library News: More religious fiction on display this week are "The Perfect joy of St Francis", "Two women of Galilee", "The Journal of Hildegard of Bingen", "Walk in my shoes", and "The Robe".

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

These stamps are sent to the MSC Mission office in Kensington and their sale will help in providing funds for MSC charitable works.

FPCOW (Australian Association of FPCOW Incorporated)

There will be a special general meeting on Sunday 24th January 2016 at Noon. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a new committee. All committee members and interested parishioners are invited to attend.

JUBILEE OF MERCY

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

Listed below are practical suggestions for living the Corporal works of Mercy in everyday life.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

- ✦ We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to the MSC Missions clean water project.

<http://australia.mscmission.org/waterdevelopment>

- ✦ Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.

Resource used: The Corporal Works of Mercy at USCCB.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DOORKNOCK APPEAL- 2016

The annual Doorknock for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul will be held from the 1st February to 29th February 2016.

The doorknock is the main source of funds to support the work of the Society in our local area.

Members of the Society have already contacted a number of parishioners in seeking their help. If you have not been contacted and would like to help please write your particulars on one of the leaflets you will find on your seats. Members of the Society will collect the leaflet you have completed at the door as you leave. You will be contacted in due course.

We are also seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be able to help collect donations at a stall to be held at a local shopping centre during February.

If you need more information please contact Colin Fox on 0421758550

MASS - Tuesday 26 January
AUSTRALIA DAY
will be celebrated at 9:30am on this day.

Over 45's will meet for the first time this year on Wednesday 27 January for Mass at 9:30am, followed by morning tea in the parish centre. Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Enquiries phone Margaret 6254 4048

**THE FEAST OF THE
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**
Tuesday 2nd February - 9:30am Mass
Blessing of Candles

You are invited to bring your prayer candle to this mass. The "blessing of candles ceremony" will happen during the mass. You can place your candle in the space provided in front of the altar before mass and collect your candle at the conclusion of mass.

2016 – DATES FOR YOU CALENDAR

26 th Jan:	Australia Day – Mass at 9:30am
1 st Feb :	School Returns
2 nd Feb:	The Presentation of the Lord Mass at 9:30am
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

ROSTERS

24 January 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, 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

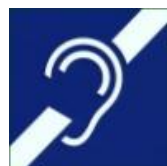
Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Maresa Laird
8:30 am	Fay Stephenson, Bert Broekhuysse
10:00am	Ann Reynolds, Lucia Moran
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin

Other Rosters

- 18 Jan **Altar Society** Pat Gilchrist
- 18 Jan **Church Cleaning:** Marian England, Sharon & Nicola Greaves
- 23 Jan **Presbytery Cleaning:** Maresa Laird, Meg Millband, Pat Cowburn, Sabina Van Rooy, Linnie Traynor
- 24 Jan **Counting Roster:** Peter Polkinghorne, Sabina Van Rooy
- 23 Jan **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:



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

Recently Deceased:

Stanley Lewis (Father of Andrea Hurtis)

Anniversary: Horace Staunton, Leonard Crowe, Eugenia Kurzynski, Tara Ottewill, Albert Bingham, Ernest Hackett, Danielle Sykes, Claudine MacDowell, Christopher Hemmingway, Chris Thamer, Brendan Gibson, Nicholas McInerney, Joan Casey, Emanuel Grech, Bernadette Davis, Maxwell Lewis, Kyall Green, Michael Sweeney, Geoffrey Fisher, Jane Packard, Armando Arugay, Frank Ripszam, Michael Ryan, Janelle Sykes, Des Jones, Rupert Waterford, Declan Morris, Margaret Hill, Alice Tonna, Alexander Powell

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Jn 2:1-11

The interplay between Jesus and his mother is very interesting in this gospel event. In this particular gospel it is one of only two occasions that Mary is mentioned: this event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and then at the foot of the cross as he is crucified. Mary does not ask Jesus to do anything. She simply states, 'They have no wine', Mary ignores his objections and instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them.

The servants are told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household.

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp.