

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

24 January 2016

#9.16

“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.....

Today we return to the Gospel of Luke which dominates the cycle of readings for Year C. In today's gospel Jesus inaugurates his ministry through the symbolic enactment of reading and preaching in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth.

What is intriguing is the brevity of Jesus' sermon. After reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah he simply says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." But what a punch is packed into that micro homily!

The Old Testament background is important here. The promise of God found in the Old Testament is now being fulfilled in Jesus. But how this salvation is being fulfilled is important. The passage that Jesus selects to read is a blueprint for a program of social justice and hospitality. 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.

In announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis refers to this passage from Luke and goes on to comment: A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. (Misericordiae Vultus, 17)

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

Weekly Reflection:

Joy & Pain

Jesus has a mission to the poor, to the outcasts, the alienated, the ones society despises, the 'down and outers', the ones living in darkness and pain. Jesus' role is to tell these people, who feel most unloved and rejected, 'You are not despised by God; God has not rejected you.'

Deep joy is a revelation. It uncovers things and lets us feel things hidden since the beginning of time. Joy is a light and, as a light, it shines into everything, showing us both our glory and our limits. Revelation means precisely to unveil, to pull off masks, to lay secrets bare, to reveal things hidden, as scripture says, since the foundation of the world. Jesus is the revelation of God.

However, revelation, the truth, which is supposed to set us free, can also bring pain. Why does the gospel of Christ not bring us what we really want, joy without pain?

Too often we have the false idea, very prevalent in our culture that joy and pain are incompatible and that Christ came to rescue us from pain. Our culture tends to believe that if you are in pain you cannot be happy and to be happy you must avoid pain. Nothing could be further from the truth. Joy and pain are not incompatible and Christ does not, promise us less pain.

Joy and pain both lie at the heart of what it means to be human. In terms of a biblical definition, the human being might well be defined as a being of joy, living in pain.

In today's Gospel, Jesus proclaims 'the Lord's year of favour.' This year is the great fiftieth year of jubilee liberation, when slaves are to be released, when debts are to be written off and people are allowed to return home. Jesus says, 'God keeps Jubilee. Your debts to God are written off, do not let guilt and fear enslave you, come home to a welcoming God.'

Resources used: *Commentary*, by Mary Coloe at Liturgy & One of Isaiah's Visions, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology and Climate

On Joy & Peace: We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more". A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.

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 is the 3rd in the series of practical suggestions for living the Corporal works of Mercy in everyday life.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

See if your diocese or community is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.

- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.
- There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, and searching for peace and safety. Spend some time learning more about their plight and do some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive.

Resource used: The Corporal Works of Mercy at USCCB.

PARISH NOTICES



**MASS will be celebrated at 9:30am on
Tuesday 26 January
AUSTRALIA DAY**

LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS - *Mercy*

If you would like to join a Lenten Prayer Group please add your name and contact details to the sheets provided in the foyer. There will be a prayer group meeting on Wednesday mornings in the parish Library.

Cost: \$8:00

Contact: Sabina Van Rooy 0400 269 951.

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 take place during the mass. Your candle can be placed on the table provided in front of the altar before mass. You will then collect your blessed candle at the conclusion of mass.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

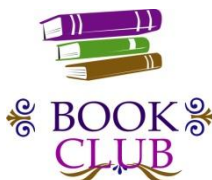
We are reading

"A Spool of Blue Thread"

By Anne Tyler

Sunday 21 February

3:00 pm Parish Library.



LIBRARY NEWS: Graham Greene's "Monsignor Quixote" and Thomas Costain's "The Silver chalice: a story of the cup of the last supper" are two of the books currently on display.

St Vincent de Paul DOORKNOCK 2016

The members of the society are extremely grateful to all Parishioners who responded to the appeal at all Masses last Weekend, **THANK YOU**. To enable us to have 100% coverage this year we **desperately need more volunteers** If you are able to help, see one of our Conference members at the tables in the foyer after Mass who will supply you with a collection kit. The Parishioners who have already volunteered can collect their kit after any mass this weekend. Included in each kit are details of when you can return both the money and the kits

National Day of Prayer & Fasting - *Healing the Wounds of Disunity - Celebrating Our Unity in Christ*

When: Sunday 7 February.

Time: 2.00 - 3.00pm

Place: Great Hall Parliament House.

Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse at this Ecumenical Gathering. The purpose is to see a national revival and transformation that will affect every church and every facet of Australian society for the greater good of all. For more information go to

www.40daysofprayer.com.au

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

31 Jan Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Eric French, Sharon Loiterton, Daryl Smeaton, Joy McInerney, Maresa Laird
8:30 am	Fay Stephenson, Carmel Screen, Janet Almond, Jean Tierney, Clyde Sloan
10:00am	Colin Fox, Anthony Noakes, Robin Williams, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos
6:00 pm	Margaret Curry, Margaret McMahon, Brian Mahony, VACANT, VACANT

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Rob Caskie, Joe Catanzariti
8:30 am	Violet Duve, John O'Heir
10:00am	Mark McMahon, Kerry Yard
6:00 pm	VACANT

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Needs Assistance
8:30 am	Needs Assistance
10:00am	Needs Assistance
6:00 pm	Needs Assistance

Other Rosters

25 Jan Altar Society Violet Duve

25 Jan Church Cleaning: Agnes Le & Family

6 Feb Presbytery Cleaning: Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver

31 Jan Counting Roster:
Sharon Greaves, Marian England

30 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: 🎵

"What is the plural of man, Johnny?" asked the teacher. "Men," he answered.

"And, what is the plural of child?"
"Twins," replied Johnny.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Jane Packard, Armando Arugay, Frank Ripszam, Michael Ryan, Janelle Sykes, Des Jones, Rupert Waterford, Declan Morris, Margaret Hill, Alice Tonna, Alexander Powell, Robert Thomas, Doreen Kennedy, Salvatore Nasca, Julian Oakley, Annie McCreath, Clements Cox, Bruce Walker, Carmelita Godfrey, Maria Carrusca, Victoria Wilkinson, Kenneth Vella

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

This week marks the beginning of the liturgical use of the gospel of Luke that will feature throughout this year. The choice of passage to begin our journey with Luke is most appropriate. We have the first four verses of the gospel in which the writer makes his purpose clear. We then skip over all the infancy narrative and pick up again in chapter 4 of the gospel where Jesus makes his first public appearance.

Jesus returns to the synagogue in which he has worshipped all his life. He is given the scroll of Isaiah to read and reads the first two verses of Isaiah, chapter 61. But in the middle of this passage he flips back to chapter 58 of Isaiah and reads an additional line, 'to set the downtrodden (oppressed) free'. This event in Nazareth is sometimes referred to as Jesus' inauguration or declaration of mission. The inclusion of the additional verse from Isaiah signals very clearly the way in which Jesus will be portrayed throughout this particular gospel. The gospel of Luke is characterised by the focus of Jesus' mission on the outcast; the oppressed; the downtrodden.

Resources used: Reflections by Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp