

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

First Sunday of Advent **Year A**

27 November 2016 **#1.17**

“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

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.....

The Christmas decorations have been up in the stores for a quite a number of weeks, and yet we have only begun the season of Advent. The beauty and tranquillity that Advent is meant to evoke is sadly brushed aside in all the hype and consumerism of our society. For this reason, Advent can be a time for us to be counter cultural by entering this time of waiting in prayer and vigil for the coming of our Saviour.

Advent is not a penitential season like Lent. It is described by the church as “a period for devout and joyful expectation.” And yet it is meant to be a time of reflection, renewal and deep longing for the coming of Christ into our lives.

In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (“the Joy of the Gospel”) Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of renewal when he writes: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.”

As Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, so the Lord waits for us, in the words of Pope Francis, “with open arms”.



I am delighted to announce that Matthew Garton has been appointed as acting principal of St John the Apostle Primary School. Many of you will already know that Matthew is a parishioner of St John's. Presently Matthew is acting principal of St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah. Matthew will no doubt bring his great strengths to this important role in the school community.

Peace & blessings,
Gerard

Be Alert

Jesus is always telling us to wake up, to stay awake, to be vigilant, to be more alert to a deeper reality.

All of us know how difficult it is for us to be inside the present moment, to not be asleep to the real riches inside our own lives. The distractions and worries of daily life tend to so consume us that we habitually take for granted what's most precious to us, our health, the miracle of our senses, the love and friendships that surround us, and the gift of life itself. We go through our daily lives not only with a lack of reflectiveness and lack of gratitude but with a habitual touch of resentment as well, a chronic, grey depression, Robert Moore calls it. We are very much asleep, both to God and to our own lives.

An awareness of our mortality does wake us up, as does a stroke, a heart attack, or cancer; but that heightened-awareness is easier to sustain for a short season of our lives than it is for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years. Nobody can sustain that kind of awareness all the time. None of us can live seventy or eighty years as if each day was his or her last day.

The distractions, cares, and pressures of everyday life will invariably have their way with us and we will, in effect, fall asleep to what's deeper and more important inside of life. But it's for this reason that every major spiritual tradition has daily rituals designed precisely to wake us from spiritual sleep, akin an alarm clock waking us from physical sleep.

It's for this reason we need to begin each day with prayer. What happens if we don't pray on a given morning is not that we incur God's wrath, but rather that we tend to miss the morning, spending the hours until noon trapped inside a certain dullness of heart. The same can be said about praying before meals. We don't displease God by not first centring ourselves in gratitude before eating, but we miss out on the richness of what we're doing. Liturgical prayer and the Eucharist have the same intent, among their other intentions. They're meant to, regularly, call us out of sleep and make us alert.

Resources used: *Staying Awake*, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI

**BELCONNEN REGIONAL PARISHES
AMALGAMATION**

The Vicar General Fr. Tony Percy has advised that the Council of Priests have made the following decisions regarding parishes in the Belconnen region:

1. To ask the parishes of Kaleen and Evatt to begin the process of becoming one parish, beginning 2017.
2. To ask the parishes of Page and Aranda to consider the process of becoming one parish. That the two parishes form a delegation who will meet with the Archbishop.

ADVENT
2nd Rite of Reconciliation



St John the Apostle Kippax

Thursday 1 December 2016 - 7:30pm &

St Michael's Kaleen

Wednesday 14 December 2016 - 7:30pm

Over 45's last meeting for the year Wednesday 30th November for Mass at 9:30am, followed by morning tea in the parish centre. There is no raffle, but any extra donation for the Clean Water Project will be grateful. Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Please bring a plate to share. Enquiries phone Margaret 6254 4048

Church Spruce Up....

Cleaning the church for Christmas

Saturday December 10th

9:00am – 12noon

Put this date in your diary!

Parish Bookstore

Columban Calendars \$9.00

Majellan Christmas Cards \$6.50 Pkt of 10

☞ Let us pray for those who are sick.

We remember them in our Masses. ☞

Recently Deceased: *Douglas Topp* [father of Debbie Milne], *Gerry Fallon* [brother of Michael]

Anniversary:

Susan Sutch, Darren O'Brien, Leslie Lincoln, Conelly Andrae, Vin Stewart, Nancy Selvatino, John Soetens, Kane Cahil, John Martin, Martina Forjanic, Brodie McMahon, Ryan Jasczyk, Dinah Muench, David Fitzroy, Leo Hill msc, Margaret Woodland, Maria Gillard, Kevin Hiscock, Winifred Lilley, Maria Tabisz.

Calvary Hospital Auxiliary

Christmas Craft and Present Stall

Thursday 1ST and Friday 2nd December
8.00am - 4.00pm
main foyer of the Hospital

Our fund raising this year is going towards the establishment of a family recreation area in the grounds of the Hospital.
Enquiries Mary Cruickshank 62544054.

Singers and Musicians are invited

to join our Choirs for the Christmas

Masses. Practice is held in the Church for the Christmas Eve 9:00pm Mass

website details: www.mrpham.id.au/xmas or email: matthew.pham@sfx.act.edu.au

for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 7:30pm Wednesday 30th November

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

If you have a child who would like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity at the 6:00pm Mass, please contact the parish office on 6254 3236 or kippax@cg.org.au

GLASS JARS: St John the Apostle Primary School Twilight Fete, Friday 17 February 2017 is looking for donations of glass jars. There is a collection box in the foyer.



ADVENT

Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Greg Sunter - LiturgyHelp

Sunday 27th Be Ready

Jesus, the Son of Man, is coming again. Watch and be ready in faith for his return.
Matthew 24:37-44

Monday 28th Lord, Heal me

Lord, I am not worthy, but say the word and I will be healed and forgiven.
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday 29th The Branch of Jesse

A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse and a branch from his roots.
Isaiah 11:1-10

Wednesday 30th Call on the Lord

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Romans 10:9-18

Thursday 1st Build on the Rock Reconciliation 2nd Rite St John the Apostle Matthew 7:21, 24-47

Friday 2nd Lord have Mercy Son of David, open our hearts to behold your glory. Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday 3rd Walk in the Way You will hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it". Isaiah 30:19-21

On A Lighter Note:

Little Boy

Son: "My math teacher is crazy".

Mother: "Why?"

Son: "Yesterday she told us that five is 4+1; today she is telling us that five is 3 + 2."

ROSTERS

4 December Ministers of Communion

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

4 December Reading Roster

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

4 December Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Joe Catanzariti
8:30am	Ann Clementine, Rob Breen
10:00am	Libby Kain, Bryan Cowman
6:00pm	VACANT

Other Rosters

- 28 Nov Altar Society: Violet Duve
- 28 Nov Church Cleaning:
Ann Clementine, Marilyn Calliess
- 10 Dec Presbytery Cleaning:
Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan,
Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
- 3 Dec 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

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

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Let us go rejoicing
to the house of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Mt 24:37-44

Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

LIBRARY NEWS:

More of the new titles on display this week are "Intimacy with God: an introduction to centring prayer", "101 Questions and answers on the prophets of Israel", and "This is who we are- everyone has a story- MSC's."

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.