

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

4 December 2016

#2.17

“To be on earth the Heart of God”
“Estar en la tierra el Corazón de Dios”

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

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From the Pastor's Desk.....

Advent is a beautiful season that invites us to enter into a place of stillness. This is not always easy. Personally, I find this time of year very easily gets filled up with so many end of year events that it is hard to make time for silence and contemplation – so necessary for our spiritual wellbeing. I'm sure I share this feeling with many. However, we can do something about the way we celebrate our Sunday liturgy. One way is to structure silence into our celebrations. We have been attempting to do that during the celebration of the Word. After the first and second readings have been proclaimed we are invited to enter into a short time of silence in order to meditate upon God's word spoken to us in the liturgy.

I found this excerpt from a lecture by the Belgian Cardinal Godfried Danneels helpful in reminding us of the importance of silence and interiority with regard to worship.

It might come across as strange in the ears of many but our liturgical celebrations are for the most part too short. The liturgy needs time to deliver its riches. It has nothing to do with physical time or "clock" time but with the spiritual time of the soul. Since liturgy does not belong to the world of information but to the domain of the heart, it does not work with 'clock' time but with "kairos." Many of our liturgies do not provide enough time or space to enter in to the event. In this regard Eastern liturgy provides a worthy example, taking its time and inviting those who participate to "leave all worldly cares behind" (hymn of the Cherubim). It is not enough that people have heard the liturgy or that it has been spoken: has it been "proclaimed to them"? Have they been given the opportunity to integrate it? It is not enough for us to have heard the liturgy, we need to have grasped it as well.

A major factor in all of this is silence and the time to interiorize. The liturgy of Vatican II provides time for silence but in practice it is not given much of a chance. Lack of silence turns the liturgy into an unstoppable succession of words which leaves no time for interiorization.

This is a challenge. But I believe we are able to implement some practices, which will help make the liturgy more reflective as well as celebratory.

Peace & blessings,

Gerard

Repent & Prepare the Way

John the Baptist tries to prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance: *"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

To repent means to confess our sins. The idea of confession is very much challenged today. At a practical level, less and less people are going to confession. The old line-ups at the confessional box are becoming shorter and shorter. More and more people are challenging, theoretically, the idea of sacramental confession. *"There isn't any need to do this to have one's sins forgiven! "It gives undue power to the priest!" "It's adolescent!"* Whatever the objection, and there are many, less and less people are going to confession. We confess to a priest because symbolically he represents the whole community: in a manner of speaking, we are confessing to the entire community.

Private confession is one of the pillars of the spiritual life. In both scripture and church tradition it is clear that our sins are forgiven through sincerity of conscience and through touching the body of Christ (and this has many forms). The Christian community itself is the radical sacrament of reconciliation and God's mercy can never be tied down to just one vehicle of grace.

Confession is the sacrament of the mature and one grows mature by confessing one's sins. Mature people face themselves and apologize explicitly – and people grow mature by apologizing. One may not have to confess one's sins explicitly to another human being to have them forgiven, but one does have to confess them explicitly if he or she hopes to live a transparent life, free of addictions, rationalization, and dark skeletons in the closet.

Confession is not so much about having one's sins forgiven as it is about coming to maturity within the community and being able to live a transparent life, free of dark secrets, addictions, and rationalization.

To make straight the path for the coming of the Saviour, to make a proper advent, to prepare ourselves to have Christ born in our lives, we need to undergo a baptism for the remission of sin. This means, among other things, making a searing, honest, open, confession. *Resources used: Readyng Ourselves for Christmas, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI*

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal & Hampers

There is a leaving collection after each Mass this weekend.

- ∞ Donations will fund the provision of food vouchers for the purchase of fresh meat and vegetables.
- ∞ Grocery and toy cards are available in the foyer.
- ∞ Please return gifts & groceries to the church by Sunday 18 December.
- ∞ If you would like to help with hamper packing, gift wrapping and hamper delivery, see us in the foyer after Mass. Information flyers are available. Thank you for your kind support.

Invitation

to all Singers and Musicians

*to join one of the choirs for the Christmas Masses.
Practice is held in the Church*

- ☐ **Christmas Eve 9:00pm Mass**
Practice details are on this website:
www.mrpham.id.au/xmas
or email: matthew.pham@sfx.act.edu.au
- ☐ **Christmas Eve Midnight Mass**
7:30pm Wednesday 7 December

COMPACT: We encourage you to take your copy of COMPACT home. Have you thought....this could be a form of Evangelisation.....sharing the Word of God with a loved one or a neighbour!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB



NO BOOK CLUB
IN DECEMBER

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE final meeting for the year Tuesday 6 December

7.30pm in the parish centre.

There will be wine and cheese afterwards.
All welcome

ADVENT

Preparation

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

Greg Sunter- LiturgyHelp



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, contact the parish office on 6254 3236 or kippax@cg.org.au

Sunday 4th Repent

Prepare the way of the Lord and bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday 5th Jesus Heals and Forgives

The people glorified God, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today!" Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday 6th Comfort my People

Lift up your voice and announce the good news: "Behold you God!" Isaiah 40:1-11

Wednesday 7th Renew your Strength

The Lord will renew your strength; you will run and not be weary.
Isaiah 40:25-31

Thursday 8th Chosen and Adopted

Before creation, God chose us in Christ to be his sons and daughters.
Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday 9th Peace Like a River

A river of peace and waves of righteousness are ours through our Redeemer.
Isaiah 48:17-19

Saturday 10th Elijah Must Come

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare Christ's way.
Matthew 17:9,10-13

Parish Bookstore

\$9.00 Columban Calendars

\$6.50 Majellan Christmas Cards Pkt of 10

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary:

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, John Ashton, Michael Allars, Andre Domjan, Daniel Morris, Raymond Kernan, Patricia Jacobs, Bernadette Anetts, Branko Kukolic, Kathleen Randall

ADVENT 2nd Rite of Reconciliation



St Michael's Kaleen

Wednesday 14 December 2016 - 7:30pm

Australian documentary

Constance on the Edge

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Date: Thursday 15 Dec 2016 - 6:30pm

Where: National Film and Sound Archives

RSVP: 13 December

Cost: Free

Light refreshments will be provided before the screening which will be followed by a panel discussion.

To register: www.trybooking.com/NUDK

House Sitting over the Christmas break:

A couple are looking to house sit from December 23 to 27. Happy to mind pets. Please contact Mary Moran Ph. 0410 441 245

Christmas Riddles: Name the Christmas Carol

- 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
- A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
- O approach, y'all devoted happy and victorious
- Hey there! The announcing celestial beings carol.
- Decorate the passage with branches of evergreen sprigs.

Answers
• Silent Night
• The Twelve days of Christmas
• O Come all ye faithful
• Hark! The Herald Angels sing
• Deck the Halls

ROSTERS

11 December Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Sharon Loiterton, Margaret Conlon, Robert Greig, Anthony & Chitra Jayawardena
8:30 am	Brian Green, Fay Stephenson, Fay Hodgetts, Margaret Stanford, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Cathy Madsen, Jojo Mathew, Shyni Jojo, Francesca Deklin
6:00 pm	Henri Clementine, Andrew Webster, Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck, Barbara Gardiner

11 December Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Tom Halloran
8:30 am	Mariana Rollgejser, Sigrid Kropp
10:00am	CHILDREN'S MASS
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony

11 December Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Lesley Givens, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30 am	David Mather, Therese Mather
10:00am	Margarete Gill
6:00 pm	VACANT

Other Rosters

- 5 Dec Altar Society:** Pauline O'Gorman
- 5 Dec Church Cleaning:** Debbie Milne, John O'Heir, Pat Keenan, Peter Hofman
- 10 Dec Presbytery Cleaning:** Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
- 10 Dec Grounds:** Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Breen, Mike Blyth

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 3:1-12

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent.

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

LIBRARY NEWS: Over the weeks of Advent we shall display our collection of books relating to this beautiful season of the Church.

Church Spruce Up....

Cleaning the church for Christmas

Next Weekend

Saturday December 10th

9:00am – 12noon

Please come and make a difference.

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.