

## St John the Apostle Parish

*A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish*

Third Sunday of Advent

Year A

11 December 2016

#3.17

**“To be on earth the Heart of God”**  
**“Trên trái đất trái tim của Thiên Chúa”**

### Parish Administration:

**Pastor** Gerard McCormick msc

Email: [gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au)

**Associate Pastor** Paul Browne msc

Email: [paul@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:paul@stjohnkippax.org.au)

**Parish Manager/Pastoral Associate**

Marian England

Email: [marian@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:marian@stjohnkippax.org.au)

**Parish Secretary** Sharon Greaves

Email: [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

### Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT

Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm Mon-Fri

Telephone: 6254 3236

Fax: 6254 4819

Web [www.stjohnkippax.org.au](http://www.stjohnkippax.org.au)

### 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: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sjaps.act.edu.au](http://www.sjaps.act.edu.au)

### From the Pastor's Desk.....

Christmas is once again upon us. In our secular world Christmas means many things to many people. Despite the busyness leading up to Christmas there is generally a feeling of goodwill among the population. Somehow Christmas works its magic and our spirits are buoyed. Sadly for some, the lead up to Christmas is experienced as a time of anxiety as they struggle to make ends meet. For others Christmas only brings a heightened sense of loneliness. It is therefore heartening to witness again the marvellous effort that is made by our St Vincent de Paul conference at Kippax to bring a little Christmas cheer into the lives of those who are doing it tough. As usual, the response of parishioners has been wonderful. The presents, food hampers and donations that you have contributed will go far to brighten up the lives of many families in our area. It's also deeply encouraging to see so many volunteer to wrap presents and distribute the hampers.

The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday” (Gaudete being Latin for “rejoice”). This Sunday gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice”. In our liturgy today we light the rose candle as a sign of anticipation of Christmas joy.

***Peace & blessings,***  
***Gerard***

## Longing

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once suggested that peace and justice will come to us when we reach a high enough psychic temperature so as to burn away the things that still hold us apart. In saying this, he was drawing upon a principle in chemistry: Sometimes two elements will simply lie side by side inside a test-tube and not unite until sufficient heat is applied so as to bring them to a high enough temperature where unity can take place.

That's a wonderful metaphor for advent. Advent is about getting in touch with our longing. It's about letting our yearnings raise our psychic temperatures so that we are pushed to eventually let down our guard, hope in new ways, and risk intimacy.

John of the Cross has a similar image: Intimacy with God and with each other will only take place, he says, when we reach a certain kindling temperature. For too much of our lives, he suggests, we lie around as damp, green logs inside the fire of love, waiting to come to flame but never bursting into flame because of our dampness. Before we can burst into flame, we must first dry out and come to kindling temperature. We do that, as does a damp log inside a fire, by first sizzling for a long time in the flames so as to dry out.

Thomas Aquinas once taught that we can attain something in one of two ways: through possession or through desire. We like to possess what we love, but that isn't often possible and it has an underside. Possession is limited, desire is infinite.

Possession sets up fences, desire takes down fences. To quote Karl Rahner, only in the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable do we know that we are more than the limits of our bodies, our present relationships, our jobs, our achievements, and the concrete situations within which we live, work, and die.

Advent is about longing, about getting in touch with it, about heightening it, about intuiting the kingdom of God by seeing, through desire, what the world might look like if a Messiah were to come and, with us, establish justice, peace, and unity on this earth.

Resources used: *Advent Longing*, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI

## THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

### *Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year*

Many parishes in the Church of England have adopted the ancient custom of marking the door of their home with chalk that has been blessed. This ancient rite is a beautiful way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. It is a good opportunity for parents and children to ask for God's blessing on their home at the start of the New Year.

Next year for the first time we will offer you the opportunity to participate in this ritual. Chalk will be blessed at all the masses on the Feast of the Epiphany – 8 January 2017. You will then be invited to take some home to mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 17

The letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names for the Three Wise Men who come seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (*May Christ Bless this Abode.*) The blessing prayer that will be prayed whilst marking the lintel will be available with the chalk.

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**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!

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## CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY

We are seeking parishioners who are attending Christmas masses to act as ministers of hospitality. Please contact Judy Netting for more information: [judynetting@yahoo.com.au](mailto:judynetting@yahoo.com.au)

*The first people visitors encounter are usually these ministers. A warm smile and a "Merry Christmas" can be powerful things, especially when it is crowded. Even when the seats are filled, a simple smile helps people know they are still welcome to the celebration.*

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## ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you for the generous response to the Appeal and hamper donations to date. The leaving collection last weekend totalled \$3,336.30. Gift and food cards will again be available in the foyer; cash donations will also be accepted and receipts can be provided.

**Reminder:** please return unwrapped toys and food to the Parish office during the week or at mass services next weekend 18/12.

# ADVENT

## Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

Resources used: Catholic Culture.org

**ADVENT**  
**2nd Rite of**  
**Reconciliation**  
**St Michael's**  
**Kaleen**  
**Wednesday**  
**14 December**  
**7:30pm**



### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Be Patient

Be patient as you await the day when our Lord will come as Judge and King. James 5:7-10

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Magnify the Lord!

Blessed is Mary among women and blessed is the fruit of her womb. Luke 1:39-47

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Repent and Believe

Will you go and work in the vineyard of the Lord today? Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Jesus is the Messiah

The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the poor hear the good news. Luke 7:18-23

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

#### I Am Your Redeemer

With compassion and everlasting love, God gathers us to himself. Isaiah 54:1-10

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

#### A Shining Lamp

As burning and shining lamps, we point to Jesus, the Light of the World. John 5:33-36

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Lion of Judah

The scepter will not depart from Judah until it comes to the rightful Ruler. Genesis 49:2, 8-10

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

### Recently Deceased:

Robert Wood (brother of Fr. Peter Wood msc)

**Anniversary:** John Ashton, Michael Allars, Andre Domjan, Daniel Morris, Raymond Kernan, Patricia Jacobs, Bernadette Anetts, Marie Cody, Branko Kukolic, Kathleen Randall, Amy Carney, Edward Clifford, John MacKay, Robert Carew, William Roots, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmund, Douglas Swaris.

### THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

invites you and your friends to

### THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL

Where: St John the Apostle Church  
 Date: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016  
 Time: 8.30pm

FIRST Cenacle 8.45pm (Joyful Mysteries)  
 SECOND Cenacle 9.45pm (Luminous Mysteries)  
 THIRD Cenacle 10.45pm (Glorious Mysteries)  
 Exposition from 8.30pm until midnight  
 Supper available after midnight  
 All inquiries:-Judy & Joe Mewburn Ph: 6254 6202

### ACU Short Course

### "Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection" 13, 20, 27 February and 6 March 2017

An opportunity to explore the meaning of Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, burial, and Resurrection, with experts from the ACU School of Theology. ACU invites registrations for this upcoming Short Course, which is open to the public.

**Cost:** \$100 for those requiring a Certificate of Attendance. \$50 for attendance only.  
 Alternative methods of payment are available.

**Registration:** <http://www.acu.edu.au/theology/shortcourses>  
 Click on the 'Canberra' page. Registration by: 13 Feb  
**Details:** [shortcourses.ftp@acu.edu.au](mailto:shortcourses.ftp@acu.edu.au)

### On A Lighter Note: Christmas Trivia:

1. What is the name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
2. What is the name of Tiny Tim's father in the story, "A Christmas Carol"?

Answers:  
 1. Jacob Marley  
 2. Bob Cratchit

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS PRACTICE FOR THE NATIVITY

Thursday 15 December - 4:00pm Parish Church  
 The children are encouraged to come to the mass dressed as shepherds or angels.



# ROSTERS

## 18 December Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Joy McInerney, Elaine Laycock, Maresa Laird, Laurine & Daryl Smeaton
8:30am	Jean Tierney, Margaret Conlon, Pat Cowburn, Clyde Sloan, VACANT
10:00am	Marie Flint, Colin Fox, Erin Pitt, Maida Kajkic, Patrick Corr
6:00pm	Peter Polkinghorne, Brian Mahony, Jacinta Le, VACANT, VACANT

## 18 December Reading Roster

6:00pm	Bob Raadts, Judy Netting
8:30am	READERS NEEDED
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Libby Kain
6:00pm	Meg Millband, Matthew Toohey

## 18 December Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Mary Barrett
8:30am	Norma Sloan, Clyde Sloan
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Marie Flint
6:00pm	Brian Mahony

## Other Rosters

12 Dec	<b>Altar Society:</b> Margaret Stanford
12 Dec	<b>Church Cleaning:</b> Ted & Carol Quade
17 Dec	<b>Grounds:</b> David Pigram, Rob Caskie, Matthew Garton, Mike Lavis
24 Dec	<b>Presbytery Cleaning:</b> Maresa Laird, Meg Millband, Pat Cowburn, Sabina Van Rooy, Lynnie Traynor

# 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 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month 7:15pm Parish Library
Book club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month 3:00pm Parish Library
Women's Breakfast	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month 7:30am Little Chef Café Belconnen

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, come and save us

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Mt 11:2-11

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

**LIBRARY NEWS:** Books of meditations, poems, prayers, commentaries and homilies concerning the season of Advent are on display in the library at the moment.

**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.