

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

24 December 2017

#4.18

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

Pastor Fr. Gerard McCormick msc

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am



Hearing Loop: - in the body of the church.

LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sun during
10:00am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 5:00pm – 5:30pm or by
appointment with the priest

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Matthew Garton

Pawsey Circuit Florey

Phone: 6258 3592

Email: office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au

www.sjaps.act.edu.au

REFLECTION

Let it be done to me

The great wisdom teachers and mystics say in various ways that you cannot truly see or understand anything if you begin with a *no*. You have to start with a *yes* of basic acceptance, which means you do not too quickly label, analyse, or categorize things in or out, good or bad.

We see what we are ready to see, expect to see, and even desire to see. If you start with *no*, you usually get some form of *no* in return. If you start with *yes*, you are much more likely to get a *yes* back.

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.

Your life is not about you. It is about God and about allowing Life and Death to "be done unto me," which is Mary's prayer at the beginning of her journey and Jesus' prayer at the end of his.

Resources used: *Reflection*, by Dianne Bergant CSS, *Reflection*, by Greg Sunter, *Beginning with Yes*, by Richard Rohr.

A Christmas Mistake

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation.

All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snow caps upon their heads.

Those in the front row- centre stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood - the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRIST WAS LOVE"
And, I believe, He still is.



Heart Spirituality

Christmas and the Sacred Heart

We all know that the mystery
of the Incarnation
is the fruit of the love of God
for the human race:

God so love the world.

This love that is immense,
beyond measure,
took flesh in a Heart,
that will pour out on us the
treasures of heaven;
and the Heart was given to us
on the Feast of the Nativity.
O day forever to be remembered,
when the human ear,
pressed on the bosom of God,
incarnate in a little child,
has heard for the first time
the beating of the Heart of God,
and the human hand has
felt this gentle throb.

Before the crib,
in the stable of Bethlehem,
the first adorers of Jesus meet:
The first disciples of the devotion
that must save the world.

Instruction- 1856

**May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be
everywhere loved.....forever!**

Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or email tribunal@cg.org.au.

All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

*The light of the Christmas Star to you.
The warmth of home and hearth to you.
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you.
The love of the Son and God's
peace to you.*

*We wish you every blessing for
Christmas and 2018*



Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2017

There will be a leaving collection at all Christmas Masses. The funds raised will support:

- ❖ the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Australia and beyond.
- ❖ Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese as well as the Wilcannia Hub project supporting young indigenous families, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria and Tagbilaran, Cebu, Philippines for their Diocesan Seminary.
- ❖ Other endeavours will include support towards: Providing a school bus to transport young children to school from poor surrounding villages within the La Salette Matha Province in India and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.



The Parish Office will be closed from
noon on Friday 22nd December
and will re-open on
Tuesday 2nd January.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, Patrick Laverty, Paul MacKenzie, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Elana Powell, Jarrod Smith, Dora Roberts, Luis Soria, Cora Newman, Ellen Ottewill, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkins, Robert Wise, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Mecham, Joseph Davis, Clarice O'Callaghan, Kevin McMahon, Nita Smith, Geoffrey Bogg, Willy Raadts, Florence Anthony, Bill Glover

PRAYER LIFE

Charismatic Prayer: Maida: 0423 658 326	Thursday 7:30pm Rosary 7:00pm
Meditation [Library]	Friday 7.30-8.15 pm
Morning Prayer:	Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am
Stations of the Cross	First Friday Monthly After 9:30am Mass
Children's Mass	Second Sunday monthly 10:00am
Adult Choir	Wednesday 7:30pm
Children's Choir	Thursday 4:00 – 5:00pm

SOCIAL LIFE

Coffee Club	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
Youth Group	AGAPE - First & Third Sunday after 6:00pm Mass Parish Centre
School of Religion (Parish Centre)	Sunday 9.15am during school term

LIBRARY NEWS: We will display our selection of books relating to the Christmas season for the next week including meditations and prayers.

On a Lighter note

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The elf-abet.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Readings –31 December 2017

First Reading	Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3
Psalm	104:1-6.8-
Second Reading	Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40

31 Dec Reading Roster

6:00pm	Rob Caskie, Joe Catanzariti
8:30am	Darren Maharaj, Elizabeth McDonald
10:00am	Colleen Reed, Kerry Yard
6:00pm	Brian Mahony, Andrew Luck

31 Dec Ministers of Communion

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

31 Dec Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	
8:30am	
10:00am	Joe Pisciotta
6:00pm	

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	25 Dec	Gabrielle Culhane
Grounds:	30 Dec	ALL GROUPS
Counting:	31 Dec	Group 9
Church Cleaning	25 Dec	Agnes Le & Family

On a Lighter note

