

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Mary Mother of God Year A

1 January 2017

#6.17

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

“Om op aarde het Hart van God”

Parish Administration:

Pastor Gerard McCormick msc

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Associate Pastor Paul Browne msc

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Parish Manager/Pastoral Associate

Marian England

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Parish Secretary Sharon Greaves

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Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT

Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm Mon-Fri

Telephone: 6254 3236

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Web 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: 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

Acting Principal: Matthew Garton

Pawsey Circuit Florey

Phone: 6258 3592

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

www.sjaps.act.edu.au

REFLECTION

RESOLUTIONS

It is traditional around New Year's Day to make resolutions for the coming year: changes that affect the way you live; the way you treat others; setting goals to aim for and work towards.

Most of us, I suspect, have our own long history of broken New Year's resolutions. How many times have we begun a new year with the sincere intention of ending some bad habit and of finally setting ourselves to living life as we should have been living it all along and, after a very short time, have found ourselves again solidly embedded in our old habits and ruts?



What becomes more apparent each time this happens is how true is Aristotle's dictum that "habits are our second nature." As we grow older, many of us, in a real way, despair of real change, of genuine novelty, in our lives. Much of our life is in defeat, many of our dreams have long been crucified and even we don't like ourselves anymore, but we feel helpless, after having failed so many times in trying to change ourselves and our situation, of ever really making things any better.

Hence, most of us live lives not so much of quiet desperation as of quiet resignation "This is the way I am! This is the way my life has always been! This is the way I will always be!" How to change? How to, as the Psalms put it, "sing a new song"?

Real change, as opposed to the simple desire for change and newness, is not easy. There are too many things within us and around us that conspire to keep us static, in our old ways.

But the belief that things can be different, and for the better, is a crucial part of our Christian faith. To believe that there can be "a new heaven and a new earth" (and that we can be paragons of virtue and delight within it) is not something that takes its ground in natural optimism (for example, "I always see the positive in things.") but is something that is rooted in the belief that "nothing is impossible with God."

Resources used: *Reflection* by Greg Sunter & *Resolutions that Last*, Ronald Rolheiser OMI

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Margaret McCallion, Nita Smith, Hannah Meham, Joseph Davis, Geoffrey Bogg, Clarice O'Callaghan, Willy Raadts, Kathryn Jones, Charles Taylor, Therese Markham, Ken Lorroway, Pauline Burt, Cooper McDonald, Jamie Bourke, Mary Gorey, John Burt, Edna Lydon

World Day of Peace

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis

Fiftieth World Day of Peace

1 January 2017

Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace

On this occasion, I would like to reflect on *nonviolence* as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.

The Popes message covers the following topics:

A broken world

The Good News

More powerful than violence

The domestic roots of a politics of nonviolence

My Invitation

See the full message at:

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20161208_messaggio-l-giornata-mondiale-pace-2017.html

There is a small number of printed copies available in the foyer for those without internet access.

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.

On A Lighter Note:

New Year's Eve party

The New Year's Eve party had turned into a regular marathon with numerous guests coming and going. At one point, a man knocked on the door, was greeted heartily although no one knew who he was, and was led to the bar in the basement. He sat there happily for a couple of hours before a strange light dawned on his face. "You know," he confided to his host: "I wasn't even invited to this party. I just came over to tell you that some of your guests' cars are blocking my driveway." The guest continued: "My wife's been sitting out in the car waiting for me to get them moved."

Farewell Fr. Paul

Fr. Paul's last weekend in the parish will be the 21/22 January. There will be an opportunity to farewell Fr. Paul at the 10:00am mass followed by a morning tea in the foyer.

Contact details for Fr. Paul are:

Evermore

Unit 8, 18-30 Bruce St

Forster NSW 2428

Email: paulbrownemsc@gmail.com

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

"Heart of Darkness"

By Joseph Conrad



Sunday 15 January 2017 - 3:00 pm
Parish Library.

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

There is a box on the table in the foyer where you can leave stamps (both used and unused) for the Missions. These stamps will be sent to the MSC Mission Office in Sydney and will be sold. The money raised will be used to help the MSC Missions both here in Australia and overseas.

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of their 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 6201 9802 or by email tribunal@cg.org.au. All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

CALENDAR DATES

3 January – Parish Office Reopens

7/8 January - The Epiphany of the Lord
Blessing of chalk at Mass

15 January –Bookclub
3:00pm Parish Library

22 January – Farewell Fr. Paul
10:00am Mass followed by morning tea

24 January – Women's Breakfast
7:30am Little Chef Café Belconnen

25 January – Over 45's
9:30am Mass followed by morning tea

26 January – Australia Day
Parish Office Closed

30 January – School Resumes

2 February - Presentation of the Lord
Blessing of Candles at 9:30am Mass

12 February – Parish Assembly
11:00am – 1:00pm Parish Centre
followed by sausage sizzle lunch

16 February - Mass 11:00am
Opening School Mass for St John the
Apostle Primary School

17 February – Twilight Fete
St John the Apostle Primary school

20 February –Sacrament of Penance
7:00pm Second Parent formation
evening

25/26 February - Presentation Masses
Candidates for the Sacrament of
Penance

1 March – Ash Wednesday

ROSTERS

8 January Ministers of Communion

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

8 January Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Tom Halloran
8:30am	Mariana Rollgeyser, Sigrid Kropp
10:00am	READERS NEEDED
6:00pm	Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony

8 January Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Violet Duve
10:00am	Cass Pepper, Jason Pepper
6:00pm	VACANT

Other Rosters

2 Jan	Altar Society: Margaret Ferguson
2 Jan	Church Cleaning: Meg Millband, Sabina Van Rooy
7 Jan	Grounds: Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Breen, Mike Blyth
7 Jan	Presbytery Cleaning: Maryanne Ferguson, Ann Clementine, Margaret Sheehan, Lynette Weaver

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:

May God bless us in his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

Luke's image of Mary is a very strong one. We must remember that Mary was no more than a girl – probably 14 or 15 years old. This was the usual age for young women to marry at that time. However, there wasn't much that was normal about the previous nine months of her life. In the midst of all the chaos involved in giving birth away from home and in less than ideal circumstances, she remains completely calm and 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. What an extraordinary young woman! What must the shepherds have made of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus? Shepherds occupied a very lowly status in Jewish society – they were generally regarded as thieves and cut-throats. Suddenly, these very lowly characters were thrust into great events: visions of angels; prophecies; the birth of the Messiah; and powerful experiences of the greatness of God. The gospel says they went back to their sheep glorifying and praising God. They must have been changed by this experience. Perhaps they never really made sense of what happened to them but more likely it was the beginning of a whole new life experience.

Resources used: Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

LIBRARY NEWS: Some of the novels of Graham Greene, Maurice West and other well-known and respected authors are available for loan from the library over the holidays.

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.