

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year B

25 February 2018

#13.18

“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



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

From the Pastor's desk.....

I know many people struggle to make sense of the story of the 'sacrifice of Isaac' (or more correctly, 'the testing of Abraham'). I have to admit I struggle with this story too. But I think that's the whole point of the story, to engage us in a struggle to understand who God really is. Is God indifferent to our human suffering, or is God a God who truly cares?

The story of Abraham dragging his only son along to be sacrificed is truly a dark and troubling tale. As Abraham trudges up the mountain carrying a bundle of firewood for the sacrifice one cannot begin to imagine the terrible burden on his soul. In a sense, Abraham represents our common human story. We are all, at some point in our lives, forced to carry terrible burdens which sometimes can seem to threaten our very existence and test our faith to the core.

To understand how crucial this story is to our understanding of God we have to put ourselves in the shoes of the ancient Hebrews. In the time of Abraham human sacrifice was common and this story clearly reveals that this practice is abhorrent to the God of the Israelites. This is shown by God sending his angel to stay the hand of Abraham. In contrast to the cruel and capricious gods of the surrounding cultures, the God of Israel is a God who is on mankind's side. In spite of all the dark drama of this story, God is finally revealed as a God of blessing, not curse; a God of life, not death; a God of light, not darkness.

Ultimately, this is a story of promise. Isaac is the child of promise, a gift to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. Abraham's faith is rewarded by an even greater promise, a promise of more children than he could ever count:

*I will indeed bless you,
and I will make your offspring as numerous
as the stars of heaven
and as the sand that is on the seashore.
(Genesis 22.17)*

We too are children of the promise, and our destiny is bound up with more blessings than we could ever imagine.

If God is for us, who is against us? (Romans 8.31)

**Peace & blessings,
Gerard**

PARISH NEWS

Sacrament of Penance - Presentation Masses: *The children preparing for the Sacrament of Penance will be presented to the parish this weekend 24/25 February. They will give their prayer card to a parishioner who is asked to pray for them during this preparation time. Would you please hold all the children and their families in your prayers. Thank you.*

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during lent after the 9:30am Mass.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursdays Weekly – Parish Church

Next Practice: 1 March

4:00pm – 5:00pm

The Children sing at the 10:00am Mass on the second Sunday of the month.



St John the Apostle School Fete



Come along to the 2018 Multicultural Fete on Friday, 2 March 2018 from 4pm to 8pm.

Delicious food stalls, entertainment, new Plant Stall and book stall, cake stall, rides and so much more.
Lots to enjoy for all ages.



ST JOHN THE APOSTLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The next breakfast is:

Tuesday 27 February 7:30 am

Little Chef Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen

Over 45's will meet on Wednesday 28 February for Mass at 9:30am, followed by morning tea in the parish centre. Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Please bring a plate to share. Enquiries phone Margaret 6254 4048

FUNERAL NOTICE

Prayers to celebrate the life of

Michael Vella

Will be celebrated at 10:00am

Tuesday 27 February 2018

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax

(There will be no 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion on this day)

MINISTERS FOR THE EASTER CELEBRATIONS

We are looking for readers, ministers of communion and hospitality ministers for the Easter celebrations. If you are available for any of the Easter Liturgies please contact your ministry co ordinator.

Readers - Mary French:

hillmouse@grapvevine.com.au

Eucharist Ministers – Elaine Laycock

layhawk@bigpond.com

Hospitality – Judy Netting

judynetting@gmail.com

Lenten Presentation

'A light in the Darkness: walking the spiritual journey in faith and hope'

Venue: Library St Thomas Aquinas
Primary School Charnwood

Date: Wednesday, 28 February

Time: 7.30pm

Presenter: Shane Dwyer

World Day of Prayer

An Ecumenical Service written by the people of Suriname, South America.

When: Friday 2 March

Time: 11:00am

Where: St Christopher's Cathedral

Light lunch to follow in the Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre.

Second Rite of Reconciliation during Lent
St John the Apostle Parish
Thursday 8 March – 7:30pm

REFLECTION

Transformation & Salvation

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. *Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence.*

At our low points, we are one step away from either enlightenment or despair. Without *faith* that there is a Bigger Pattern, and the grace to surrender to that Bigger Pattern, most people will move into despair, negativity, or cynicism. We need a promise, a hopeful direction, or it is very hard not to give up.

Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

When you have not yet learned what transformation feels or looks like, someone—perhaps some loving human or simply God's own embrace—needs to hold you now because you cannot hold yourself. *When we experience this radical holding, and even deep loving, this is salvation!*

Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

Resources used: *Reflection*, by Dianne Bergant CSS & *The Pattern for Everything*, by Richard Rohr

Heart Spirituality

Reasons for trust in Jesus Christ

Our trust in Jesus Christ
is based on his goodness
Why did he become fully human?
For us and for our salvation.
What was his life?
he went about doing good (Acts 10:38).
His incomparable goodness gave us
his death, his Church, his sacraments,
his Heart, his divine Mother.
We shall esteem this infinite goodness
better if we realise that it's object is not
only human beings in general,
but each of us in particular.
He love me
and gave his life for me (Gal 2:20).
After so many signs of love,
could we hesitate in showing him
boundless trust?
Moreover we shall obtain from his Father
everything that we ask for in his name.
Whatever our weakness, our temptations
and even our failures,
let us drive away all discouragement
and open our hearts to trust.
Why are you fearful?
Let us cast ourselves without hesitation
into his Heart.
He will not let us perish.

Meditations 1 p. 223 1891
Jules Chevalier

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

International Women's Day - 8 March

A new initiative to support and encourage women of all ages will be launched at Merici College on International Women's Day, March 8. The national program was devised and is being developed by women, inspired by the words of St Catherine of Siena: "Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Find out more at:

www.catholicwomensmentoring.org.au

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

Recently Deceased: Eamonn Murtagh,
Lydia Climaco, Michael Vella

Anniversaries: Rudi Meyer, James Wiley,
Johanna Garratt, Reg Lazaro, John Marane,
Ivan Mikulic, Angeles Arranz, Lillian Luke,
Elena Zamora, Adrian Newton, Adrienne Stewart,
Ashley Kent, Eun Cho Shin, Hayden Ricketts,
James McKay, Dorothy Jeffrey, Leo McDonald,
Rachael Netting, Francisca Benedictos,
Sharon Williams, Ian Coffill, Evelyn Swaris,
Josephine Hawkins, Tony Lay

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
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LIBRARY NEWS: Among titles on prayer and meditation displayed this week are some directly concerned with the current season of the Church, namely Lent.

NEW PARISHIONER BOOK

If you are newly arrived in the parish you are invited to enter your name and contact details in the new parishioner book. The book is on a table in the foyer. Thank you.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Readings –4 MARCH 2018

First Reading	Ex 20:1-17
Psalm	Ps 18:8-11
Second Reading	1 Cor 1:22-25
Gospel	John 2:13-25

4 Mar Reading Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan, Lesley Givens
8:30am	John O'Heir, Violet Duve
10:00am	Robin Williams, Frank Colley
6:00pm	Nicole Mikkonen, Judith Deklin

4 Mar Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Helen Kennedy, Debbie Milne, Judy Netting, Joe & Maria Catanzariti
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Sigrid Kropp, Maria Scarr, VACANT, VACANT
10:00am	Pat Sheppard, Jenny Howarth, Nunga Umaru, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos
6:00pm	James & Toni Cox, Margaret Curry, Maria Devine, Anthony Dunncliff-Hagan

4 Mar Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Joe Catanzariti, Jenny Maher
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Rob Breen
10:00am	Libby Kain, Bryan Cowman
6:00pm	Agnes Pham

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	26 Feb	Gabrielle Culhane
Grounds:	3 March	Group 1
Counting:	4 March	Group 1

Church Cleaning:	26 Feb	Agnes Le & Family
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On a Lighter note

Q: What did mama cow say to baby cow?

A: It's pasture bedtime.

Q: What do you call a cow that doesn't give milk?

A: An udder failure.