

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year B

18 March 2018

#16.18

"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

From the Pastor's desk.....

No pain, no gain. There is a ring of truth to this expression. If we want to succeed in anything, effort and sacrifice are necessary. This maxim is often applied to sport and the necessary discipline and long hours of training that are often involved. But it can equally be applied to spirituality. If our faith is important, then effort and discipline are necessary.

In today's gospel Jesus declares: "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains a single gain" (John 12.24).

Jesus gave his life for us. And it came at a great price. His impending death weighed heavily upon his heart. "Now my soul is heavy", he exclaims. But Jesus does not turn aside from his mission. The hour has come for him to be glorified and when he is lifted up upon the cross he becomes the life and salvation of all the world.

This passing over from death to life is painful. Yet all of us must make this passing many times during our lifetime. We die to the comfort and protection of the womb to emerge into the world. We die to innocence of childhood to enter into the sexual awakening of adolescence. We die to the flower of our youth in order to move into the generativity of mid-life. Finally, there is death itself, where we pass from this life into eternity. In each case our horizons are expanded. Through our many 'deaths' we do not diminish but paradoxically become more.

By trying to hold on to life the opposite is true, for we become constricted and small. As Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador (an outspoken critic of the oppressive government of his time and who was gunned down while celebrating Mass in 1980) puts it:

To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I. Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. Those who shun suffering will remain alone. No one is more alone than the selfish. But if you give your life out of love for others, as I give mine for all, you will reap a great harvest.

**Peace & blessings,
Gerard**

PARISH NEWS

*The St John the Apostle
Parish Community is invited to join
in the Nuptial Mass celebration of
the wedding of
Stephanie Cox and
Brent Thompson
Friday 23rd March at 2.00pm*

Sacrament of Penance

27 Children of the parish received the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday 15 March.

Please keep them in your prayers as they now journey towards their First Holy Communion in August.

*New Parishioners - Meet and Greet
Friday 6 April - 5:30pm*

All parishioners are invited to a meet and greet BBQ to welcome new members of our community. We will contact new parishioners who have registered with the parish – but all new parishioners are encouraged to attend. For catering purposes please RSVP by Tuesday 3 April.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is commencing now.

Formation evening for Parents.

Date: Monday 19 March

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at 5:00pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018.

We welcome

Fr. John Bosman msc who will be celebrating masses in the parish this weekend.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

St John the Apostle Primary School

Please help the School earn points towards sporting equipment.

Please collect your

Coles sport for school

vouchers and leave them in the box in the church near the bookstall or drop them off at St John the Apostle School. Even one voucher can make a difference. Thank you



**Second Rite of Reconciliation
St Michael's Church, Kaleen,
Thursday, 22 March at 7.30pm.**

**Concerned Catholics of Canberra –
22 March 2018**

3rd public forum of Concerned Catholics of Canberra-Goulburn. Francis Sullivan, CEO, Truth Justice and Healing Council, will provide an analysis of the Royal Commission's final report **Contact: Rod Page**
concerned.catholics.cnagbn@gmail.com

End of Life Choices 23 March

Submissions are urgently needed from all ACT citizens regarding euthanasia. The ACT Legislative Assembly is conducting an inquiry into End of Life Choices and submissions are due on 23 March 2018.

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/select_committees/end-of-life-choices

Most needed are short personal stories of positive experiences of the palliative care of loved ones. If euthanasia or assisted suicide is legalised in the ACT, it is unlikely that palliative care will receive adequate funding in the future. For ideas to help you write your submission go to <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/issues>

REFLECTION

A New Covenant

Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

A new covenant brings a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

By taking on flesh, Jesus took on human limitations and weaknesses as well. His anguished prayer is probably an example of a righteous person's impassioned prayer. Though Son of God, Jesus learned what every human has to learn, namely, acceptance of God's will in the circumstances of life.

Having learned to accept God's will Jesus can now teach others to do the same. The surest but perhaps the hardest way to learn this lesson, is through suffering. All of this becomes comprehensible when we examine Jesus' role as mediator of salvation. It was through his suffering that he saved us.

Resources used. *Reflection*, by Dianne Bergant CSS &
Reflection, by Greg Sunter

Heart Spirituality

Spiritual Seeds

The seed is the word of God. We often hear that Word of God, shared out to us in a variety of forms: preaching, edifying reading, pious talks. But apart from the word that strikes our ears, the Word communicates another to us, coming to us through the enlightenment with which he illumines our understanding, through his graces that stir our hearts and persuade our will. Let us thank the divine Heart of Jesus who gives us all these precious favours with such generosity and kindness.

The first obstacle to grace comes from hardness of heart. The grain of wheat falls on stone [Luke 8:5-8]. Since it lacks earth, it cannot take root and dies. When our heart becomes hard and insensitive, because of our attachment to sin or because of a long resistance to the inspirations of God, the spiritual seeds that he in his love can place there, dry up and become useless, because they find nothing to make them fertile. The graces, represented by these seeds, are totally lost and serve no purpose. What if these hearts are ours? The graces they receive will serve only to condemn us.

Meditations I, p. 288; 291 f1891
Jules Chevalier

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

Daramalan College Opening Evening
Tuesday 27 March
Tours from 5.00-6.30pm

Optional information sessions for Year 7, 2019 at 4.45pm and 7.00pm.

Year 11, 2019 Information Session at 6.00pm.
Contact 62456348 for further information.

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

Recently Deceased: Rozilie Munday

Anniversaries: Michael Hamilton,
Caelan MacKenzie, Nicola Torelli, Eugene De Rose,
Helen Murphy, Jill Wilson, Richard Kingsford,
Richard Corr, Peter Roache, Marijan Cavlovic,
Generoso D'Ambrosio, Brian Weston, Jack Ransom,
Michael Lowe, Ludvik Koren, James Broderick,
Ella Greig, Alexander Van Audenaerde, Clement King,
Andrew McEvoy, Stanislaw Bitner.

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: "The Wisdom Jesus: transforming heart and mind – a new perspective on Christ and his message" is one of the displayed books on themes relating to Lent and the coming passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

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

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Create a clean heart in me, O God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

Readings –25 MARCH 2018

First Reading	Is 50:4-7
Psalm	Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24
Second Reading	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel	Mark 14:1 – 15:47

25 Mar Palm Sunday Reading Roster

6:00pm	Rob Caskie, Elaine Laycock, Leslie Givens
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Shane Murtagh, Mariana Rollgeiser
10:00am	Meg Millband, Colleen Reed, John O'Heir
6:00pm	Andrew Luck, Marian Crowley, Mary French

25 Mar Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Margaret McMahon, Marie McKie, John Drury, Barbara Witrzens, Terry O'Brien
8:30am	Violet Duve, Ted & Clare Kell, VACANT, VACANT
10:00am	Robin Williams, Libby Costello, Rachel, Marissa & John Blackwell
6:00pm	Judith Deklin, Agnes Pham, VACANT, VACANT, VACANT

25 Mar Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Barbara Witrzens, Marie McKie
8:30am	Fay Stephenson
10:00am	John Blackwell, Louise Bulfin
6:00pm	Judith Deklin

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	19 Mar	Pat Gilchrist
Grounds:	24 Mar	Group 4
Counting:	25 Mar	Group 7
Church Cleaning:	19 Mar	Carol Blyth, Therese Edwards

On a Lighter note

Q. What is the difference between a school boy studying and a farmer watching his cattle?

A. One is stocking his mind, while the other is minding his stock.

Q. You can carry it everywhere you go, and it does not get heavy. What is it?

A. Your name.