

COMPACT

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

**Second Sunday of Advent
9 December 2018**

**Year C
#2.19**

From the Pastor's desk.....

During this season of Advent, we journey with Jeremiah, Baruch (his secretary), Zephaniah and Micah. Prophets have an important role because they energize us with a vision of hope.

In this Second Sunday of Advent we hear from the prophet Baruch whose prophecy is spun with wonderful and exhilarating images. "Cast off your mourning clothes and put on your robes of joy – for your salvation is at hand!" Baruch is speaking about the exile when the Jewish people were torn from their homeland and taken into captivity. But he encourages them to take heart, for the time will come for God will restore his people and their sorrow will be turned to joy.

Even the contours of the landscape are altered – valleys lifted up and mountains levelled in order to facilitate the smooth and expedient return of the Jewish people to their homeland. It is an ecstatic vision, one brimming with joy and exultation.

We too, can exist in a kind of exile alienated from the core of our being: our heart. The pressures and anxieties of living, and the temptations that surround can draw us out of our true selves. Advent then, is a time of restoration, of a return to our hearts where we find God, the true source of our joy.

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

A Liturgy of Forgiveness Thursday, 13 December – 7:30pm

*This Liturgy is a communal celebration
of God's love and forgiveness.*

*It will be an opportunity to express our sorrow and be
open to God's healing as we make our Advent journey
towards Christmas.*

St John the Apostle Parish Church
Please note the change of date

Parish Administration:

Pastor Fr. Gerard McCormick msc
Email: gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au

Assistant Pastor
Fr. Lokimi Vunivesilevu msc
Email: kimi@stjohnkippax.org.au

Pastoral Associate/Parish Manager
Marian England
Email: marian@stjohnkippax.org.au

Parish Secretary Sharon Greaves
Email: kippax@cg.org.au

Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT
Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Mon-Fri
Telephone: 6254 3236
Email: kippax@cg.org.au
Web: www.stjohnkippax.org.au

MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am
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



Hearing Loop: in the
central body of the church.

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

**Becoming Catholic
Rite of Christian Initiation
of an Adult [RCIA]** St John the
Apostle Parish runs a RCIA
program all year. If you know
someone who would like to
become Catholic, please contact
the parish office for more
information.

PARISH NEWS



Working Bee

*Cleaning the church in
preparation for Christmas*
Tuesday 11 December
10:00am – 12 Noon

Accommodation Wanted:

A quiet trustworthy parishioner is looking for accommodation in the Belconnen area preferably a granny flat. He is a single man, non-smoker with a trade (painter).
Enquiries: Graham Erickson 6254 6754.



ST JOHN THE APOSTLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB



The last breakfast for 2018 is:

Tuesday 18 December 7:30 am

Little Chef Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen

Christmas musicians and singers

If you are interested in participating in any of the Christmas masses as either a musician or singer, please contact the parish office.



With sadness we advise parishioners of the passing of Patricia Nagy-Abonyi on 27 September 2018. Patricia was a parishioner at St John's for many years. For the past few years she had lived in care away from the parish. † May she rest in peace.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Monday 24 December

6:00pm Children's Mass

9:00pm (Carols start at 8.30pm)

Midnight (Carols start at 11:30pm)

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December

(one mass only)

9:00am

No evening mass



The **Vinnies** leaving collection last weekend raised **\$2,126.40**. On top of that there was a single donation of \$900.00. Your generosity will make a difference to struggling families this Christmas. Thank you & God bless.

Our parish tithes \$3,000.00 annually to our St Vincent de Paul conference:

- \$1,500.00 – Winter appeal
- \$1,500.00 – Christmas appeal

Carols By Candlelight



Where: St John the Apostle Church carpark

When: Friday, 14 December 2018

6:30pm to 8:30pm

What to bring: Please bring your own picnic, drinks and chairs / rugs / pillow / beanbags.
Candles will be provided.

Hope you will join us for a
“merry, bright and holy night”

St John the Apostle Parish Music Ministry

The parish music ministry is in need of musicians and singers alike.

6:00pm Vigil – Singers and Musicians

10:00am Sunday Children's Mass

6:00pm Sunday (1st & 3rd) to assist
AGAPE Youth Group

Contact: Parish Office kippax@cg.org.au or
Joan Breen robjoanbreen@optusnet.com.au

Pins & Needles Craft Group



Third Thursday Monthly

Next Meeting: 20 December

7:15pm Parish Library

'Listen to what the Spirit is saying'

Presented by: Shane Dwyer

Where: St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood
School Library

When: Wednesday 12 December

Time: 7.15pm Prayer (Vespers)
Concluding with Compline.

Reflection

Prepare a Way

Today's gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. It points us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. It shows us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. True transformation means your motivation foundationally changes from security, status, and sabotage to generosity, humility, and cooperation. The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

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

Heart Spirituality

Jesus' plan in coming among us

What does our divine Saviour want in coming among us?

To be born anew in our hearts!

In other words, he wanted to make us live with his life, to communicate his Spirit; he wanted to give us his Heart, with all the treasures it contains, and to transmit into us all the sentiments that animate it.

Let us prepare ourselves therefore to receive such great gifts.

Let us turn to our Saviour and say:

Come, Lord Jesus!

Come and be born in our souls;
establish there the kingdom of your love.

We want only your Sacred Heart to rule over us. You will be our light, our strength, our guide and our support. We shall follow the law of your Heart, and submit to your reign forever.

(Méditations 1, 25f)

Jules Chevalier

Issoudun 1891

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

Stewardship

The Call to Stewardship

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me."

Psalm 116

Christian stewardship makes God's love visible by generously and sacrificially giving of one's self as Jesus Christ exemplified. To imitate the love of Jesus is not possible in our human nature. Yet, we have not first loved God. God has first loved us. When we open our heart to receive the gifts of God's love, we begin to love in a way that transcends our human nature and to love like Jesus. Stewardship enables the Christian to live Jesus' commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 14:34) And the love He asks is a merciful, sacrificial, and life-giving love.

<http://www.stalcron.org.au/our-parish/200-the-call-to-stewardship>

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: David Fitzroy, Leo Hill msc,
Margaret Woodland, Maria Gillard, Kevin Hiscock,
Winifred Lilley, Bev Purnell, Maria Tabisz,
John Ashton, Michael Allars, Andre Domjan,
Daniel Morris, Raymond Kernan, Patricia Jacobs,
Bernadette Anetts, Branko Kukolic, Amy Carney,
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 4:30 – 5:10pm

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 library's collection of books relating to Advent are on display from this week. They include a selection of homilies, biblical meditations and prayers.

To Be on Earth the Heart of God

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us;
We are filled with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
All people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Readings – 16 December

First Reading Zep 3:14-18
Psalm [Is 12:2-6 R. v.6](#)
Second Reading Phil 4:4-7
Gospel Lk 3:10-18

16 Dec Reading Roster

6:00pm	Bob Raadts, Judy Netting
8:30am	Judith Deklin, Elizabeth McDonald
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Libby Kain
6:00pm	Terry Fewtrell, Joe Ots

16 Dec Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Joy McInerney, Elaine Laycock, Laurine Smeaton, maresa Laird, Patrick Corr
8:30am	Jean Tierney, Margaret Conlon, Pat Cowubrn, Clyde Sloan, VACANT
10:00am	Marie Flint, Maida Kahkic, Ann Reynolds, Judy Lane, Sugi Mohanadas
6:00pm	Peter Polkinghorne, Brian Mahony, Matthew Garton, Kerry yard, Stephanie Stewart

16 Dec Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Mary Barrett, Lesley Givens
8:30am	Norma & Clyde Sloan
10:00am	Marie Flint, Olivia McMahon
6:00pm	Brian Mahony

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	10 Dec	Pat Gilchrist
Grounds:	15 Dec	VACANT
Counting:	16 Dec	Group 6
Church Cleaning:	10 Dec	Ted & Carol Quade

On a Lighter note

My mum bought me a really cheap dictionary for my birthday.
I couldn't find the words to thank her.