

COMPACT

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish



**Third Sunday of Advent
16 December 2018**

**Year C
#3.19**

From the Pastor's desk.....

Anyone listening to J. S. Bach's 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' cannot help but be enraptured by the beauty of this music and its ability to lift the soul. The joy that Bach so exquisitely expresses in his music is a deeply religious sentiment. It is not a joy that can be manufactured, bought or procured. Rather, it is the joy that is experienced through our encounter with the living God.

On this third Sunday of Advent the theme of joy threads its way through the liturgy. The entrance antiphon announces the theme: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." We light the rose candle, a symbol of joy.

In the first reading from the prophet Zephaniah we have an image of a God who dances with delight for his people. The people are exhorted to shout for joy and to rejoice, for their God is in their midst: "Rejoice, exult with all your heart". God's presence among them lifts them up out of their misery. The theme continues in the responsorial psalm "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the holy one of Israel".

We are left in no doubt that joy is meant to be a characteristic of the Christian life. Joy does not cancel out the sufferings that afflict our lives and our world. But the gift of grace that we experience as joy, lifts us up, and empowers us to be God's liberating presence in our world.

In his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis concludes with a prayer to Mary part of which reads: "Filled with Christ's presence, you brought joy to John the Baptist, making him exult in the womb of his mother. Brimming over with joy, you sang of the great things done by God. Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith, you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection, and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit so that the evangelizing Church might be born."

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

Parish Administration:

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Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Mon-Fri
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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.

Christmas 2018

St John the Apostle
Catholic Community



25 Blackham St
KIPPAX ACT

Ph 6254 3236

www.stjohnkippax.org.au

Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Monday 24 December

6:00pm

9:00pm

Midnight

Carols start at 11:30pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December

9:00am

[one mass only]

No evening mass

Congratulations!

On Wednesday 19 December Fr. Gerard will celebrate the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the presbyterate.

We thank Gerard for all that he does in the service of God and ask that God continues to bless him in his ministry.

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

Pins & Needles Craft Group



Third Thursday Monthly
Next Meeting: 20 December
7:15pm Parish Library

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The Joy of Christmas



Thank you for your generosity and extending joy to families in our community at Christmas. Unwrapped or bagged gifts should be returned this weekend with the tag from the tree. Food items can be left in the foyer up until **Monday 17 December**. Hamper packing will be in the Parish Centre from 6pm on **Tuesday 18th** and delivery from 6pm on **Thursday 20th**. This year we will deliver 61 hampers and give gifts to 103 children.

Joy to you at Christmas.



To the small band of parishioners who came and cleaned and spruced up the church on Tuesday. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

Dawn to Dusk

Towards a spirituality of ageing

Written by Fr. Noel Mansfield msc

Copies of this book are available for purchase from the Book Shop.

Cost: \$20.00 per copy

Parish Office Closure

The parish office will be closed from Tuesday 25 December 2018 and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January

Canberra Catholic Bookshop Sunday Opening 16 December - 10:00am - 1:00pm

The Canberra Catholic Bookshop will now be open on Sundays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. During the week the Bookshop is open from 9:30am to 5.00pm and then on Saturdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm
Ground Floor, 55 Franklin St, Forrest

Reflection

Advent – A time for Joy

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that everything we do, is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

Joy stems above all, from a sense of being loved. In the Christian community the experience of the Spirit is essentially a sense that one is loved by God and lovingly grasped within God's saving design. Of course, anxieties and worries remain. Paul's remedy for this is that they be taken to God in prayer. Also, he urges the community to cultivate at all times a sense of thanksgiving. Thanking and blessing God, even for the difficult things that come our way, creates a mysterious sense of peace that is truly the gift of God.

Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between, already and not yet.

Resources used: Reflection, by Dianne Bergant CSS, Scripture Commentary, by Brendan Byrne,

Heart Spirituality

Jesus at Nazareth

What joy, peace, unity, happiness reigned within the Holy Family. There, God was the object of the purest worship. Nothing disturbed their serenity of soul. The passions that agitate the earth and overwhelm hearts were unknown there.

Everything was supernatural. Is it the same with us? If we examine ourselves, we would be obliged to acknowledge that we are far from these models.

Jesus could have worked miracles, preached and made himself admired by the crowds. He did not want to do that; he fled the world's noise and glamour in order to be a model for us.

[Meditations 1, p. 159f]

Jules Chevalier Issoudun 1891

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

Stewardship

Catholic Stewardship is a way of life.

Stewardship is best understood within the context of the conversion process, the turning away from self-centeredness to the recognition that God is the loving Creator and source of everything in our lives. This conversion process transforms our fundamental perspective of life - we move from owners of what we have, to trustees/stewards of the unconditional and loving gifts that have come from God. With this perspective, a steward recognizes that everything comes from God, develops what has been given, shares it in a loving and just way, and increases what God entrusts to her/him according to the will of God.

Stewardship is counter-cultural and challenges the secular philosophy that all we have is solely ours and gives us value. Instead, we are endowed with dignity because of an intimate relationship with God and because all our time, talent, treasure and assets are His gifts to us. We use these gifts to become co-creators and protectors of all life, live out our God-given vocation, and strengthen and preserve the Church at all levels, domestic, parish, diocese and universal, now and into the future.

<https://stpeterchurchreading.org/stewardship/>

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Patricia Jacobs, Bernadette Anetts, Branko Kukolic, Amy Carney, Kathleen Randall, Michael Gunning, John MacKay, Edward Clifford, Marie Cody, Robert Carew, William Roots, Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson, Patrick Laverty, Paul MacKenzie, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh

"To Be on Earth the Heart of God"

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:

"Biblical meditations for Advent and Christmas", "An Adult Christ at Christmas", "A Way to the heart of Christmas" and "Starlight: beholding the Christmas miracle all year long" are some of the books on display leading up to Christmas.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.
Alleluia!

Readings – 23 December

First Reading Mi. 5:1-4
Psalm [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4](#)
Second Reading Heb 10:5-10
Gospel Lk 1:39-45

23 Dec

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Margaret Luck, Elaine Laycock
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Louise Honan, Ann Reynolds
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

23 Dec

Ministers of Communion

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

23 Dec

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Barbara Witrzens, Marie McKie
8:30am	Fay Stephenson, Margaret Ohlin
10:00am	Margarete Gill
6:00pm	Christine Lancaster

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	17 Dec	Mary Cruickshank
Grounds:	22 Dec	David Pigram, Matthew Garton, Mike Lavis
Counting:	23 Dec	GROUP 6
Church Cleaning:	17 Dec	John & Jenny Maher, Carol Blyth

On a Lighter note

Patient: Doctor, I seem to have broken my arm in several places.

Doctor: Well, you should stop going to those places.

Patient: Will I be able to play the piano once it has healed?

Doctor: Absolutely. You'll be just fine.

Patient: That's great news. I've always wanted to be able to play a musical instrument.