

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
23 December 2018**

**Year C
#4.19**

From the Pastor's desk.....

In the Church's documents Advent is described as "a period for devout and joyful expectation". With only a few days to go before Christmas, this 'expectation' is heightened as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of the Lord. But what is our expectation, what do we hope for, what does the birth of this child mean for us and our world?

Our Christian faith informs us that all the hopes and dreams of all humanity are discovered in the gift of Jesus, of whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. The beautiful custom of exchanging gifts during Christmas is but a pale reflection of the priceless gift that is Jesus: God's gift of himself. Jesus is our Emmanuel: "God-is-with-us". God, who existed before time began, is born in time; born to save us from our sins so that we in turn will be born anew in Christ.

In today's gospel we have two expectant parents: Mary and Joseph. What was their expectation as they prepared for the birth of their son? We can only speculate. But surely Mary and Joseph were well aware that this was no ordinary child. Like Mary and Joseph, we too have our part to play in bringing Christ into our world.

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

"To Be on Earth the Heart of God"

Christmas Eve

*There will be **no 9:30am** Mass on
Monday 24 December*

Parish Administration:

Pastor Fr. Gerard McCormick msc
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Assistant Pastor
Fr. Iokimi Vunivesilevu msc
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Pastoral Associate/Parish Manager
Marian England
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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.



Rodney and Barbara Gardiner thank Fr Gerard and the many friends from our parish community for joining us on Friday, 14 December. The Mass to celebrate our 50 years of marriage was special as we renewed our wedding vows and shared this with so many of you who have shown us your love and support over 46 years in this parish. Thank you, Rod and Barbara

Parish Office Hours over the Christmas break



The parish office will be closed from Tuesday 25 December 2018 and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019

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

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

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2018

There will be a leaving collection at all Christmas Masses. The funds raised will support:

- ❖ The ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan.
 - ❖ Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and Broome Diocese, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria.
 - ❖ Other endeavours will include support towards: helping the rural parish of St Joseph's, Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community is envisaged, projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India, and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.
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Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this 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 6239 9813 or email tribunal@cg.org.au

All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

invites you and your friends to
THE 12th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE
PRAYER VIGIL

Where: St Michael's Kaleen

Date: 31st December 2018

Time: 8.30pm

Enquiries: Judy & Joe Mewburn on 6254 6202

Reflection

Standing on the Threshold

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually re-enact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.

Resources used: Reflections, by Dianne Bergant CSS, & Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp

Heart Spirituality

Mary

God's power knows no limits. He can draw from nothingness worlds more beautiful and vast than ours.

But he cannot, according to Saint Bonaventure, raise a creature to a greater dignity than that of being the mother of God.

Her title Mother of God is beyond compare. It enables her to say to Jesus, like God the Father: "You are my son." The divine Motherhood is the cause and purpose of all her extraordinary privileges.

O Mary, you are the glory of human nature. Everything that exists comes under you, God alone excepted.

When we call Mary Mother of God, no further praise is possible, and we exalt at the same time the greatness and power of the Most High.

[Meditations II p. 682f]

Jules Chevalier Issoudun 1891

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

Stewardship

Stewardship is Discipleship!

Stewardship is the loving response to God's love for us by living the individual and universal call to discipleship, a lifelong "way of life", whereby one responds to the missions and ministry of the local and universal Church, sharing the Gospel of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stewardship enables Christians to gauge the extent of their faith and love of Jesus by the stewardship they perform.

As committed disciples of our triune God, we constantly seek to ask ourselves the same question that the psalmist struggled to answer, "How do I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12) Our response progressively takes on a radical conversion and turning over all of our life as an offering to God in gratitude and love.

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

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: John MacKay, Marie Cody, Edward Clifford, Robert Carew, William Roots, Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson, Patrick Laverty, Paul MacKenzie, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Elana Powell, Jarrod Smith, Dora Roberts, Luis Soria, Cora Newman, Ellen Ottewill, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkings, Robert Wise, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Mecham, Joseph Davis, Clarice O'Callaghan, Kevin McMahon, Nita Smith.

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: We continue our display of Christmas books including a selection of homilies written especially for this season of Advent including "Reflections for Sundays: God is with us".

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you;
Let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord;
May his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Readings – 30 December

First Reading	1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28
Psalm	<u>Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-1. Rv5</u>
Second Reading	1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel	Lk 2:41-52

30 Dec

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Dennis Puniard, Joe Catanzariti
8:30am	Darren Maharaj, Elizabeth McDonald
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Ann Reynolds
6:00pm	Brian Mahony, Andrew Luck

30 Dec

Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Joy McInerney, Chitra Jayawardena, Janet Almond, Marie McKie, Patrick Corr
8:30am	Fay Stephenson, Carmel Screen, Jean Tierney, Clyde Sloan, VACANT
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos, Robin Williams, VACANT
6:00pm	Margaret Curry, Brian Mahony

30 Dec

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	David & Therese Mather
10:00am	Joe Pisciotta
6:00pm	

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	24 Dec	Margaret Stanford
Grounds:	29 Dec	
Counting:	30 Dec	GROUP 6

Church Cleaning:	24 Dec	Joseph Lé Văn Hải, Sam Van Nguyen
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On a Lighter note

One night Rudolph was looking out of his window and then told his wife "it's going to rain tonight". His wife then asked "hmmm it's not cloudy - how do you know that"? He replied, 'Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear'.