

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

First Sunday of Advent

Year C

1 December 2019

#1.19

From the Pastor's desk.....

The Christmas decorations have been up in the stores for a quite a number of weeks, and yet we have only begun the season of Advent. The beauty and tranquility that Advent is meant to evoke is sadly brushed aside in all the hype and consumerism of our society. For this reason, Advent can be a time for us to be counter cultural by entering this time of waiting in prayer and vigil for the coming of our Saviour.

Advent is not a penitential season like Lent. It is described by the church as "a period for devout and joyful expectation." And yet it is meant to be a time of reflection, renewal and deep longing for the coming of Christ into our lives.

In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("the Joy of the Gospel") Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of renewal when he writes: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms."

To help us enter in this reflective time Friday night adoration we be held each week during Advent.

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

"Be on earth the Heart of God"

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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



Hearing Loop: in the central body of the church.

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Matthew Garton
Pawsey Circuit Florey
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Email: office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au
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SMOKE FREE ZONE

There is a 4-metre smoke free zone from the entrance and exits of the church buildings. Thank you



Parish News.....

ADVENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
will be held on the three Fridays in Advent.
6th, 13th, and 20th December – 8:30 – 9:30pm.



Christmas Eve

Choir singers needed

6:00pm Children's Mass

9:00pm Mass

Midnight Mass

Practice in the Church Wednesdays at 7:30pm

If you are available to sing at any of the Christmas Masses please contact the parish office on 6254 3236 for more information.

Eric French will celebrate his 90th birthday on 11 December. Parishioners are invited to join him in giving thanks at the 9:30am Mass on that day. Morning tea in the church foyer will follow the mass.

The Over 45's celebrated their 40th Anniversary on Wednesday 27 November. Over 30 members both past and present attended. This was the last meeting for this year. The First meeting for next year will be on **Wednesday 29 January** with Mass at 9:30am followed by morning tea in the parish centre.

Pins & Needles Craft Group

Monday 16 December
7:15pm Parish Library



Parish Finance Council is exploring the idea of forming a Stewardship Committee and is seeking parishioners who may be interested in being part of this initiative.

The work of the Stewardship Committee is both spiritual and practical.

Spiritual – by acknowledging that everything we have comes from God.

Practical – challenging all parishioners to share the financial responsibility of the parish.

Please contact Marian at the parish office to express your interest.



Christmas Appeal Launch

Vinnies

2019

Giving
Tree

How can a hungry child celebrate Christmas?

St John the Apostle Women's Breakfast

*Because of Christmas the next
breakfast is the 3rd Tuesday*

17 December 2019 at 7:30am

Lucky Shot Espresso Bar

Hardwick Crescent KIPPAX

Carols by Candlelight

Where: St John the Apostle Church carpark

When: Sat 14 Dec 2019, 7:00 - 9:00pm

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

See flyer for more details....

Operation Not Forgotten

"Operation #NotForgotten" is a program endorsed by the Refugee Council of Australia and Amnesty International which seeks to support the resettlement of refugees in Canada.

For each person approximately \$18,000 is required. Donations from individuals, community groups and churches are sought to expedite the process.

The Refugee Council of Australia is accepting donations for Operation Not Forgotten.

They can be made direct to RCOA's bank account:

BSB 062 033

Account # 1043 2319

REF: 'CAN, your initial, plus surname'

(eg. CAN A Smith) and then send an email to

admin@refugeecouncil.org.au so we can identify your payment.

Reflection

Stay awake, be ready

People are forever predicting the end of the world. In Christian circles this is generally connected with speculation around the promise Jesus made at his ascension, namely, that he would be coming back, and soon, to bring history to its culmination and establish God's eternal kingdom. There have been speculations about the end of the world ever since.

The early Christians lived with the expectation, that the world, at least as they knew it, would end before their deaths. They believed that it was necessary to live in vigilance, in high alert, ready, so that the end, whenever it would come, would not catch them asleep, unprepared, carousing, and drunk.

However, as the years moved on and Jesus did not return their understanding began to evolve so that by the time John's Gospel is written, probably about seventy years after Jesus' death, they had begun to understand things differently: They now understood Jesus' promise that some of his contemporaries would not taste death until they had seen the kingdom of God as being fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was, in fact, already back and the world had not ended. And so they began to believe that the end of the world was not necessarily imminent.

But that didn't change their emphasis on vigilance, on staying awake, and on being ready for the end. But now that invitation to stay awake and live in vigilance was related more to not knowing the hour of one's own death. As well, more deeply, the invitation to live in vigilance began to be understood as code for God's invitation to enter into the fullness of life right now and not be lulled asleep by the pressures of ordinary life, wherein we are consumed with eating and drinking, buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage.

Hence being alert, awake, and vigilant in the biblical sense is not a matter of living in fear of the world ending or of our lives ending. Rather it is a question of having love and reconciliation as our chief concerns, of thanking, appreciating, affirming, forgiving, apologizing, and being more mindful of the joys of living in human community and within the sure embrace of God.

Resources used: *The End of the World*, by Ronald Rolheiser
OMI

Heart Spirituality

His Harvest will be rich

It is good to think of the network of love with which God at every moment surrounds each soul he created on earth. With each one he acts in a different way. Although their differences are numberless, the attentions of his love are more. Each one's biography is a marvelous history of goodness. Could God's limitless, all powerful love allow him in the end to lose most of those he wanted to save?

In the implacable duel between love and hatred, life and death, is the final and eternal victory to be won by death and hatred?

God did not die on a cross to reap a lean harvest of elect, here and there! His harvest will be rich and superabundant! And the final victory will be his. The Heart of Jesus, to whom we owe heaven, fills us with the most consoling hope, for he is mercy incarnate.

Jules Chevalier msc
(Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus p.299f, Paris 1900)

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

Stewardship

Celebrating a meaningful Christmas

How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for His certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for the spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, performing acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain!

Stewardship Reflections from TheCatholicSteward.com

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

Recently Deceased:

Fr. Paul Stenhouse msc

Anniversary:

Alexandre Arekion, Paul Wilson, Vin Stewart,
Nancy Selvatino, John Soetens, Kane Cahil,
John Martin, Martina Forjanic, Brodie McMahon,
Ryan Jasczyk, Dinah Muench, 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

PRAYER LIFE

Charismatic Prayer: Maida: 0423 658 326	Thursday 7:30pm Rosary 7:00pm
Meditation	Friday 7.30-8.15 pm
Rosary	Monday – Friday 9:05am
Adult Choir	Wednesday 7:30pm

Becoming Catholic

Rite of Christian Initiation of an Adult [RCIA]
please contact the parish office for more information.

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 Monday 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 Lucky Shot Espresso Bar Kippax
Youth Group	AGAPE - First & Third Sunday after 6:00pm Mass Parish Centre
Men's Group	3 rd Friday of the Month 6:00pm Parish Centre
School of Religion (Parish Centre)	Sunday 9.15am during school term

LIBRARY NEWS:

Some of the books on display this week covering the Advent and Christmas season are "Christmas to Calvary", "The First Christmas", "An Adult Christ at Christmas" and "A Way to the heart of Christmas".

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love
And grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Readings – 8 December 2019

First Reading	Is 11:1-10
Psalm	Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Second Reading	Rom 15:49
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday Readings with Commentary-

Available on the table in the church foyer for all parishioners who would like to pray with the readings in preparation for mass. These are not the readings that are produced for the Lectors on the reading ministry

8 Dec Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Therese Kercher
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Sigrid Kropp
10:00am	Ann Reynolds, Libby Kain
6:00pm	Brian Mahony, Anna White

8 Dec Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Margaret Conlon, Marian England, Robert Greig, Anthony & Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Brian Green, Fay Stephenson, Shane Murtagh, Margaret Stanford, Peter Polkinghorne
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Cathy Madsen, Frank Colley, Francesca Deklin, Margarete Gill
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Webster, Andrew Luck, Margaret Curry, VACANT

8 Dec Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan, Jenny Maher
8:30am	Mandy Lalor, Mercia Needham
10:00am	Judy Kenny
6:00pm	Kay Dwyer

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	2 Dec	Margaret Ferguson
Grounds	7 Dec	VACANT
Counting:	8 Dec	Group 4
Church Cleaning:	2 Dec	Debbie Milne, John O'Heir, Pat Keenan, Peter Hofman

On a Lighter note

I was having breakfast at a hotel, and I went to get some orange juice but there was a long line of people waiting there for some. So I went to the Apple juice line, and again, there was a long line. So I decided to have some punch instead. I was relieved to see that there was no punchline.