

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

**Second Sunday of Advent
8 December 2019**

**Year A
#2.20**

From the Pastor's desk.....

Last Tuesday evening we held a workshop in the parish for those who write the Prayer of the Faithful for our Sunday Eucharist. I want to take this opportunity to thank this team for their commitment to this ministry over many years. One concern that was raised during this workshop was the question of how well does our congregation fully appreciate this wonderful prayer.

Vatican II reinstated the Prayer of the Faithful, also known by other titles such as the General Intercessions, the Universal Prayer and the Bidding Prayer. The Prayer of the Faithful was absent from the Tridentine Mass, and so for centuries this prayer was lost and forgotten. However, thanks to Vatican II this ancient prayer has now become a regular feature of our Sunday Eucharist. But do we really appreciate its importance.

The *General Instruction to the Roman Missal* explains, "In the Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in a certain way to the word of God which they have welcomed in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all."

This is a powerful statement. It speaks of our participation in the Mass by exercising our baptismal priesthood. Priesthood in the Old Testament was largely understood as interceding for the people. (For example, Moses, in his priestly role, intercedes for his people before God.) Because of our incorporation into Christ through baptism we intercede with Christ for the Salvation of the World. This is the heart and meaning of the Prayer of the Faithful. The Word of God has been proclaimed in the readings, broken open in the homily and is now taken up by the people who pray that God's Word bear fruit in our lives and our world.

There is much more to be said about this prayer and I will try to follow up with further reflection in next week's Compact.

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

"Be on earth the Heart of God"

Parish Administration:

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

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

Assistant Pastor
Fr. Michael Stephan msc
Email: michael@stjohnkippax.org.au

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

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

Youth Minister Eoin Garton
Email: Eoin.Garton@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



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

SMOKE FREE ZONE

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



Parish News.....

Vinnis Christmas Appeal



Vinnies
2019
Giving
Tree

How can a hungry child celebrate Christmas?

Thanks for your wonderful response so far. Gift cards and food gift cards are still available. Please return food items by 15 December. **Return gifts** unwrapped or in a gift bag with the tag from the tree by **15 December**. If you can help with hamper deliveries on 21 December, please add your name to the list on our table in the foyer.

Financial donations can still be made and receipts are available if required. Contact Mike for more information - 0419818410.

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.

Pins & Needles Craft Group

Monday 16 December
7:15pm Parish Library



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

Adoration

of the

Blessed Sacrament



Three Fridays in Advent

6th, 13th, & 20th December

8:30 – 9:30pm.



Reconciliation [Confession] will be
available during Adoration on

Friday 20th December

9:00pm - 9:30pm

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....

Christmas 2019 - Mass Times



Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December

6:00pm, 9:00pm & Midnight

Carols start at 11:30pm

Christmas Day - 9:00am

[one mass only] No evening mass

Friar Alessandro – Concert

St Christopher's Cathedral

Monday 9 December 2019

If you registered to attend this concert as
part of St John's Parish group your ticket is
available to be collected at the parish
office on Monday.

South Belconnen Parish Youth

Christmas Party

Where: St Vincent's Aranda - Orana Parish Center

When: Saturday 14 December 4:45-6pm

Who: Students in year 3-7.

We will be playing games, sharing food and
celebrating such a great year of youth ministry in
our schools and parish. We hope to see you there!

Reflection

The Desert - A Place of Renewal

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

However, what frightens us, are the untamed and uncultivated deserts within our own hearts, the unexplored and dark areas inside of us. We are frightened of what might lie in hiding there, how vulnerable we might be if we entered there, what wild beasts and demons might prey on us there, and whether a chaotic vortex might not swallow us up should we ever venture there. We fear unexplored places; except our fear is not for our physical safety, but for our sanity and our sanctity.

Our Christian faith invites us to go into those areas, face the wild beasts that dwell there, and turn those dangerous regions into cultivated land, into safe gardens. After all that is what Jesus did. But he wasn't naïve and he didn't venture there alone. He entered those underworlds with his hand safely inside his Father's, not walking alone.

Faith is meant rid us of fear, including fear of the wild beasts and demons that lurk inside the deserts of own minds, hearts, and energies. We are meant to turn those wild, dark areas into safe gardens.

God became incarnate in the world through Jesus, but also always was, and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Resources used: *Reflection*, by Greg Sunter, & *Turning Inner Chaos into a Peaceful Garden*, by Ronald Rolheiser OFM.

Heart Spirituality

Love your enemies

Jesus commands us to love our enemies (Mt 5:44). Despite its cost, this is essential if we want to be disciples and friends of the Sacred Heart. How many pious people delude themselves on this point. They are content to say: I do not wish trouble upon my enemies, but everything in me resists my seeing them and speaking with them; they have offended me too greatly. If those are our sentiments, we are not Christians.

Jules Chevalier msc
(Méditations 1, p.322f, Paris 1900)

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

Stewardship

Christian Hospitality

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist in our Gospel passage from Matthew. John has the honour of preparing the people for the arrival of the Saviour and the coming of the Kingdom of God. His words apply just as much to us in our own Advent preparations today. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Though it may not seem obvious at first, there is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality. By recognizing and repenting of our own sins, we become aware of our need for a Saviour and his great mercy towards us. With this awareness, and the gratitude to God that comes with it, we are freed to see the good in others and welcome them into our lives just as Christ has welcomed us.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish.

[Stewardship Reflections from TheCatholicSteward.com](http://TheCatholicSteward.com)

SJASJ DECEMBER

Social Justice Brochure

in the Church foyer



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

Recently Deceased:

Lola Salem-Boer [baby daughter of Doug & Juliet]
Ian Loiterton [husband of Sharon]

Anniversary:

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, Raymond Kernan,
Patricia Jacobs, Bernadette Anetts, Branko Kukolic,
Kathleen Randall, Michael Gunning, Amy Carney,
Edward Clifford.

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
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LIBRARY NEWS:

To assist us in making this Advent a prayerful one how about borrowing a book from the library such as "Meditations: reflections on the Incarnation" or "Biblical meditations for the Advent and Christmas seasons".

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

Readings – 15 December 2019

First Reading	Is 35:1-6, 10
Psalm	Ps 145:6-10
Second Reading	Jas 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

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

15 Dec Reading Roster

6:00pm	Bob Raadts, Judy Netting
8:30am	Darren Maharaj, Kerry Yard
10:00am	Ivo Astolfi, Libby Kain
6:00pm	Terry Fewtrell, Joe Ots

15 Dec Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Joy McInerney, Elaine Laycock, Laurine Smeaton, Maresa Laird, Gerard Teng
8:30am	Margaret Conlon, Pat Cowburn, Clyde Sloan, Peter Polkinghorne, VACANT
10:00am	Marie Flint, Ann Reynolds, Judy Lane, Sugi Mohanadas, Bernadette Madsen
6:00pm	Brian Mahony, Matthew Garton, Rod Gardiner, Stephanie Stewart, Anthony Dunncliff-Hagan

15 Dec Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Lesley Givens
8:30am	Norma & Clyde Sloan
10:00am	Marie Flint
6:00pm	Brian Mahony

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	9 Dec	Pat Gilchrist
Grounds	14 Dec	Allan Laycock, Rob Breen, Mike Blyth, Dennis Puniard
Counting:	15 Dec	Group 6

Church Cleaning:	9 Dec	Ted & Carol Quade
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On a Lighter note

What do you call 10 cucumbers lined up waiting for a bus?

A quecumber