

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

**Third Sunday of Advent
15 December 2019**

**Year A
#3.20**

From the Pastor's desk.....

Last week I wrote about the Prayer of the Faithful. I would like to continue to reflect upon this important part of the Mass.

Last week I spoke about the theology of the Prayer of the Faithful, how, as a priestly people, we intercede with Christ for the salvation of the world. Today I would like to focus on how this prayer is prayed.

So let's walk slowly through this prayer. First, the presider invites the congregation to pray. The reader then announces the intentions to be prayed for. There is a short period of silence and then the congregation responds with a refrain such as "Lord, hear our prayer." Finally, the presider concludes with a summing-up prayer – a prayer that collects together.

One could be excused for thinking that the congregation's part is minimal, whereas, in fact, it is the most important. The presider's role is to direct this prayer. The presider opens and closes the prayer but the heart of the prayer belongs to the congregation. Likewise, the reader simply announces the intentions. The intentions are not prayers in themselves. It is after the intentions are announced – in the silence – that they become a prayer that the faithful take up. This is the heart of the prayer.

The American Benedictine monk, Michael Kwatera, explains this well: "The intentions are not mini-prayers, addressed to God... Rather, the intentions are biddings, invitations by which the assembly is asked to pray for certain people and things."



The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday" (*Gaudete* being Latin for "rejoice"). This Sunday gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon of the 3rd Sunday of Advent: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice". In our liturgy today we light the rose candle as a sign of anticipation of Christmas joy.

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***

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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
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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.....

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Fridays in Advent
20th December
8:30 – 9:30pm.



Reconciliation [Confession]
will be available during
Adoration on
Friday 20th December
9:00pm - 9:30pm

WEEKDAY MASS CHANGE Monday 23 December

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with
Communion followed by
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday 24 December
NO Liturgy of the Word

Parish Office Hours over the Christmas break



The parish office will be closed from
Wednesday 25 December 2019
and will re-open on
Monday 6 January 2020

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. 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 by email tribunal@cg.org.au. All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are struggling.

Please leave unwrapped or bagged **gifts** with the card from the tree in the church foyer by Sunday evening **15 December**.

Food donations can be left in the foyer up until Sunday evening **15 December**.

Packing hampers is on Tuesday **17 December** from 6pm and deliveries on Saturday from 9am.

We need a couple of more people to help with deliveries please. Sign on at the table in the foyer.
thanks. Mike 0419818410.

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

SJASJ DECEMBER

Social Justice Brochure

in the Church foyer



Caritas Australia Global Gifts

This Christmas you can 'be an angel' by giving a Caritas Global Gift. For friends and family who, like you, know they don't need more 'things', your gift can help provide clean water, food or sustainable livelihoods – things we so often take for granted here in Australia.

In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautiful card or e-card to give to your loved one showing you have made a contribution on their behalf. Purchase online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts or phone 1800 024 413.

Reflection

WAITING

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.

Taken from: Homily, by Richard Leonard SJ

Heart Spirituality

Transformation of the Material World

"The heavens are the work of your hands; all will vanish." That is true, but explaining if further King David adds: *"You will change them Lord like a garment"* [Ps. 102: 25].

What is announced here is a destruction, of form not of substance.

"The present sky and earth are destined for fire, and are only beings reserved until Judgement day so that all sinners may be destroyed" [2 Pet.3:7,10). That will be the general purification of the universe, a universe *"unable to attain its purpose, but not for any fault of its own. Freed from its slavery to decadence, it will enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God."*

From the beginning until now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth" [Rom. 8:20-22]

This giving birth that is being prepared refers to the new universe: "What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heaven and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home" [2 Pet. 3:13]

Jules Chevalier msc

(Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus p.303f, Paris 1900)

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

Stewardship

Be Patient

St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves.

St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

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

"Be on earth the Heart of God"

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

Recently Deceased:

Yvonne Dunn (Sister of Fr. Bede North msc)
Nick De Grave (son of Pauline and Han)

Anniversary:

Michael Allars, Andre Domjan, Daniel Morris,
Raymond Kernan, Patricia Jacobs, Bernadette Anetts,
Brank Kukolic, Kathleen Randall, Michael Gunning,
Amy Carney, Edward Clifford, John MacKay,
Marie Cody, Robert Carew, William Roots,
Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds,
Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson,
Patrick Laverty, Paul MacKenzie.

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 Christmas Books on display during Advent are, "As rain that falls: reflections for Advent", "God day by day: Advent and Christmas", "A Book of days: reflections inspired by the liturgical year" and "Year of the Lord Cycle A: reflections".

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

Readings – 22 December 2019

First Reading	Is 7:10-14
Psalm	Ps 23:1-6
Second Reading	Rom 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24

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

22 Dec Reading Roster

6:00pm	Elaine Laycock, Dennis Puniard
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Judy Lane, Ann Reynolds
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

22 Dec Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Marie McKie, John Drury, Margaret McMahon, VACANT, VACANT
8:30am	Agnes Pham, Gerard Teng, Ted & Clare Kell, VACANT
10:00am	Robin Williams, Libby Costello, Pat Sheppard, Erin Pitt, Maida Kajkic
6:00pm	Raquel Salmeron, Ignatius Rozario, Mark Haureliuk, James & Toni Cox

22 Dec Hospitality Roster

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	16 Dec	Mary Cruickshank
Grounds	21 Dec	VACANT
Counting:	22 Dec	Group 8

Church Cleaning:	16 Dec	Carol Blyth, Beatrice Williams
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On a Lighter note

I'm trying to think of a joke about waiting
for the bus at the wrong bus stop.
But nothing is coming to me.