

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
15 September 2019

Year C
#42.19

From the Pastor's desk.....

The parable of the Prodigal Son has been described as the greatest short story ever composed. And that is from a literary point of view! The story has all the dramatic hallmarks that make it an engaging tale which bears retelling time and time again.

On a theological level the story is even more breathtaking. In telling the story, Jesus is obviously having a swipe at the Pharisees in the manner by which he sketches out the character of the older brother. The older brother represents all that is repugnant in the stance of the self-righteous. The younger brother is no angel. He is a fool who through selfishness squanders his father's hard-earned wealth. But the difference between these two characters is that the younger brother comes to his senses. He confronts his folly and is deeply repentant. The older brother remains rigid and unwilling to see from the perspective of his father.

The story is not only about conversion. It is one of the most revealing and tender images of God that we find in the scriptures. The title of the story 'the prodigal son' is a later appendage; in some ways, it detracts from the story itself in that it focuses too much attention on the younger son. It is probably more fitting for it to be called the parable of the Prodigal Father. The father is reckless. A squanderer. But not from any selfish motive. It is love that the father is reckless. He squanders his love unstintingly on both his sons. This is the God that Jesus reveals to us: a tender, loving and merciful God.

Peace & blessings,
Gerard



Saturday Vigil Mass Time
will revert to 6:00pm on
Saturday 12 October 2019

Parish Administration:

Pastor Fr. Gerard McCormick msc
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Assistant Pastor
Fr. Kimi Vunivesilevu msc
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Marian England
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Youth Minister Eoin Garton
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Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT
Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Mon-Fri
Telephone: 6254 3236
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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5:00pm
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 4:00pm – 4:30pm



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 AREA ON CHURCH GROUNDS



The drive way and
the area
immediately in
front of the church
is a Smoke free
Zone

Thank you

Parish News.....

Anointing of the Sick within Mass

Friday 27 September at 10:00 am

Followed by morning tea in the church foyer

The elderly, the sick and housebound of our parish are invited to this Anointing of the Sick mass. This special liturgy celebrates the healing love of Christ. If you know of any parishioner who would like to attend this Mass, and needs assistance in getting there please contact the Parish Office.

Please note the later start time for mass

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Thursday 19 September 9:30am

Frs. Gerard and Kimi are attending meetings interstate on this day.

Pins & Needles Craft Group

Monday 16 September

7:15pm Parish Library



SJA Men's Group

Meeting Monthly

Normally 2nd Friday –
for this month it is the 3rd Friday

Next gathering: Friday 20 September

St John the Apostle Parish Centre: 6:00pm

Appeals and Leaving Collections

We thank you for your generosity and continued support for these charitable works

	2019	2018	2017
MSC MISSIONS	\$5,515.35	\$7,820.95	\$120.00
Project Compassion	\$8,053.55	\$5,750.10	\$7,550.00

SUNDAY READINGS WITH COMMENTARY

- Available on the table in the church foyer are the readings and commentary for the following weekend for 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 but a separate issue particularly for the general body of the congregation.



SEASON OF CREATION

"The Web of Life"

1 September – 4 October

Pope Francis has called on Christians to use this period as a season to "reflect on our lifestyles" and how they affect the environment.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2019/09/02/pope-francis-on-the-season-of-creation/>

Ozanam Sunday

On the weekend of **28 and 29 September** there will be a leaving collection for our **Vinnies twin conference** in Tamil Nadu in India.

Frederic Ozanam founded the St Vincent de Paul Society in Paris in 1833 and the work he started to help the poor and marginalised continues throughout the world today. Your help on Ozanam Sunday is greatly appreciated.

More information: Mike 0419 818 410.

Women's Prayer Weekend St Mary's Towers Douglas Park Women Mystics

Presenters: Pauline Compton fdnsc,
Michelle Vass

1-3 November 2019

Email: towersretreat@bigpond.com

<http://www.towersretreat.org.au>

Agape Youth Group

High school students in years 7 to 12
First and Third Sundays after the 6:00pm Mass
Next gathering 15 September

Belconnen Youth Ministry

Inviting all students in year 3-7 to join us for an afternoon of faith, friendship and fun at South Belconnen Parish's Junior Youth Group and Youth Mass. Join us in Marian Hall just outside of St Matthew's Church, Page on Saturday 21st September at 4:45pm for Youth Group then stay on to celebrate Mass at 6pm. Contact Youth Minister Sarah for more information at Sarah.Larkin@cg.org.au

Reflection

Joy in Heaven

Sin is simply any lack of conscious awareness and participation in our union with God. Naturally, we forget or mistrust and, "sin" often. That is why Jesus tells so many stories about losing and finding, such as the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

All three parables display great folly. What shepherd would leave 99 of his sheep in the wilderness to go in search of just one? Similarly, what woman is going to reveal to her friends how poverty-stricken she really is by inviting them to rejoice with her at the finding of one lost drachma – the least valuable of coins. When we come to the father rejoicing at his son's return, this too would have seemed a ridiculous folly. Because of his actions, the son completely shamed himself and his father. In an echo of God's ridiculous and unbounded loving forgiveness, the father welcomes his son with open arms and reclaims him as his own.

Indeed, God rejoices over the lost returning home: "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Luke 15:7).

The ninety-nine righteous people in this parable are focused on the spirituality of perfection. They may brag about what good Christians they are, how generous their offerings are, and how regular their church-attendance. They think they know where their perfection lies, but true wisdom comes from *knowing that you don't know*. This is "learned ignorance." You have to learn how imperfect you are.

Our God seems consumed with an insatiable desire to re-establish a relationship with us after we have turned our backs on God, have chosen to commit our loyalties elsewhere, have thoughtlessly wandered off into danger that threatens our wellbeing, not God's. Unconditional love is God's very essence and no human frailty or depravity can change this.

Resources used: *Reflection*, by Greg Sunter, *Reflection*, by Dianne Bergant CSA, & *Good News*, by Richard Rohr OFM

Heart Spirituality

Confession of the prodigal

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran up to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly.

Then his son said, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I no longer deserve to be called your son. The fond father does not let him finish; he is more eager to grant pardon to his repentant son than the latter is to receive it. He restores to him all his rights, puts on a great feast in his honour and invites his whole house to rejoice with him.

What unbounded goodness!

That is how God behaves towards a poor sinner who sincerely returns to him.

Jules Chevalier msc
(Retraite, p. 85, Issoudun 1904)

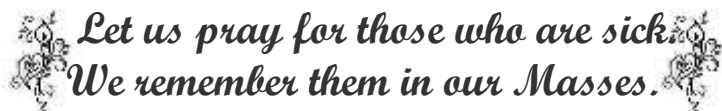
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.....forever!

Stewardship

In every case, the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, it is a merciful and loving God who forgives and reaches out to whoever is lost. Stewardship teaches us to trust in God. It reminds us on a daily basis to give thanks to God for the love and blessings we receive. In a sense we are all lost, but no matter what, God loves us, God seeks us, and God welcomes us warmly when we repent and return. To paraphrase the Parable of the Prodigal Son, "We are lost, but through stewardship we can be found."

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

"To be on earth the Heart of God"



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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Kathleen Wiltshire, Cedric Pratt, Denise Busch, Mary Prosper, Raymond Free, Graham Ottewill, Robert Caskie, Pauline Jones, Therese Le, Don Nicol, Peter Hill, Allan Biggs, John Haley, Frances Critchlow, Antonio Ahn, Magdalen Ripszam, Marijona Grybaitis, Jana Nassir, Josephine Mulligan, Luke White, Beryl Mannix, Aileen Antcliffe, James Sharah, Zoila Wait, Philip Hazell, Patrick Clarke, Lidia Torelli

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
Mens Group	2 nd Friday of the Month Venue to be advised

School of Religion (Parish Centre)	Sunday 9.15am during school term
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LIBRARY NEWS: For the next month – The Season of Creation – we will display our books concerning the environment.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in participating in the life of the parish through the Pastoral Council you are invited to attend the next meeting on Thursday 10 October at 7:30pm. "Come and See" John 1:39

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

I will rise and go to my father

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ,
to reconcile the world to himself;
And the Good News of reconciliation
he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Readings – 22 September 2019

First Reading Am 8:4-7
Psalm Ps 112:1-2, 4-8
Second Reading 1 Tm 2:1-8
Gospel Luke 16:1-13

22 Sept

Reading Roster

5:00pm	Elaine Laycock, Dennis Puniard
8:30am	Kerry Yard, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Judy Lane, Ann Reynolds
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

22 Sept

Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	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	Priscilla Gonsalves, Raquel Salmeron, Ignatius Rosario, Francis Irona. VACANT

22 Sept

Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Judy Netting, Marie McKie
8:30am	Fay Stephenson, Margaret Ohlin
10:00am	Margarete Gill
6:00pm	Christine Lancaster

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society:	16 Sept	Mary Cruickshank
Grounds	21 Sept	VACANT
Counting:	22 Sept	Group 7

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

- Q. What did the Zen Buddhist say to the hotdog vendor?
A. Make me one with everything.