

# COMPACT



## St John the Apostle Parish

*A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**10 December 2023**

**YEAR B**  
**#02.24**

## Reflection

### **The wilderness is a place of encounter.**

Today's gospel places John the Baptist in the wilderness, heralding the coming of Jesus. This image reinforces the idea of the wilderness as a space where profound encounters with God take place. John's clothing of camel's hair and his diet of locusts and wild honey evoke the image of a prophet in the wilderness, reminiscent of Elijah. This deliberate association suggests a continuity with the prophetic tradition and underscores the wilderness as a space where individuals are set apart for a divine purpose.

The act of baptizing in the Jordan River becomes symbolic of a cleansing and preparation for the imminent arrival of the Messiah. The act of baptism, traditionally associated with repentance, emphasizes the transformative nature of the wilderness experience. It serves as a rite of passage, a symbolic washing away of the old self in anticipation of the new. This reinforces the idea that the wilderness is not only a physical place but also a metaphorical space for personal and spiritual preparation. A place where obstacles are removed, and hearts are made ready for the divine encounter.

Furthermore, the wilderness is presented as a liminal space, a threshold between the familiar and the unknown. People from Jerusalem and all Judea flock to the wilderness to be baptized by John, signifying a collective recognition of the need for spiritual preparation and renewal.

The wilderness is a sacred space where individuals undergo a transformative process, shedding the old and preparing for the new. It serves as a place of communal acknowledgment and anticipation, echoing the timeless truth that the wilderness is not just a physical terrain but a symbolic realm where we encounter God and prepare ourselves for the unfolding of divine purposes in our lives.

Advent is a wilderness time when we prepare for the feast of the Incarnation – God becoming one of us.

## Parish Administration

### Parish Priest

Fr. Kimi Vunivesilevu msc

Email: [kimi@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:kimi@stjohnkippax.org.au)

### Assistant Priest

Fr. Chung Tran msc

Email: [chung@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:chung@stjohnkippax.org.au)

Pastoral Associate/Parish Manager  
Marian England

Email: [marian@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:marian@stjohnkippax.org.au)

Parish Secretary Sharon Greaves

Email: [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

Finance Officer Kirsty Vera

Email: [kirsty@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:kirsty@stjohnkippax.org.au)

### Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT

Office Hours: Mon-Fri  
9.00am-3.00pm

Telephone: 6254 3236

Email: [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

Web: [www.stjohnkippax.org.au](http://www.stjohnkippax.org.au)

### 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

### Ministry

Sacristan: Maryanne Ferguson

[Kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

### Pastoral Council Chair

Jenny McGee

Email: [ppc.kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:ppc.kippax@cg.org.au)

### Safeguarding Officer

To Be Advised

[safeguarding.kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:safeguarding.kippax@cg.org.au)

### ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Matthew Garton

Pawsey Circuit Florey

Phone: 6258 3592

Email: [office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sjaps.act.edu.au](http://www.sjaps.act.edu.au)



**St John the Apostle Parish Kippax**  
is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community.

## LEAVING COLLECTION FAREWELL GIFT

A leaving collection for Fr. Kimi's farewell gift will take place next weekend 16/17 December

### Sausage sizzle and morning tea

after the 10:00 am mass Sunday December 10



Everyone's invited.

Feel free to bring a plate to share.

Anyone who is willing to help Jenny McGee set up and serve on the day please contact her text 0481 706 966 or [jemapm59@gmail.com](mailto:jemapm59@gmail.com)

## YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS [YCS]

Sunday 10  
December  
7:00pm – 9:00pm



St John the Apostle Parish Centre  
Enquiries to the parish office 6254 3236 or [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST



TUESDAY 19  
DECEMBER – 7:30AM  
BEAN ORIGIN CAFÉ  
NETTLEFOLD STREET BELCONNEN

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS TIMES

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday 24 December.

Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> VIGIL Mass 5:00pm and Sunday 24 Mass at 9:00am.



Masses will be celebrated on December 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm, 8:00pm and 11:00pm  
December 25<sup>th</sup>

**"Be on earth the Heart of God"**

## CHRISTMAS MASS

Sunday 24  
December  
5:00pm



Would your child like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity at this mass?

If so, register your interest at [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au) or 6254 3236

**Plus** – attend a practice at the church on Friday 22 December at 11:00am

## FUNERAL NOTICES

*Ray Bergsma*

Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 13 December 2023  
at 3:00pm

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax

*Adam Suckling*

Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 14 December 2023  
at 11:00am

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax

## ADORATION DURING ADVENT

Thursdays in December  
14 ● 21

Contemplative Prayer with  
the Blessed Sacrament  
7:30pm – 8:30pm

## Advent Reconciliation

The 1<sup>st</sup> Rite of reconciliation  
will be available during Adoration

Thursday 14 December  
7:30 – 8:30pm

## Community Connections

We held our first gathering of this group back in September. Parishioners who live alone are now invited to Christmas Drinks on

Sunday 17 December  
3:00 – 4:30pm  
in the Parish Centre

# Advent – Action in Waiting

## The One who Cries in the Wilderness

It is a troubled time when the voices of those who cry in the wilderness have fallen silent, shouted by the noise of the day or outlawed or swallowed up in the intoxication of progress, or growing smothered and fainter for fear and cowardice.

O Lord, today we know once more, and in quite practical terms, what it means to clear away the rubble and make paths smooth again. We will have to know it and do it for years to come. Let the crying voices ring out, pointing out the wilderness and overcoming the devastation from within. May the Advent figure of John, the relentless envoy and prophet in God's name, be no stranger in our wilderness of ruins. For how shall we hear unless someone cries out above the tumult and destruction and delusion?

Taken from: *The Shaking Reality of Advent*, by Alfred Delp SJ

## Stewardship

### Our Goal this Advent

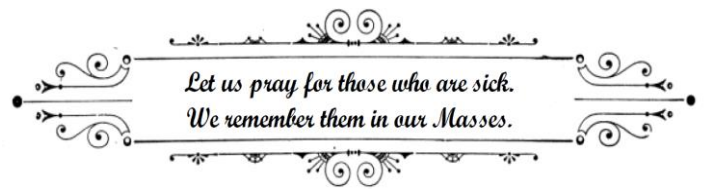
We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

We are called to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us how. He says, we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent "reset" — to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In this way, we will honour both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

[www.catholicsteward.com](http://www.catholicsteward.com)



## Recently Deceased:

*Ray Bergsma, Adam Suckling*

**Anniversary:** Margaret Woodland, Maria Gillard, Kevin Hiscock, Winifred Lilley, Bev Purnell, Maria Tabisz, John Ashton, Ian Loiterton, Michael Allars, Andre Domjan, Daniel Morris, Raymond Kernan, Patricia Jacobs, Yvonne Dunn, Bernadette Anetts, Brank Kukolic, Kathleen Randall, Michael Gunning, John Dickson, Amy Carney, Edward Clifford, Gordon Aikman, John MacKay, Marie Cody, Robert Carew, William Roots

## Mass Intentions the week of 11 – 17 December

Mon 11/12	Ashley Caldwell
Wed 13/12	Elizabeth Hallahan
Thur 14/12	
Fri 15/12	

Sat 16/12	
5:00pm	Sheila Lay

Sun 17/12	
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	

**To ensure that a mass time is available please telephone the parish office to make a booking.**

## THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

invites you and your friends to  
THE 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE  
PRAYER VIGIL

Where: St Brigid's Church  
Address: 2 Bancroft Street, Dickson  
Date: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

8.00pm - Joyful Mysteries

9.00pm - Luminous Mysteries

10.00pm - Sorrowful Mysteries

11.00pm - Glorious Mysteries

Exposition from 8.00pm until Benediction just before Midnight.

For more information – visit the website:  
[mmp-oceania.net](http://mmp-oceania.net)



## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	1st & 3rd Sun during Mass
Reconciliation	Sat 4:00pm – 4:30pm
Sacramental Program	Contact Parish Office
School of Religion (Parish Centre)	Sunday 9.15am during school term

## PRAYER LIFE

Charismatic Prayer: Maida: 0423 658 326	Thursday 10:00am
Meditation	Friday 5:15-6.30 pm
Rosary	Monday – Friday 9:05am
Eucharistic Adoration	1st Thursday of the Month 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Adult Choir	Wednesday 7:30pm

## SOCIAL LIFE

St Johns Friendship Group	<i>Last Wednesday of the Month 9:30am Mass and morning tea</i>
Pins & Needles	<i>3rd Monday of the Month 7:15pm Parish Library</i>
Women's Breakfast	<i>4th Tuesday of the Month 7:30am Bean Origin Belconnen</i>
Men's Group	<i>3rd Friday of the Month 6:00pm Parish Centre</i>

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

## Readings – 17 December 2023

First Reading	Is 61:1-2, 53-54
Psalm	Lk 1:46-50, 53-54
Second Reading	1 Thes 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28

## ROSTERS

### 17 Dec

### Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Helen Kennedy, John Drury
8:30am	Maria Scarr, Francesca Deklin
10:00am	Rose Benedictos, Boni Benedictos
6:00pm	John McGee, Carl Madsen

### 17 Dec

### Lector Roster

5:00pm	Joe Catanzariti, Judy Netting
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Darren Maharaj
10:00am	Libby Kain, Kate Lawrence
6:00pm	Dennis Puniard, Margaret Luck

### 17 Dec

### Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Janet Almond, Gordon Donnir
8:30am	Theresa Suh, Sigrid Kropp
10:00am	Sugi Mohanadas, Ann Reynolds
6:00pm	Charlotte D'Cruze, Lionel D' Cruze

### 17 Dec

### Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Carol Moore
8:30am	Clyde and Norma Sloan
10:00am	Pam Connor, Margaret Sheehan
6:00pm	Brian Mahony

### 17 Dec

### SJAShop

5:00pm	
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	John McGee

## Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	10 Dec	Pat Gilchrist
Grounds	16 Dec	
Church Cleaning:	10 Dec	Christine Lacaster, Pam Connor Shovin Weerawarnakula

## On a Lighter note

