

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**3 September 2023**

**YEAR A**  
**#41.23**

## Reflection

### Discipleship is Demanding

Matthew's gospel, composed around 75-80 CE, reflects the harsh backdrop of Christian persecution and martyrdom. In the face of this adversity, believers were sacrificing their lives for their faith. Jesus' triumph over death was a sign of great hope and trust in the future for his followers. His words, "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it," served as a source of encouragement to persecuted Christians, assuring them that their endurance would lead to eventual triumph and purpose.

Today's gospel reiterates the profound demands of Christian discipleship. Following Jesus involves self-denial and bearing one's cross. Self-denial, as outlined here, shifts the focus from "I" to "You," prioritizing others over self. Genuine discipleship entails selflessness rather than self-centeredness. In a climactic illustration, Jesus conveys that saving one's life through half-hearted devotion hinders spiritual growth, whereas surrendering life for his cause yields true fulfillment. "Saving" life implies withholding full commitment to Jesus' message, while "losing" it means wholeheartedly embracing God's reign. This act of self-sacrifice, Jesus emphasizes, is the gateway to genuine life.

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. Jesus counters this perception by urging followers to bear their personal crosses, mirroring his example. Being a Christian entails resilience in the face of challenges, shouldering burdens, and pursuing hope unwaveringly. Living according to Jesus' tenets is far from an effortless alternative.

Today we are reminded of the demanding nature of discipleship, involving self-denial, and embracing challenges. This path, symbolized by bearing one's cross, offers genuine life, contrasting the shallow perception of Christianity as an easy way out. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

**Resource used: Gospel Reflection, by Greg Sunter**

## 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)

Sacristan

Maryanne Ferguson

### 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

### 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)



## Safeguarding Sunday

**10 September 2023**



NATIONAL  
CHILD  
PROTECTION  
WEEK

STARTING FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

NAPCAN  
www.napcan.org.au

### More information:

<https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding-sunday>

## ***Bless Every Father***

*Loving God, bless every father and everyone who has a fathering role with the best of your spiritual blessings today. Let him know he is not alone in the tasks you have given him to provide for and support those under his care.*

*Today, on special days, and for all the days of his life, fill him with your blessings.*

*Amen*

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## **Vinnies Poor Box Appeal**

All donations to the poor box during September will be sent to support the community of Sts Peter and Paul in Tamil Nadu, India, our Vinnies twin conference. They are a small rural-based community who rely on farming of paddy rice and corn for food and income.

Thank you for your contribution.

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## **SJAYouth ● YCS**

Young Christian Students

**17 September 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

SJA Parish Centre

Enquiries please contact the Parish Office –

Phone 6254 3236 ● [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

### **Future Dates:**

15 October

12 November

10 December (Christmas Party)

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## **Achoo.....Bless You!**

We are currently in Flu season.

And COVID is still making its presence felt.

Out of concern for the welfare of all parishioners please consider staying home from mass if you are feeling unwell.

Face masks are still an accepted form of dress to protect you and others from catching either the Flu or COVID. Thank you

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## **SPAM TEXT MESSAGES**

Some parishioners have received text messages purporting to be from Fr. Kimi. Please note our priests will never contact you asking for money.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

Fr. Kimi will absent from the office from Monday 4 - returning Saturday 16 September. He will be attending to MSC commitments.

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## **SJA BOOKSHOP**

Columban Calendars \$10.00

Majellan Christmas Cards \$10.00 [pk 10]

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## **Celebrating Women of Faith - Catholic Women's Taskforce Fundraising Dinner**

Fundraising dinner for MacKillop House

Friday, 27th October

Southern Cross Club in Woden.

Guest speaker, Ms Genevieve Jacobs, a well-known local personality, will reflect on her experience of her Catholic faith in both her professional and personal life.

Tickets are \$80, but early birds are \$70 (until 29 Sept), and tables of 10 are discounted to \$700.

Please visit [www.cgwomen.org.au](http://www.cgwomen.org.au) to purchase tickets through Humanatix.

For further information contact Samantha Hazlett at [samanthahazlett@icloud.com](mailto:samanthahazlett@icloud.com).

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## **SJA Community Connections**

*Do you live alone?*

*Would you like to feel more connected to community?*

*Invitation*

*You are invited to an afternoon of drinks and conversation.*

*Exploring the issues about living alone:*

*Sunday 17 September 2023*

*3:00 – 5:00pm*

*RSVP 4 Sept 2023.*

*SJACare is reaching out to parishioners who live alone. We are aiming to form a community that connects and supports people living alone.*

*You may live alone and not feel lonely, but have gifts that you can offer to others!*

*If you are interested in being part of this emerging group, please telephone Marian at the parish office.*

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**“Be on earth the Heart of God”**

# Season of Creation

## 1 Sept – 4 Oct

### Getting over our Denialist Habits

In our own times, when the threat posed by climate change is becoming increasingly obvious, this Gospel passage asks us to look and act with openness to our sharing in God's plan. There is no mandate here for doing nothing and letting catastrophe happen. Ours is not a religion of sanctified fatalism or pious denialism. Ours is a faith which demands that we face reality, however scary it sometimes seems. We are people of hope.

After all, Jesus doesn't drift towards disaster. Rather, Jesus steps knowingly on the path towards salvation. His is a determined journey, aiming at redeeming the world. He has already told the disciples that good shall come of this. Peter's protestation comes from an understandable but misplaced attachment to the secure ways of the present. Peter, fearful of a change that is already underway, reflexively wants to deny it.

Like Peter before us, Jesus calls every one of us to follow him. We can do that by renouncing our selfishness and, like Peter eventually did, getting over our denialist habits.

*Season of Creation*, by Nick Brodie

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

### Recently Deceased:

*Br. Mel Madden fms,*

*Lorna Goldsworthy [mother in law to Elaine Carter]*

**Anniversary:** Susan O'Dwyer, Josephine Smith, Ralph Dunn, William Schofield, Dorothy Hush, Andrew Domjan, Ivan Jones, Kathleen MacKay, Collin McEvoy, Anton Mrsnik, Sonia Mewburn, Andre Jeffers, Wesley Dunn, Patrick Whittle, Joseph Boyd, John Grannall, Michelle Brewer, Alvaro del Busto, Christopher Halloran, Des Kiley, Elizabeth Murray, Sheila Whigham, Giuseppe Scalora, John O'Neill, Leslie Collins, Joan Larkham, Jennifer Kenny, Alice Gibb, Taya Quade, Marie Happ, Susan Ferguson, Honoria Kelly, Kathleen Wiltshire, Cedric Pratt, Denise Busch, Mary Prospero, Raymond Free, Graham Ottewill

# Heart Spirituality

## The Quintessence of the Faith

"The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the quintessence of the Christian faith; the epitome and substantial summary of the whole of religion. The Christian religion is a work of love in its beginning, development and end; the Christian religion whose history is found wholly and entirely in the sublime statement: "God so love the world" (John 3:16); the Christian religion whose whole creed is reduced to these words of the beloved Disciple: "We believe in God's love for us" (1 John 4:16). We believe that, in the work of God the Heart has done everything.

Jules Chevalier msc,  
*Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus*, p. 148/; Paris 1900.

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

## Mass Intentions the week of 4- 10 September

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Mon 04/09  | Doris Galea   |
| Wed 06/09  | Sonia Mewburn |
| Thur 07/09 | Megan Pigram  |
| Fri 08/09  | Mary Nguyen   |

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sat 09/09</b> |                |
| 5:00pm           | Marnie Meacham |

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sun 10/09</b> |                   |
| 8:30am           | Kate Padman       |
| 10:00am          | Rob Caskie        |
| 6:00pm           | Parish Intentions |

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

## PARISH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### Thursday 7 September Gethsemane

Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament  
✠

### Friday 15 September Mens Group ✠

Monday 18 September  
Pins & Needles  
✠



## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

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

## PRAYER LIFE

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

## SOCIAL LIFE

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

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you,  
O Lord my God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
That we might see how great is the  
hope to which we are called.  
Alleluia

## Readings – 10 September 2023

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| First Reading  | Ez 33:7-9        |
| Psalm          | PS 94:1-2, 6-9   |
| Second Reading | Rom 13:8-10      |
| Gospel         | Matthew 18:15-20 |

## ROSTERS

### 10 Sept

### Lector Roster

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 5:00pm  | Marian England, Therese Kercher  |
| 8:30am  | Sigrid Kropp, Mariana Rollgeyser |
| 10:00am | Colleen Reed, Kelechi Nnajide    |
| 6:00pm  | Meg Millband, Brian Mahony       |

### 10 Sept

### Ministers of Communion

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 5:00pm  | Maria Catanzariti              |
| 8:30am  | Shane Murtagh, Carmel Screen   |
| 10:00am | Frank Colley, Margarete Gill   |
| 6:00pm  | John McGee, Chitra Jayawardena |

### 10 Sept

### Hospitality Roster

|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 5:00pm  | Jenny Maher                       |
| 8:30am  | Mandy Lalor                       |
| 10:00am | Judy Kenny, Shovin Weerawarnakula |
| 6:00pm  | Sabina Van Rooy                   |

### 10 Sept

### SJAShop

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

## Weekly Rosters

|                     |        |  |
|---------------------|--------|--|
| Altar Society       | 3 Sept |  |
| Grounds             | 9 Sept | Rob Breen, Mike Blyth,<br>Dennis Puniard, David Momi |
| Church<br>Cleaning: | 3 Sept | John O'Heir, Pat Keenan,<br>Debbie & Ted Milne       |

## On a Lighter note

