

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24 December 2023

YEAR B
#04.24

Reflection

Mary's Yes

Mary's resounding "Yes" to the angel Gabriel is a game-changer, not only in the context of her own life but in the broader scope of religious history.

In a world where choices often reflect personal ambition and the pursuit of individual happiness, Mary's affirmative response stands as a radical departure from the norm. Her "Yes" is not merely an acknowledgment of a divine plan; it is a transformative surrender of personal control, a relinquishing of the expected trajectory of her life in favour of a higher purpose.

In the tapestry of faith, Mary's "Yes" represents a turning point, a decisive moment that alters the course of salvation history. It challenges the prevailing notion that humanity will always bend to the dictates of self-interest. Mary's consent signifies a profound trust in the divine, an acceptance of a role that transcends societal expectations and personal aspirations.

From a modern perspective, where autonomy and self-determination often take precedence, Mary's "Yes" serves as an inspiring example. It prompts us to reconsider the way we approach decision-making, urging us to examine whether our choices are driven solely by individual desires or if there is room for a greater, more transcendent purpose.

Mary's affirmative response echoes through the ages as an invitation to embrace a different paradigm of faith—one that requires surrender and trust beyond the boundaries of our own understanding. It challenges us to recognize that sometimes the most significant shifts in our lives come not from clinging to control but from releasing it, allowing a divine plan to unfold.

In the grand narrative of Luke's gospel, Mary's "Yes" is a game-changer that sets in motion the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. It beckons us to reflect on our own capacity to say "Yes" to the unexpected, the challenging, and the transformative moments that may redefine the trajectory of our lives. Mary's willingness to be a vessel for divine purpose challenges us to consider whether we, too, are ready to be game-changers in our own faith journey.

Parish Administration

Parish Priest

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Marian England

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Parish Office:

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri
9.00am-3.00pm

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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

Ministry

Sacristan: Maryanne Ferguson
kippax@cg.org.au

Pastoral Council Chair

Jenny McGee

Email: ppc.kippax@cg.org.au

Safeguarding Officer

To Be Advised

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

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.

No Room

So, there was no room at the inn? True! But what the Evangelist wants us to really see is the picture of pure peace, pure joy: "She wrapped her first-born Son in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). There are reasons why it was necessary that there be no room at the inn, and why there had to be some other place. The inn was the last place in the world for the birth of the Lord.

Why then was the inn crowded? Because of the census, the eschatological massing of the "whole world" in centres of registration, to be numbered, to be identified with the structure of imperial power. The purpose of the census: to discover those who were to be taxed. To find out those who were eligible for service in the armies of the empire.

Nor are the tidings of great joy announced in the crowded inn. News becomes merely a new noise in the mind, briefly replacing the noise that went before it and yielding to the noise that comes after it, so that eventually everything blends into the same monotonous and meaningless rumour. News? There is so much news that there is no room left for the true tidings, the "Good News," *the Great Joy*. So, the Great Joy is announced, in silence, loneliness and darkness, to shepherds "living in the fields". We live in the time of no room. The time when everyone is obsessed with lack of time, lack of space. There is no room for nature. No room for quiet. No room for solitude. No room for thought. No room for attention, for the awareness of our state. No room for God.

Taken from: *The Time of No Room*, by Thomas Merton



St John the Apostle
Kippax ACT
Feast day

You are invited to
celebrate our feast
day at 9:30am mass
Wednesday
27 December
Followed by
morning tea



PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Christmas ● New Year

The parish office
will be closed on
Monday 25 December 2023
and reopening on
Wednesday 3 January 2024

*We wish you a blessed
and holy Christmas*

Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

Help lifesaving assistance to refugees fleeing violence; including evacuation, food, shelter as well as student assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Communities in India, Africa and the Solomon Islands are also assisted. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Canberra Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information please phone the Canberra Office of the Tribunal Office on **6239 9813** or email tribunal@cg.org.au

**Fr. Kimi's farewell gift will be
presented to him on
Wednesday 27 December
The Feast of St John the Apostle**

Advent: Action in Waiting

Jesus is the light of the world.

We find it so difficult to put God's service into our daily life, but this is because we weak human beings don't really want to know what is true. We live in a mass of wrongs and untruths, and they surround us as a dark, dark night.

We have lifestyles of pleasure that poison everything way beyond human help. To do the work in bringing about the kingdom of God, we have to have a light. With this light we can then illuminate every corner where we have some work to do.

"The light shines in darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." A light has a purpose; a light ought to shine into our lives so that we can see what needs to be done and set our hands to it. For devoted hearts the light will keep dawning from him who is merciful and compassionate.

Taken from: *Action in Waiting*, by Christoph Blumhardt

Stewardship

Saying Yes to God

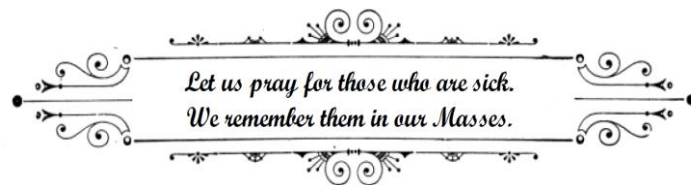
There is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let's live this last day of Advent well.

We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today.

This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. God will give us all the help and strength we need.

www.catholicsteward.com



Recently Deceased: Julie Finnigan

Anniversary: Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson, Patrick Lavery, Paul MacKenzie, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Elana Powell, Jarrod Smith, Dora Roberts, Luisa Soria, Cora Newman, Ellen Ottewill, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkins, Robert Wise, John Suckling, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Mecham, Joseph Davis, Clarice O'Callaghan, Kevin McMahon, Nita Smith, Geoffrey Bogg, Bill Raadts, Florence Anthony.

Mass Intentions the week of 25 - 31 December

Mon 25/12	Souls of the D'Cruze & D'Souza Families
Wed 27/12	
Thur 28/12	
Fri 29/12	Elizabeth Hallahan
Sat 30/12	
5:00pm	Steve Smith
Sun 31/12	
8:30am	
10:00am	Mary Hogan
6:00pm	

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

Fertility Care Program

Do you want to know more about how your menstrual and fertility cycle works?

Are you looking for something to manage your fertility that is entirely natural?

The FertilityCare, Creighton Model System (CrMs) is based upon the knowledge and understanding of naturally-occurring phases of a women's fertility and infertility.

To find out more or arrange a consultation please text 0474 728 868 or email mianuvice@aol.com. Further information available at <https://www.fertilitycare.org/>

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	1 st 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:

God strengthens the Gentiles in their
understanding of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me be done.
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

“Be on earth the Heart of God”

ROSTERS

31 Dec

Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Anthony & Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Sigrid Kropp, Peter Polkinghorne
10:00am	Elaine Carter, Maxime Kqudzcha
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy, Nunga Umaru

31 Dec

Lector Roster

5:00pm	Joe Ots, Therese Kercher
8:30am	Elizabeth McDonald, Bernadette Murnane
10:00am	Colleen Reed, Frank Colley
6:00pm	Brian Mahony

31 Dec

Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Helen Kennedy
8:30am	Maria Scarr, Theresia Suh
10:00am	Francesca Deklin, Robin Williams
6:00pm	John McGee

31 Dec

Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Maria Catanzariti
8:30am	Beatrice Williams, Agnes Pham
10:00am	Manel Seneviratna
6:00pm	Maryanne Ferguson

31 Dec

SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	24 Dec	Margaret Stanford
Grounds	30 Dec	ALL GROUPS
Church Cleaning:	24 Dec	Joseph Le Van Hai, Sam Van Nguyen, Lanh Dang

On a Lighter note

