

Third Sunday of Advent
14 December 2025

Year A
#3.26

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah prophesies that when the Lord comes, “the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unsealed; then the lame shall leap like a deer.”

Jesus fulfils this prophecy in today’s Gospel when he tells John’s disciples to go back and report what they have seen: the blind see again, the deaf hear, and the lame walk.

We might wonder: after Jesus healed those who were blind, what was the first thing they saw? The sky? A tree? The people around them?

I can imagine that the first thing they saw was Jesus himself—standing before them, looking at them with love—as they opened their eyes and looked upon him for the very first time.

“It has been said that ‘a person is enlightened,’ not when they get an idea, but when someone looks at them. A person is enlightened when another loves them. The eyes are windows to the heart; they search the person out and have the power to elicit life.” (The Impact of God, Ian Matthew)

I would like to share with you an experience of my own encounter with God and others through my senses. Before I joined the MSC, I worked at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance in Sydney. Through the people I worked with, God opened my senses. I realised that previously I had eyes but could not see, had ears but could not hear, and had a heart but did not know how to love. The people I worked with opened my eyes to see ability within disability; they opened my ears to hear a language beyond spoken words; and they opened my heart to love people for who they are and not for who I wanted them to be.

This week, let us deepen our experience of God through our sense of sight. I invite you to take some time each day to look at the world around you. Imagine God delighting in you as you delight in God’s creation.

Fr. Tru

Parish Administration

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm

Monday and Friday 9:30am

Liturgy of the Word with Communion:

Tues 9:30am

St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am

Ministry

Sacristan: Maryanne Ferguson

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Pastoral Council Chair

James Nield

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Safeguarding Officers:

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ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*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*

Farewell to Fr Chung and Marian

Farewell Mass for Marian:

Friday, 19 December at 9:30am

Followed by morning tea.

Please bring a plate to share

UPDATED INFORMATION: FAREWELL FOR FR CHUNG

There will be a leaving collection for Fr. Chung at all Masses on the weekend of 20/21 December.

There will be a farewell BBQ after the 10:00am Mass on Sunday 21 December

URGENT

Finance Update

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, West Belconnen

Parishioners who give financially contribute [Planned Giving] to the parish by way of Direct Debit [CDF Form] and Credit Card will need to complete and return new forms. Parishioners who use EFT [own bank transfer] will need to update their transfer schedule with the new bank account number.

Once we have the new bank account details, the new forms and bank account details will be emailed out to all parishioners and available in the church foyer.

This is an opportunity for all parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish to commit to financial Planned Giving in supporting our Parish and Priests.



Pins & Needles

Mon 15 December – 7:15pm
SJA Kippax Parish Library

YCS BELCONNEN

December 14th After Sunday Mass
From 7:00pm – 9:00pm

St John the Apostle Parish Centre
Year groups 7 – 12 are welcome

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER – 7:30AM

BEAN ORIGIN CAFÉ

NETTLEFOLD STREET BELCONNEN

ADORATION DURING ADVENT

Thursday December 18

Contemplative Prayer with
the Blessed Sacrament

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Come for 15 or 30 minutes – whatever time you can spare – there is no requirement to stay for the whole hour



St John the Apostle Catholic Church

Masses will be celebrated on
December 24th - 5:00pm, 8:00pm
and Midnight

December 25th – 9:00am

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

Masses will be celebrated on

December 24th - 6:00pm

December 25th – 9:00am

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your generous support of the Christmas Appeal. Children's gifts should be left under the Christmas tree, unwrapped or in a bag by this Sunday. Donations can be made this weekend. Food for hampers can be left in the foyer this weekend.

Christmas hamper delivery

We need more volunteers to help with hamper delivery next Saturday 20 December from 9:00am.

This year Vinnies requires all volunteers to sign a volunteering form to comply with mandatory safeguarding requirements and the Society's Code of Conduct. Please see members at the table to complete the forms.

Thank you. Contact Mike for more info: 0419 818 410.

Heart Spirituality

Our actions show what we are

Saint John the Baptist asked Jesus if he were the Messiah. Our Lord answered by pointing to his works. This is the authentic way to make ourselves known to others and also to know ourselves. The tree is judged by its fruits. Words may be as charming as possible, clothes as striking as can be, a state of life more holy than one can imagine – all this could beguile us, bring about a wrong judgement or delude us; but actions and conduct cannot lead us into error. Can I say that my way of doing things and of acting is that of a true Christian, a priest, a religious, a saint? How far we are from possessing the sentiments of the heart of Jesus!

Jules Chevalier msc.
Méditations I, p.67, Issoudun 1891.

Mass Intentions the week of 15-21 December

Mon 15/12	Daphne Ashley
Wed 17/12	
Thur 18/12	
Fri 19/12	Robert Bailey
Sat 20/12	
5:00pm	
Sun 21/12	
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	

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

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 24 December and will reopen on Monday 12 January 2026

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

For people living alone

Sunday 21 December – 3:30pm
Parish Centre

“Be on earth the Heart of God”

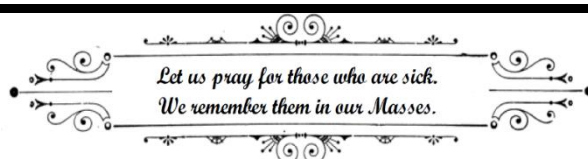
Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Sharon Greaves and Kirsty Vera have decided to apply for the new positions at OLSH for next year and have been successful. Please join us in congratulating them and wishing them every blessing as they take on these new roles within our community.

A special thank you to Marian England
We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your many years of generous and dedicated service at St John the Apostle. Through your leadership, your willingness to step in wherever needed, and the gentle encouragement you offer to others, you have truly embodied the mission and vision of our parish and the MSC.

Thank you for the time, care, and love you have poured into the life of St John the Apostle. Please know of our deep gratitude and our prayers for you as you continue your journey of faith. May God bless you abundantly for all the ways you have blessed our community.

We invite the parish community to gather in gratitude and prayer for Marian: Friday, 19 December at 9:30 am, followed by morning tea.



Recently Deceased: Pat Liddiard
Anniversary: Ryan Jasczyk, Dinah Muench, David Fitzroy, Leo Hill msc, Maria Gillard, Margaret Woodland, Kevin Hiscock, Winifred Lilley, Bev Purnell, Maria Tabisz, Ray Bergsma, Valerie Patterson, John Ashton, Ian Loiterton, Michael Allars, Andre Domjan, Daniel Morris, Amy Carney, Patricia Jacobs, Raymond Kernan, Yvonne Dunn, John Dickson, Bernadette Anetts, Branko Kukolic, Marie Cody, Kathleen Randall, Michael Gunning, Edward Clifford, Gordon Aikman, Julie Finigan, John MacKay, Robert Carew, William Roots, Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson, Patrick Lavery, Paul MacKenzie

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	1st & 2nd 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

Meditation	Friday 5:15-6.30 pm
Rosary	Monday – Friday 9:05am
Eucharistic Adoration	1 st Thursday of the Month 7:30pm – 8:30pm

SOCIAL LIFE

SJA Friendship Group	<i>Last Wednesday of the Month 10:15am shared 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>
Movie Night	<i>4th Friday of the Month 7:00pm Parish Library</i>
Community Connections	<i>3rd Sunday of the Month 3:30pm – 5:00pm Parish Centre</i>

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 21 December 2025

First Reading	Is 7:10-14
Psalm	Ps 23:1-6
Second Reading	Romans 1:1-07
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24

Bequest: Have you ever thought of leaving a Bequest to your parish?

By remembering your faith community in your Will, you contribute to the spiritual legacy that has enriched your life. Your bequest ensures the continuation of the traditions, teachings, and support that have shaped your journey.

ROSTERS

21 December Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Helen Kennedy, John Drury
8:30am	Maria Scarr, Bede Foundling
10:00am	Rose & Boni Benedictos
6:00pm	Luan Nguyen

21 December Lector Roster

5:00pm	Joe Catanzariti, Judy Netting
8:30am	Jordan Forka, John O'Heir
10:00am	Libby Kain, Kate Lawrence
6:00pm	Busi Nkomo, Karna O'Dea

21 December Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Anthony Jayawardena, Marie McKie
8:30am	Theresa Suh, Darren Maharaj
10:00am	Sugi Mohanadas, John Blackwell
6:00pm	Charlotte & Lionel D'Cruze

21 December Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Carol Moore, Barbara Mawson
8:30am	Clyde & Norma Sloan
10:00am	James & Jessica Nguyen, Pav Perera
6:00pm	

21 December SJAShop

5:00pm	
8:30am	Sabina Van Rooy
10:00am	
6:00pm	

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	14 Dec	Pat Gilchrist
Church Cleaning:	15 Dec	Carol Blyth, Dushy & Nishan Upasena

On a Lighter note

