

COMPACT



St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
20 July 2025

YEAR C
#34.25

A Life of Balance

In this brief but powerful passage, we meet two sisters—Martha and Mary—who each respond differently to the presence of Jesus in their home. On the surface, Martha is doing the right thing: she's working hard to provide hospitality, ensuring her guest is well cared for. But it's Mary, sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, who is affirmed by Jesus for choosing "the better part."

It's easy to feel sympathy for Martha. Most of us know what it's like to be overwhelmed with responsibilities, to feel the pressure of making things just right. And yet, this gospel gently challenges our assumptions about what really matters. Like in the parable of the Good Samaritan just before this story, Luke shows us again that doing—even doing good—can distract us from being present.

Martha is so busy with her tasks that she misses the moment. She welcomes the guest but forgets that the guest is also a gift. True hospitality is more than service—it is presence. Having opened her home, Martha could have then opened her heart by receiving the gift of Jesus' presence, like Mary did. Instead, she busies herself and grows frustrated. Her work, though well-intentioned, becomes a barrier to relationship.

How often does this happen in our own lives? We pour ourselves into responsibilities, even ministries, and overlook the opportunity to pause, to listen, to simply be. When we welcome guests, we might get caught up in impressing them—with spotless kitchens, perfect meals, or polished appearances—rather than relaxing into genuine connection. But God is not looking to be impressed. God is looking to be received.

This gospel isn't saying that work is bad or unnecessary. Rather, it is a call to balance. There is a time to serve and a time to sit. A time to give and a time to receive. A time to do, and a time to simply be.

Jesus invites us, as he invited Martha, to choose the better part—not forever abandoning our duties, but remembering that love, presence, and attentiveness are never wasted. When we find this balance, we begin to live more fully—not just for others, but with them.

Based on: Gospel Reflection, by Greg Sunter

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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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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
answer to the riddle: wheat*

Naming a Parish

As the two parishes of St John's and St Thomas' continue to merge, we are now at the stage of discerning a name for the merged parishes. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will speak at all masses the weekend of 26/27 July with a view to canvassing parishioner's preferences. The PPC has proffered the following names for consideration and discernment.

St John the Apostle &

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

St Francis de Sales Parish

St Margaret Mary Parish

St Therese of Lisieux Parish

Christ the Redeemer Parish

During the weeks leading up to 26/27 would you please prayerful discern your preference.

Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, Gift of wisdom and guide of God's people, we turn to You in this time of change and hope.

As the communities of St John's and St Thomas' continue to grow together, we ask You to stir our hearts with the love that unites, and lead us in the path of faithful discernment.

You know the story of our people—
our joys, our struggles,
our hopes for the future.

As we listen for Your voice, may we be inspired by the lives of the saints and the holy names offered for our reflection. Give us hearts that are open, minds that are attentive, and spirits ready to follow where You lead.

May the name chosen for our new parish honour the past, witness to our faith today, and call us forward with renewed purpose.

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe in us. May this name speak of who we are, and who You are calling us to become.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Vinnies Winter Appeal

The theme of this year's Winter Appeal is: **'Help break the cycle of homelessness'**. This is a real issue in our local community. Cash and card donations to the Winter Appeal can be made after all Masses **THIS WEEKEND** and 26 and 27 July. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your donations of non-perishable food items over the past year. They are gratefully received by our companions who are doing it tough. It is a great help to the Vinnies Conference.

PowerPoint Operators Needed

Are you someone who enjoys being quietly helpful? We're currently using recorded music at our 10:00am and 6:00pm Sunday Masses, and we need PowerPoint operators to help ensure the smooth and prayerful flow of the liturgy. This is a simple but vital role that makes a big difference to the whole congregation. If you're comfortable with basic technology and are willing to serve once or twice a month, we'd love to hear from you! No experience needed – just a willing heart.

To find out more or to get involved, please contact the parish office.

SJAParish Library

We're always grateful for thoughtful contributions to our parish library. If you have books or resources you'd like to donate, please have a chat with one of the office staff before leaving your contributions. Thank you

YCS BELCONNEN

27th July After Sunday Mass

From 7:00pm – 9:00pm

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

**Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass
Sunday 27 July**

**Pins & Needles
Mon 21 July – 7:15pm**

"Be on earth the Heart of God"

Heart Spirituality

The large number of saints

It is good to think of the network of love with which God at every moment surrounds each soul he created on earth. With each one he acts in a different way. Although their differences are numberless, the attentions of his love are more. Each one's biography is a marvelous history of God's goodness. Could God's limitless, all-powerful love allow him in the end to lose most of those he wanted to save?

In the implacable duel between love and hatred, life and death, is the final and eternal victory to be won by death and hatred? God did not die on a cross to reap a lean harvest of elect, here and there! His harvest will be rich and super-abundant! And the final victory will be his.

The Heart of Jesus, to whom we owe heaven, fills us with the most consoling hope, for he is mercy incarnate.

Jules Chevalier msc

Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus, p.299f., Paris 1900.

Mass Intentions the week of 21-27 July

Mon 21/07	Maria Pelagia Sikorska
Wed 23/07	
Thur 24/07	
Fri 25/07	Carmel Mowbray
Sat 26/07	
5:00pm	Thomas Bannon
Sun 27/07	
8:30am	Joseph Khanh
10:00am	Kathleen Hetherington
6:00pm	Anne Meredith

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

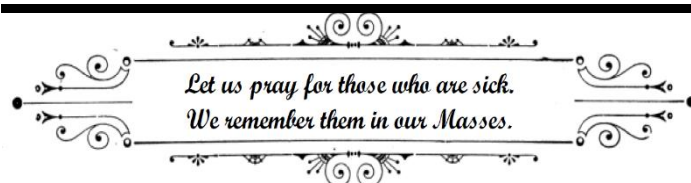
LIBRARY NEWS: The focus display in the library for the month of July is *Reading the Bible*. Books include "The cultural dictionary of the Bible" and "Reading the Bible again for the first time".

Pilgrims of Hope

Return to the Father's Love

The Holy Spirit guides us to the Father, the source of life and the ultimate wellspring of grace. Christ does not expect us simply to remain in him. His love is "the revelation of the Father's mercy", and his desire is that, impelled by the Spirit welling up from his heart, we should ascend to the Father "with him and in him". We give glory to the Father "through" Christ, "with" Christ, and "in" Christ. Saint John Paul II taught that, "the Saviour's heart invites us to return to the father's love, which is the source of every authentic love". This is precisely what the Holy spirit, who comes to us through the heart of Christ, seeks to nurture in our hearts. For this reason, the liturgy, through the enlivening work of the spirit, always addresses the father from the risen heart of Christ.

Pope Francis. Dilexit Nos: He Loved us, #77
On the Human and Divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ



Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Stephen Gorst, Leo Williams, Naomi Slater, Rudi Weiss, Joseph Myatt, Rita Riddle, Isabella Backhouse, Gwendoline White, Sheila Marshall, Tina Martino, James Patterson, Dolly Munoz, Mary Mules, Queenie Solomonz, Marie Cowman, Maria Pedic, Thomas Pinner, Czeslaw Kowalski, Wallace Johnson, Dianne Fraser, Darryl Bremer, Frank Sculthorpe, Debra Niquet, Donald Briggs, Domatilla Malia, Valentini Vrataric, Therese Vand Der Vliet, Carol Thompson, Betty Coughlin, Daniel Keneally, Bernard Coughlin, Barry Swan, Ardina Dudok, Jillian McInerney, June Traynor, Diane Eccles, Mathilde Clemence, Nola Faulkner, Andrew Kenna, John Connelly, Olive Cockcroft

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

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 Holt</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:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word
with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.
Alleluia!

Readings **27 July 2025**

First Reading	Gen 18:20-32
Psalm	Ps 137:1-3, 6-8
Second Reading	Col 2:12-14
Gospel	Luke 11:1-13

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

27 July **Acolyte Roster**

5:00pm	Di and Murray Bruce
8:30am	Sigrid Kropp, Lourdes Asoy
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Dennis Puniard
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy

27 July **Lector Roster**

5:00pm	Elaine Laycock, James Nield
8:30am	Shane Muragh, Victoria Gonzales
10:00am	Edgar Nnajide, Kerry Yard
6:00pm	Meg Millband, Peter Igoe-Taylor

27 July **Ministers of Communion**

5:00pm	John Drury, Laurine Smeaton
8:30am	Darren Maharaj, Karen Bower
10:00am	Rosa and Boni Benedictos
6:00pm	Priscilla Momi, Marian Crowley

27 July **Hospitality Roster**

5:00pm	Joan Galpin, Marie McKie
8:30am	Joan Beswick, Pamela Blackwell
10:00am	John Blackwell and family
6:00pm	Francesca Deklin

27 July **SJAShop**

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	20 July	Angela Boreham
Church Cleaning:	21 July	Vigi Varghese

On a Lighter note

Riddle...answer somewhere in COMPACT
I am a five-letter word and people eat me. If you remove the first letter I become an energy form. If you remove the first two letters, I am needed to live. Scramble the last three letters and I am a drink.
What word am I?