

Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025

Year A #4.26

From this Sunday until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Sunday, 11 January 2026), let us reflect on Jesus' family history and his story from his birth to his baptism (Mt 1–3).

During this time of the year many of us are surrounded by family, relatives, and friends, so I would also like to invite you to reflect on your own family history and your personal encounter with God.

Like Jesus, you were born in a particular place and time, to particular parents, within a particular culture and family.

As you trace your family tree as far back as you can, reflect on where you were born and the key moments that have shaped you. Think of your extended family: grandparents, parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, and cousins. All of this has been grace for you, just as Jesus was born into a human family (Mt 1–2).

Recognise the characteristics and qualities you have inherited from your parents and extended family: some you appreciate and others you would rather not have inherited. Notice them, and continue to look beyond those events and those people back to God, just as Matthew was able to trace Jesus' family history and his story beyond the events and the people in his family tree back to God.

Remember that God did not stop loving Jesus at his birth, and God did not stop loving you at your birth. God loves Jesus and loves you until he and you love as God loves (Mt 22:37–40).

On this journey of discovering your family history and your personal encounter with God, open your heart to welcome Jesus as your companion, as he is Emmanuel – God-with-us and he promises ***“I am with you always, to the end of the age”*** (Mt 28:20).

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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Safeguarding Officers:

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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

A special thank you to Fr Chung, MSC.

On behalf of the OLSH Parish community, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for your mission; your faith, pastoral care, and MSC spirit have been a great gift to us. We are grateful for the way you embraced our parish and its challenges at this time of change, helping us encounter Christ and God's love. As you continue your journey with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we pray that the Sacred Heart of Jesus may guide and protect you, and that your future ministries be filled with joy and blessings.

With sincere thanks and prayers.

Farewell to Fr Chung

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

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

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

invites you and your friends to
THE 19th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE
PRAYER VIGIL

Where: Mary Help of Christians Parish
Address: 115 Hodgson Crescent PEARCE, South Woden

Date: Wednesday 31st December 2025
Time: 8.00pm

ARCHBISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL Support is Needed!

Help life saving assistance to displaced people or people under threat of displacement whether from war or , climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, female access to education in Pakistan as well as student assistance in the Middle East. Communities in India, Africa and Timor Leste along with local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted.

WEEKDAY MASS UPDATE 2026

There will be a Liturgy of The Word with Holy Communion at 9:30am on Friday 2 January
And
Monday. Tuesday and Friday
4 – 9 January



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your generous gift of money supports the ministry and care of our priests

Our gifts remind us of the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus, and reminds us that as we present gifts to each other our lives are to be our gift to Jesus. Receiving gifts reminds us in some small way of the ultimate gift we receive in salvation through Jesus.

Envelopes are available in the foyer.

Heart Spirituality

The Protection of St Joseph

On earth Saint Joseph watched over and protected Jesus and Mary. He regards us as his own children. He surrounds us with the ineffable tenderness of a real father. He knows we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and destined for the happiness of heaven. How then could he forget us? To believe he could do so would be to do him a serious wrong. He distributes the treasures of the Heart of Jesus and wishes to enrich us with them. So let us go to him with confidence and ask him for all the help we need. He will give it to us.

Jules Chevalier msc.
Méditations I p.723f, Issoudun 1891.

Mass Intentions the week of 22-28 December

Mon 22/12	Dominic Pham
Wed 24/12	Joe, Margaret & Kevin Thanksgiving
Thur 25/12	
Fri 26/12	
Sat 27/12	
5:00pm	
Sun 28/12	
8:30am	
10:00am	Kevin McMahon
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!

Family Christmas Mass 5:00pm Nativity

We invite the children
of the parish who
would like to be
involved in the
Nativity during the
mass attend a practice on Monday 22
December at 2:30pm in the Church.

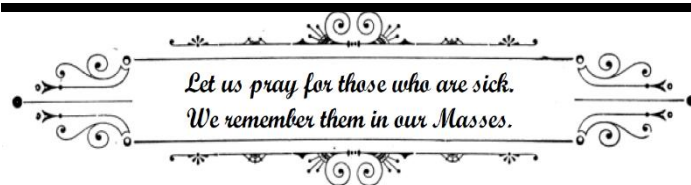


Pilgrims of Hope

The First for Love

Jesus spoke of his thirst for love and revealed that his heart is not indifferent to the way we respond to that thirst. In his words, "I thirst, but with a thirst so ardent to be loved by humanity in the Most Blessed Sacrament, that this thirst consumes me; and I have not encountered anyone who makes an effort, according to my desire, to quench my thirst, giving back a return for my love". Jesus asks for love. Once the faithful heart realizes this, its spontaneous response is one of love, not a desire to multiply sacrifices or simply discharge a burdensome duty: "I received from my God excessive graces of his love, and I felt moved by the desire to respond to some of them and to respond with love for love". As my predecessor Leo XIII pointed out, through the image of his Sacred Heart, the love of Christ "moves us to return love for love".

Pope Francis. *Dilexit Nos: He Loved us, #166*
On the Human and Divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ



Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Julie Finigan, John MacKay, Marie Cody, Robert Carew, William Roots, Christopher Fitzsimon, Kathleen Edmunds, Anne Hudson, Michael Devlin, John Dickinson, Patrick Lavery, Paul MacKenzie, Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Elana Powell, Jarrod Smith, Dora Roberts, Luis Soria, Cora Newman, Ellen Ottewill, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkins, Robert Wise, John Suckling, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Mecham

"Be on earth the Heart of God"

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:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Readings 28 December 2025

First Reading	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm	Ps 127:1-5
Second Reading	Col 3:15, 16
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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

28 December Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Di & Murray Bruce
8:30am	Lourdes Asoy, Maria Scarr
10:00am	Anthony Noakes
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy, Nunga Umaru

28 December Lector Roster

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

28 December Ministers of Communion

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

28 December Hospitality Roster

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

28 December SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	21 Dec	Mary Cruickshank
Church Cleaning:	22 Dec	

On a Lighter note

