

The Sacredness of Family

Today's Gospel gives us a poignant glimpse into the hidden years of Jesus' life—not the joyful moments we often associate with the nativity, but a moment of crisis. It is the "what happened next" part of the story. The holy family, shortly after the birth of Jesus, is forced to flee in the dead of night. Joseph, warned in a dream, takes Mary and the infant Jesus and escapes to Egypt. They become refugees—displaced, vulnerable, and afraid.

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family by honouring the deep love, unity, and courage within the household of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Yet this reading shows us that holiness does not shield a family from suffering. In fact, holiness is often forged in the fire of hardship. Joseph's silent obedience, Mary's faithful trust, and their unwavering commitment to the child entrusted to them reveal a love that is both tender and fiercely protective.

Joseph doesn't just dream — he acts. He does what is necessary to preserve life, even if it means leaving behind homeland, culture, language, and security. The Holy Family becomes homeless for the sake of safety. What if Egypt had turned them away?

It's a haunting question. What if the borders had been closed? What if compassion had been withheld? The Gospel confronts us with the sacredness of every family forced to flee — every mother who gathers her child and runs, every father who leaves behind all he knows for the hope of peace. In their journey, the Holy Family stands with the countless refugee families of our world today.

And yet even when the threat seems to pass, Joseph remains alert. Learning that Herod's son rules in Judaea, he again chooses the path of caution, settles in Nazareth—far from the dangers of power. He acts again not for his own comfort, but for the wellbeing of those he loves. The life of this family is not shaped by ease, but by courage, discernment, and deep love.

As we honour the Holy Family today, may we also honour all families who are trying to live in peace, to protect one another, and to raise children in safety. May we see in them not strangers, but reflections of the Christ child, vulnerable and precious, and may our response be one of hospitality and hope.

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

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS
invites you and your friends to
THE 18th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL
Where: Mary Help of Christians Parish
Address: 115 Hodgson Crescent PEARCE, South
Woden
Date: Tuesday 31st December 2024
Time: 8.00pm
First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm
Second Cenacle is prayed at 9.00pm
Third Cenacle is prayed at 10.00pm
Fourth Cenacle is prayed at 11.00pm
Exposition from 8.00pm until Benediction just
before Midnight.
For more information – visit the website: mmp-oceania.net

1 January 2026
World Day of Peace
“Peace Be With You All:
Towards an Unarmed and
Disarming Peace” Pope Leo XIV

This theme, “invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, to embrace an authentic peace, based on love and justice.”

“The greeting of the risen Christ, ‘Peace be with you’ (cf. Jn 20:19), is an invitation to all — believers, nonbelievers, political leaders, and citizens — to build the kingdom of God and to construct together a humane and peaceful future,” the statement concludes.



Sapientia

Single adults, 18-35 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

13-15 February 2026
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
Douglas Park

For more information or to register:
www.trybooking.com/DHJBL
or email the Sisters at
sydney@op-tn.org.



“Be on earth the Heart of God”



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
5 – 9 January

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18 January

Community Connections
For people living alone
3:30pm – Parish Centre

Monday 19 January

Pins and Needles
7:00pm – Parish Library

Friday 23 January

Movie Night
7:00pm - Parish Library

Monday 26 January

Australia Day Public Holiday
Parish Office Closed

Heart Spirituality

Jesus' plan in coming among us

What does our divine Saviour want in coming among us? To be born anew in our hearts! In other words, he wanted to make us alive with his life, to communicate his Spirit; he wanted to give us his Heart, with all the treasures it contains, and to transmit into us all the sentiments that animate it. Let us prepare ourselves therefore to receive such great gifts. Let us turn to our Saviour and say: Come, Lord Jesus! Come and be born in our souls; establish there the kingdom of your love. We want only your Sacred Heart to rule over us. You will be our light, our strength, our guide and our support. We shall follow the law of your Heart and submit to your reign forever.

**Jules Chevalier msc.
Méditations I p.25f, Issoudun 1891.**

Mass Intentions the week of 29 December – 4 January

Mon 29/12	Elizabeth Hallahan
Wed 31/12	Peace in the Family
Thur 01/01	Mary Hogan
Fri 02/01	

Sat 03/01	
5:00pm	
Sun 04/01	
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!

Pilgrims of Hope

Christian Charity

We need to remember that in the Roman Empire many of the poor, foreigners and others who lived on the fringes of society met with respect, affection and care from Christians. This explains why the apostate emperor Julian, in one of his letters, acknowledged that one reason why Christians were respected and imitated was the assistance they gave the poor and strangers. Who were ordinarily ignored and treated with contempt. For Julian, it was intolerable that the Christians whom he despised, "in addition to feeding their own, also feed our poor and needy, who receive no help from us". The emperor thus insisted on the need to create charitable institutions to compete with those of the Christians and thus gain the respect of society: "There should be instituted in each city many accommodations so that the immigrants may enjoy our philanthropy....and make the Greeks accustomed to such works of generosity". Julian did not achieve his objective, no doubt because underlying those works there was nothing comparable to the Christian charity that respected the unique dignity of each person.

**Pope Francis. Dilexit Nos: He Loved us, #169
On the Human and Divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ**



Recently Deceased: Daryl Murphy

Anniversary: Louise Ball, Geoffrey Walsh, Elana Powell, Jarrod Smith, Dora Roberts, Luis Soria, Cora Newman, Ellen Ottewill, Yvonne Williamson, Ted Murphy, Robert Wise, Michael Costelloe, Walter Hawkins, John Suckling, Margaret McCallion, Hannah Mecham, Joseph Davis, Clarice O'Callaghan, Kevin McMahon, Nita Smith, Geoffrey Bogg, Bill Raadts, Florence Anthony, Kathryn Jones, Charles Taylor, Terry O'Gorman, Therese Markham, Richard Stalker, Barry Dwyer, Ken Lorraway

FR. TRU NGUYEN MSC

The letter from Archbishop Prowse confirming Fr. Tru's appointment to our new parish as of 1 January 2026 for six years can be found on the website at [PPC Minutes | St John the Apostle - Kippax](#)

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:

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message
live within you.
Alleluia!

Readings 4 January 2026

First Reading Is 60:1-6
Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Second Reading Ep 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

4 January Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	John Hogan, Rodney Gardiner
8:30am	Lourdes Asoy, Victoria Gonzales
10:00am	Maxime Kpudzeka, Vy Pham
6:00pm	Maryanne Ferguson, Peter Le

4 January Lector Roster

5:00pm	Fay Padarin, Kirsty Vera
8:30am	Carmel screen, Darren Maharaj
10:00am	Gabe Sequeira, Frank Colley
6:00pm	Joe Ots, Margaret Luck

4 January Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Chitra Jayawardena, Judy Netting
8:30am	Angela Boreham, Karen Bower
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Shovin Weerawarnakula
6:00pm	Joy McInterney, Peter Igoe-Taylor

4 January Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Kay Dwyer, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Rob Breen
10:00am	Libby Kain, Margaret Sheehan
6:00pm	John & Jenny McGee

4 January SJAShop

5:00pm	Lynn O'Brien
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	Jenny McGee

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	28 Dec	Margaret Stanford
Church Cleaning:	29 Dec	Parish Staff

On a Lighter note

