



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT@Kippax



Time out for reflection



Gardeners

Do not despise your gardeners
Nor for them shed a tear
For they work hand-in-hand with God
Throughout the growing year

Like Moses when he struck the rock
To water desert sand
They bring this precious gift of life
To parched and thirsty land

They often prune off useless arms
And pluck out rotten eyes
They make the earth bring forth its fruit
And flower buds arise

Do not say chains have bound their feet
Nor think of them in prison
For every time a shoot breaks forth
They're freed by Jesus risen

As grace reclaims the arid soul
Enriching barren soil
To fertile and productive ground
They dedicate their toil

Two women at an empty tomb
A gardener thought to see
Yet He was not a gardener
But Christ who'd set them free

When gardeners stand at the beautiful gate
Their lives and deeds inspected
May Peter make a like mistake
And see his Lord reflected

by Eric French

Praying using the Labyrinth

LABYRINTH TRAIL Australian Capital Territory and Surrounds

Visit the Centre for Christianity & Culture website <http://www.acc-c.org.au>
or <https://www.labyrinths.mountainmakers.com.au/view.php?id=15>



5 Senses – The Mt Ainslie
Community Labyrinth



Gold Creek Labyrinth



Gifford Place Labyrinth



Rachum Labyrinth Centre



The Silver Wattle Labyrinth



St. Matthew's Roman Catholic
Church



Clare Holland House
(ACT Hospice)



National Arboretum Canberra



Tumut Community Labyrinth
for Peace



St. Clement's Retreat Centre
Labyrinth



Christian Community Centre



Australian Centre for Christianity
and Culture, Barton ACT

IN THE CENTRE OF THIS LABYRINTH IS A
VERY ANCIENT STONE SLAB, OVER ONE
MILLION YEARS OLD.

Lest We Forget

WWW.NEWS.CN

Well how do you do young Will McBride
do you mind if I sit here by your graveside?
I see by your gravestone that you were only 19
when you joined the great fallen in 1915.

Today the sun shines on the green hills of Gallipoli
a thousand white crosses stand in mute testimony.
No shells, no barbed wire,
and the poppies sway free.

And what made you answer the call?
Did you really believe that this war would end all?
For the sorrow, the suffering, the glory, the pain.
Well, young Willy McBride it is all done in vain.
For it happened again,
and again, and again, and again.

submitted by Pauline Greig



Feast of Our Lady Help Of Christians

PATRON SAINT OF AUSTRALIA

24 MAY



The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians is celebrated on 24 May. The tradition of this advocacy goes back to 1571, when the whole of Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians when Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary. The great battle of Lepanto occurred on 7 October 1571.

The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day, dates to the start of the 1800's at a time when Napoleon Bonaparte had gaoled Pius VI (who also died in gaol). And later, when Pope Pius VII was elected, he too was gaoled by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau.

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814 Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome. Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the Feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness.

Australia also became the first country to have a cathedral dedicated in Our Lady, Mary's name. St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry who arrived in Sydney in 1820.

Reference: Columban Media and publications
www.columban.org.au

Sabina Van Rooy
 LITURGY COMMITTEE



Australia – the great southland of the Holy Spirit

TERRA AUSTRALIS Our History and the Christian Connection

It was Pedro Fernandez de Quiros who named what he thought was Australia, '*Terra Australis del Espiritu Santo*', declaring its spiritual significance.



Pedro Fernandez de Quiros who was born in Portugal and brought up with a deep belief in God was full of idealism and missionary zeal. Pedro believed that he was divinely chosen to find this mysterious Southland and to introduce the inhabitants to the one true God.

He sailed west from Callao, Peru, to search for the Southland. Five months later he sighted land and with great celebrations took possession of it in the name of the King of Spain and Jesus Christ. He planted a large cross and read a proclamation:

I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which His [Jesus Christ's] Person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of the human race. On this Day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606, I take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus. From now on, [these islands and lands] shall be called the Southern Land of the Holy Ghost to the end that to all the natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel (the Christian Gospel) may be preached zealously and openly.

But, de Quiros had not landed in Australia. Instead he was on the largest island of what became known as the New Hebrides and is now named Vanuatu. However in his proclamation before God "I take possession of this part of the South as far as the pole (South Pole) in the name of Jesus" he did not realise that this would include Australia, then known as Terra Australis Incognita. Many maps in Europe from the late fifteen hundreds had called this unknown piece of land Terra Australis Incognita. He renamed this island as "La Australia del Espiritu Santo" or the Southland of the Holy (Spirit) Ghost.

Regretfully de Quiros never landed in Australia however the Torres Strait just north of Cape York is named after him.

DIDUNO

[http://www.diduno.info/terra-australis/#~:text=Many%20maps%20in%20Europe%20from,the%20Holy%20\(Spirit\)%20Ghost.&text=This%20is%20just%20north%20of,most%20northern%20point%20of%20Australia.](http://www.diduno.info/terra-australis/#~:text=Many%20maps%20in%20Europe%20from,the%20Holy%20(Spirit)%20Ghost.&text=This%20is%20just%20north%20of,most%20northern%20point%20of%20Australia.)

Transplant

An allegory for those who have endured trauma in their lives but have persevered to become shining lights in the community.

At times 'twas hard to know how it began
 My memory dim when I tried to recall
 The sudden thrust that saw my fortunes fall
 The victim of some assassin's plan.
 Or so it seemed to be at that sad time
 As I was from my home of birth expelled
 From union with my family tree impelled
 To be located in a place of grime.
 The spreading garden where my youth was spent
 Ah! Scene of happy days, of life secure
 A grove of warmth and colour clear and pure
 How could one bear the hell where I was sent?
 Instead of beauty growing year on year
 My world became an acid mound of muck
 A bitter pill, a sour fruit to suck
 So far from everything that I held dear.

Yet toughness is a virtue of our tribe
 Some hidden strength enabled taking root
 In that dread site of rot and ash and soot
 The early horrors too hard to describe.
 And slowly, slowly from that searching probe
 It dawned that unexpected food was there
 Some nourishment so varied and so rare
 Enabled me to don a better robe.
 Now waxing strong has caused my mind to clear
 Remembering the cut of pruning saw
 Sliced from the bush that I would see no more
 Condemned to spend my days with no friend near.
 But I am established now, my roots go deep
 My garb the best of all the foliage worn
 The finest flower of all the plants adorn
 The rose that grows upon the compost heap.

Eric French

2nd May *Parish* **PICNIC** **2021**

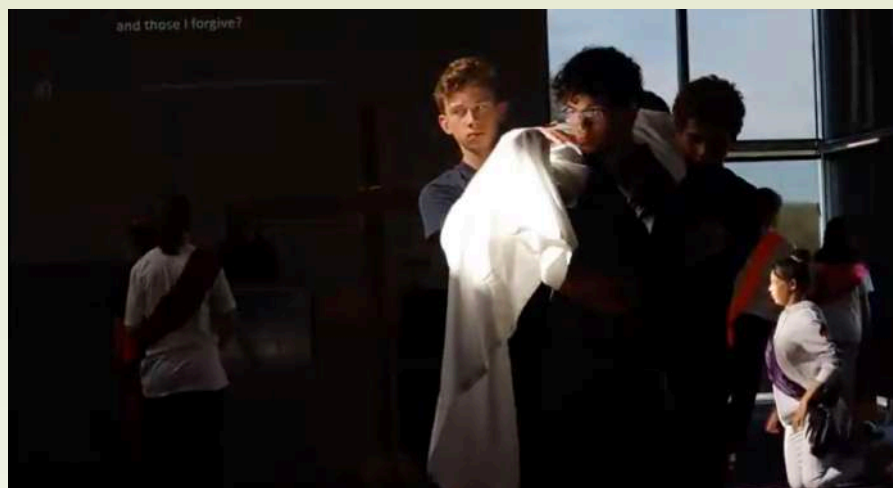
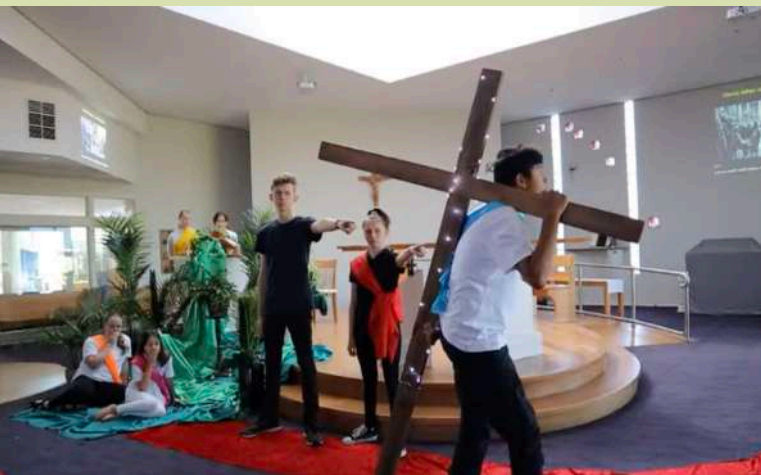
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
 Cotter Ave - Cotter Dam

Sunday 2 May 2021
11:30am

The parish will supply the
 sausages and bread.
 Please bring a salad or
 dessert to share

2019 Picnic

Stations of the Cross





ResurrectionReality

... and that he was buried
and that he was raised
on the third day
in accordance with the scriptures
and that he appeared
to Cephas
then to the twelve
... to 500
... to James
then to me. . (1 COR.15:4-8)

Here is the first recorded reference to the resurrection around 57 C.E. by Paul some decade or so before Mark's in 67 C.E. Mark's is quite brief also. This reflection set me off on my own reflections on Lent and the Paschal Celebrations from the past, the 1930's, & now the current one.

Much of the past: purple vestments – altar rails (stay out) – minister, his back, bending over the altar – strange language – yes, it was that era ... then my being part of a Gregorian Plain Chant Choir – Tenebrae, four part Latin motets for a decade or so, yes, some awe & wonder, explanation didn't involve much!

Then, life in the raw – ups & downs – oopses – near death events, can I say, experiences. But in all of this – the light of Christ, I say Christ, rather than Jesus, shone in the darkness ('a light that darkness could not overpower' Jn 1:5,9).

Scientists have discovered that what looks like darkness to the human eye is actually filled with tiny particles called 'neutrinos', slivers of light that pass through the entire universe! Yes, I am, we are not alone!

The above quote is the outcome of Jesus' life specifically spot-lighted (focused) in his ministry over three years. This Year B reading selected from Mark for Lent really focuses on Jesus' Lent :

"And the Spirit immediately
drove (drives) him out into
the wilderness. He was in the
wilderness forty days, tempted by
Satan; and he was with the wild
beasts; and the angels waited on
him." (1:12-13)

Here we have his stark, cultural portrayal of Jesus attending to his conversion experience of 'from' to 'to', after his coming out from the crowd to be baptised by the Baptist. Jesus' past 30 years, of which we know nothing, is put behind him, for he now turns (converts) towards all peoples, regardless of status:

The Spirit drives him his honesty, his search;
wilderness inhabited by wild beasts,
the thinking of the day;
his misgivings?;
40 days a duration till a commitment
is personally affirmed;
Satan his opponent, his opposition
(thoughts ?)
angels the sense of his life's conviction
– peace – shalom.

Here is a focus, a spot-light, a microcosm on the macrocosm of his life. Also mine, when the symbolic insight of scripture blossoms into being subjective rather than objective, that is, out there where it's rather safe (a false safety).

He, Jesus, from Nazareth, was FULLY HUMAN .

He, just as we all do, contended with the stages of human development – with individual outcomes – He shared in the weakness & vulnerability & death of our being human..... ' he was like us in all things but sin '.

We are not spectators or re-tellers of an ancient story, but actors of the Jesus story in our daily lives (Varengo sdb). In my own life as it became more subjective than just viewing his – objectively – , the :

angels were, are the convictions of the
Christ within, present, as well as at
Eucharist, when presented with
'The Body of Christ';
Satan dealing with my false-self to
release more of my having been
gifted, real-self;
40 time taken to reach more of my
'gifted' inner potential; wilderness
.... dealing with my misgivings;
Spirit embraced within & from life's
womb.

Lent is more than a 6 weeks Church ritual — it's the realism of life's reality of being an actor beyond that of a spectator :
to realise – to appreciate – to deepen – to know
'that God does not love me because I am good.
God loves me because God is good.'

Thus, my 87th Lent & there's more that could be unearthed!
This is part of the communion with the Body of Christ, that equals the true-self.

Easter Vigil





Mother

Could I crown with jewels most precious
and speak of you with words most fair,
e'en still would I be far from paying
my debt to you, O Mother dear!

Born of your own painful labour,
a crying thing – a pagan waif!
But you so kind with loving wonder
set me on God's path of grace.

How I remember early childhood
when you taught me how to pray!
Living in your loving shadow,
Christmas brings such thoughts my way!

But of all your traits of wonder –
patience, kindness, suffering, joy,
one outstanding, touched me deeply –
your charity surpassing all.

I have yet to meet another
who can give with so much grace,
and so dearly love the giving!
Beggars you've cheered with smiling face.

God has blessed you, dearest Mother;
may He keep you ever so!
And may all your sons and daughters
live their lives as well as you!

Eamonn Murtagh

For a Mother

Mother,
Your voice learning to soothe
Your new child
Was the first home-sound
We heard before we could see.

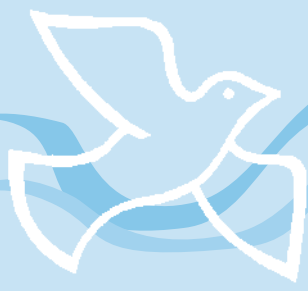
Your young eyes
Gazing on us
Was the first mirror
Where we glimpsed
What to be seen
Could mean.

Mother,
Your nearness filled the air,
An umbilical garden for all the seeds
Of longing that stirred in our infant hearts.

You nurtured and fostered this space
To root all our quietly gathering intensity
That could grow nowhere else.

Mother,
Formed from the depths beneath your heart,
You know us from the inside out,
No deeds or seas or others
Could ever erase that.

Benedictus – John O'Donohue



April Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children baptised during the month of April.

Elias Lane

Son of James Lane and Anita Phanprachit



My Family in India

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank everyone for your valuable prayers and blessings for my family. Recently my family celebrated the baptism of my second nephew (my brother's son). Due to COVID -19 many friends and relatives including me could not be invited. It was a wonderful celebration. I watched it through a video call and I blessed the child. Since we are in the joyful season of Easter I would like to share with you all my family photos. Once again I thank you for everything, please keep us in your prayers and pray for all Indians who are suffering from covid-19.

FR. MICHAEL STEPHAN



Join us
this
Sunday
2 May

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax
is excited to announce
a new initiative for young people in
Years 7 - 12

.....

Agape

YOUTH GROUP

FOLLOWING 6PM MASS
1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH

.....

Please join us to celebrate our faith
& share a meal together.

Marks of Mercy

Someone had shut the doors
but nothing could shut out
the risen Lord . . .

Into their room He came
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
His glorified body shone
yet Jesus was still human.

The others rejoiced yet
Thomas wouldn't believe
till he had touched his Master's
nail and lance punctured skin,
till he had probed
His marks of Mercy.

'My Lord and my God!'
Thomas exclaimed,
marvelling at the divine
embrace of human wounds,
the transfigured flesh
that bears our stigma
as a sign of forgiveness
for all eternity.

Shane Murtagh

Obituary

DARYL SMEATON

8 December 1949 – 13 April 2021

A farewell Mass to celebrate the life of Daryl Smeaton was held at St John's last Thursday 22 April. Fr. Kimi was the celebrant assisted by Fr. Michael Tate from Tasmania.

Daryl was a long-standing and valued member of our community. He and his wife Laurine were regular attendees at the Saturday Vigil mass having joined our parish shortly after their marriage in the 70's. Daryl served as an acolyte and, at other times, he and Laurine were special ministers.

Over the years Daryl made many friends within the community of St John's, frequently staying behind after mass to chat with other parishioners. More often than not these chats covered the sporting events of the Saturday afternoon, especially football and the day's horse racing results. Precedence, however, would always be given to football should his beloved Richmond be successful that day.

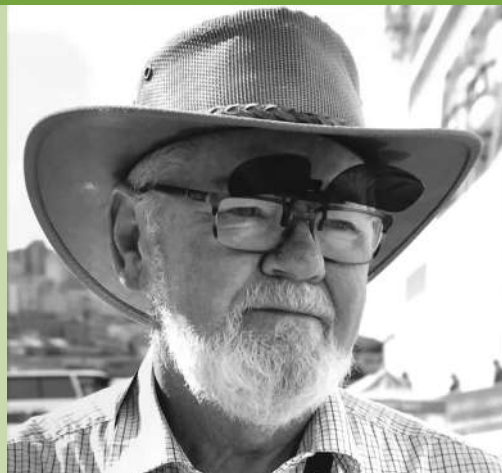
The large number who attend Thursday's requiem was an illustration of how highly Daryl was regarded by his peers. Among them were former federal parliamentary, public service and other colleagues with who Daryl worked during his career.

The eulogy for Daryl was shared by his daughter, Erin, and son, Luke. They played a short, recorded message in which Daryl told of his schooldays in Ballarat through the primary years and at

St Pat's college. The family he said had moved to Canberra shortly after his father died. It was in Canberra that he met his wife-to-be, Laurine.

Erin's and Luke's eulogy told of the great love all Daryl's family shared. Undoubtedly, the support and encouragement he gave them and the exemplary Christian life of faith he lived will be a constant role-model for them and their families.

Fr Michael Tate, a former senator from Tasmania and a minister in the Hawke Government, travelled from Tasmania to give the homily. He was ordained to the priesthood some years after retiring as a senator.



In his homily, Fr Tate told the congregation of Daryl's appointment as his chief-of-staff and of the important part he played in the development of crime prevention and security legislation that stands to this day. These legislative initiatives Australia's gun control laws and the formation of the Australian Federal Police Force. One would never hear this information from Daryl, such was his hu

Fr Tate told of the teamwork and friendship he and Daryl had forged during the years, but pointing out that there were occasions when he disagreed with some advice Daryl had presented for his approval.

These situations sometimes led to 'heated debates', neither backing down until a consensus was reached. Clearly, Daryl was not a 'Yes Minister' person.

Post his Public Service career Daryl's administrative capabilities were much in demand and he served in a variety of other paid and voluntary advisory roles including work for the Archdiocese and community organisations. As well as his contribution to our church as an acolyte, he was a member of St. Joseph the Worker group carrying out church maintenance and participating in St Vincent de Paul's annual door knock appeals.

As a valued member of our community we acknowledge the contribution Daryl has made to the parish of St John's.

May his immortal soul rest in peace.

John & Mary Barrett

Down Memory Lane



St John the Apostle Kippax 10TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

Every month leading up to our 50th anniversary on **26 February 2022** we will have a "Down Memory Lane" page.

Please send in your photos or stories from past events or memories the you have of the parish.

We would appreciate your help in creating this page.

TOP LEFT: The Reynolds, Kains, O'Connells and Muldoons at the picnic

TOP RIGHT: Val Patterson msc, John Kelliher msc, Bede North msc, and Peter Hearn msc,



The Sausage Sizzle
at St John's



Riches Family – Offertory Gifts



Frank Craddock
reads thanksgiving
prayer



Liturgical Movement:
T Williams, S Heath



Entrance: W. Cruickshank,
G Chaston, T Williams, S Heath,
Eric French, Adrian Newton