



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT @ Kippax



Time out for reflection

Memories of Love during the Month of November

November is the month when we think more of our departed loved ones. If you know love by word only, it does not stay with you, but the experience of love does, and it came to me from many people during my husband's illness. They know who they are and I am grateful to them, however I would like to say 'thank you' for the care and love to some people that I have not met. They don't realise that they have been in my thoughts often through the past 15 years.

My husband was waiting for heart surgery and Marian asked me to come to see her. She presented me with two praying shawls, beautifully knitted; one woolen green and brown for my husband, one lighter pink and grey for me. Marian for some reason did not tell me the name of person or persons who made them so now in KIT I am saying to them 'thank you'.

My husband died twelve years ago, but I still use the shawls often, both of them in winter as I meditate twice a day, I often ask for blessings for the people who made the shawls. They are always placed near my bible.

My husband Richard recovered after heart surgery though he had somehow had longer time under anesthetic which in our sadness developed Alzheimer's. After nearly four years at home we needed to place him in Calvary Care. I was there every day, and our children as much as they could. Father Michael Fallon was with us often and visited Richard in Calvary. Richard and I would spend time with Michael in the garden and many other people, also patients would surround Michael and also receive 'blessings' from him. He always had with him a wooden cross with which he blessed them, sometimes he also gave them hugs. I will never forget this side of Michael, priest, and theologian, so at ease and full of love for people with dementia.

Although there was one man that would just look, but not come near Michael, I will call him Andy. Some weeks later I was sitting in the garden knowing that Richard did not have much longer to live. I may have had tears running down my face. I noticed Andy approaching me with his right hand made into a fist. I was a bit nervous, but he sat next to me held out his fist and slowly opened it and there was a small cross made of twigs. He looked at me and it was very clear that he wanted to make me happy like Michael did with his cross. **THANK YOU MICHAEL** Your presence showed me that dementia can ruin the brain, but the soul of sick people is very much alive and capable of loving.

Richard always liked yellow roses even more so when illness came. A few days after his funeral there was a knock on the door and Della and John O'Heir came in. They brought me a seedling of a yellow rose which was planted in the garden in memory of Richard. After one year of being moody the rose started to grow and flowered beautifully. I have many roses in my garden, but this one always flowers first in Spring and finishes the last one in Autumn. **THANK YOU DELLA AND JOHN** I have a lot of joy and memories looking at this rose bush. It is a pity recent rain damaged the flowers so there are not many flowers in the photo, but soon they will grow again abundantly. My sharing is maybe too personal but shows the love that exists in our Parish. In this way our lives become a gift to each other a sign of wholeness and reality of love in our so often broken world.

Barbara Witrzens



What is a Prayer Shawl?

A prayer shawl is a handmade shawl. Usually people knit or crochet prayer shawls. The only difference between a prayer shawl and any other shawl is in the process of making it. When making a prayer shawl, the crafter is very intentional about their work. They infuse the piece with a prayer. This soothes the crafter as they work. Moreover, it perhaps gives energy to the item itself, which is then gifted to a recipient who can feel the love and care that went into the piece.

Ways to Make Any Shawl Pattern a Prayer Shawl

Any knit or crochet shawl pattern can be a prayer shawl. It's all in the process of crafting. Here's how people make a shawl into a prayer shawl:

- Choose a prayer before beginning the craft project.
- Choose a project recipient as well. This might be a specific person that you know. Alternatively, if you make prayer shawls for charity, then it might be a general person but try to picture them in your mind's eye.
- Repeat the prayer before you begin crafting.
- Repeat the prayer aloud or in your mind as you stitch. This works best for knit and crochet shawl patterns that are repetitive and don't require a lot of focus.
- When the piece is finished, gently fold it, reciting your prayer as you do.
- Some people choose to include a handwritten version of the prayer as a note when gifting a prayer shawl.

In other words, you simply turn your attention to the prayer as you craft. The idea is that you are spending your time and energy handcrafting a shawl for someone you care about. They can feel that intention when they receive the item. They know that you've been praying for them, which is comforting. And each time that they wrap the shawl around themselves, they feel that again.

<https://marlybird.com/what-is-a-prayer-shawl-and-other-ways-to-craft-intentionally/>

Why things happen as they do

Why things happen as they do
 we do not always know,
 And we cannot always fathom
 why our spirits sink so low.
 We flounder in our dark distress,
 we are wavering and unstable,
 But when we're most inadequate,
 the Lord God's always able-
 For though we are incapable,
 God is powerful and great,
 And there's no darkness of the mind that
 God can't penetrate...
 And while He may not instantly
 unravel all the strands
 Of tangled thoughts that trouble us,
 He completely understands-
 And in His time, if we have faith,
 He will gradually restore
 The brightness to our spirits
 that we've been longing for.
 So remember there's no cloud too dark
 for God's light to penetrate
 If we just keep on believing
 and have faith enough to wait.

Helen Steiner Rice

Submitted by Graham Erickson



Symbol	Bible Story	Where it is in the Bible
The Earth	Creation	Genesis 1
Apple tree	Adam & Eve	Genesis 2:4 - 3:24
Rainbow	Noah & the Flood	Genesis 6:9 – 9:17
Tent	God's promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-7 & 15:1-6
Ram	Isaac	Genesis 22:1-18
Ladder	Jacob's ladder	Genesis 28:10-19
Multicoloured Coat	Joseph's coat	Genesis 37 & 50
Burning bush	Moses	Exodus 2:1 – 4:20
Lamb	Israelites & the Passover	Exodus 12:1-42
Two Stone tablets	The 10 commandments	Exodus 19:1 – 20:20
A Ram's horn trumpet	Joshua and the fall of Jericho	Joshua 6:1-20
A sheaf of corn	Ruth	Book of Ruth
Star of David	King David	1 Samuel 16:1-3
The Temple	Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 6
A bonfire	Elijah & Baal's priests	1 Kings 18:16-39
A tree stump with a single branch growing from it	Isaiah's 'Jesse' prophecy	Isaiah 11:1-11
A whale	Jonah & the Whale	Whole Book of Jonah
A scallop shell	John the Baptist	Matthew 3:13-17
A white lily	Mary	Luke 1:26-38
A mother and child	Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-56
A pencil and tablet	Zechariah	Luke 1:57-80
A carpenter's hammer	Joseph	Matthew 1:19-25
A fluffy sheep	The shepherds	Luke 2:8-20
3 gifts or 3 crowns	The wisemen	Matthew 2:1-12
A baby in a manger	Jesus	Luke 2:1-8



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021



The theme for this year's Christmas Appeal is that

NO CHILD SHOULD BE BORN INTO A WORLD WITHOUT HOPE

The launch of the Vinnies 2021 Christmas Appeal at St John the Apostle Parish Kippax will be on the weekend of 27th and 28th November, which is the commencement of Advent. There are many ways that you give the gift of hope and help make Christmas a joyful celebration for families in our community that are struggling financially or emotionally at this time of the year.

CANBERRA RELIEF NETWORK HAMPERS

This year, we have accepted an offer of basic food hampers from the ACT Government for families in need in our local region. The Government has reinstated the Canberra Relief Network (CRN) especially for Christmas and will provide community organisations with ready-packed hampers. There are a couple of advantages of using the CRN hampers. First, they are free which removes the burden from parishioners and school communities to donate basic food items.

Second, community organisations are working collaboratively with CRN to reduce the incidence of individuals ordering hampers from multiple organisations. In our region Kippax Uniting Care is participating in the CRN hamper collaboration as well as Vinnies Kippax.

As in previous years we will receive 10 Christmas hampers from Belconnen Rotary which we will provide to families in our local areas. We are very grateful to the generous support of Rotary.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

While the CRN and Rotary hampers are a valuable contribution, we still require support from parishioners and our school communities to supplement the CRN hampers with festive food items. Also, you can help in one or more of the following ways:

- Buy a gift for a child
- Deliver hampers
- Make a financial donation to our Christmas Appeal.

**MORE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MIKE
MICHAEL.BLYTH@FOURSCENES.COM.AU OR 0419 818 410**



FOOD GIFT CARDS

Four different food gift cards will be available after each Mass on 27th and 28th November and 4th and 5th December. Each card has three non-perishable festive food items for you to buy. Feel free to take as many different cards as you like. We will gladly accept other non-perishable food items as well. If you are unable to get to the church to pick up a couple of food gift cards, the preferred items are:

Chocolates –
bar, bag or jar
Pkt of savoury biscuits
Box of Christmas
Bon Bons

Nuts (jar or packet)
Tin of Milo
Bottle cordial or
fruit juice

Jar of Jam
Packet of shortbread
biscuits
Large packet of chips

Packet of lollies
Small Christmas
pudding
Carton of custard
(long life)

Donations of food can be left near the Christmas tree or at the Parish Office by Sunday 12 December



GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

**GIFT CARDS FOR CHILDREN
WILL BE HANGING ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

**ON THE WEEKENDS OF 27-28 NOVEMBER
AND 4-5 DECEMBER**

Each card includes the name and age of the child and their interests to guide you when selecting a gift. Please take only one gift card so that all those wanting to buy a gift can do so. Your gift should be returned unwrapped or placed in a gift bag with the gift tag from the Christmas tree attached showing the child's name. **Please return the gift by Sunday 12 December.**

HAMPER DELIVERY

Hampers will be delivered on Saturday morning 18 December. Hamper delivery will be subject to COVID-19 safety precautions as prescribed by Vinnies and the St John the Apostle Parish. It will be conducted as it was in 2020. If you would like to help with delivery, please contact a Vinnies member in the foyer after Mass and add your name, contact details and preferred delivery time and suburb to the delivery sign-on sheet. Alternatively, contact Mike Blyth on 0419 818 410 or James Cox on 0432 563 299 and leave your contact details and delivery time preference.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

You can help needy families at Christmas by making a financial donation as you leave the Church on Saturday 4 December and Sunday 5 December. Your donations help us to pay for supermarket gift cards which will be included in the hampers so that families can buy perishable items for their Christmas meals.

Envelopes will be available for credit card donations and a receipt for cash donations can be provided. **YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE AT: WWW.VINNIES.ORG.AU OR PHONE 13 18 12.** Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be left at the Parish Office during business hours Monday to Friday.

GIFTS OF HOPE AND JOY

We are planning to prepare and deliver around 50 hampers to families and individuals in the suburbs of Holt, Higgins, Latham and Macgregor. About half of these are families with children. We expect to provide gifts to around 65 children. Your generosity brings the joy and happiness of Christmas to struggling families in our community. Your love and support give hope to the families, for which they are most grateful. On their behalf, we wish you a joyful Christmas.

Thank You and Merry Christmas



20 December International Human Solidarity Day 2021

Solidarity has always been a consistent theme of Catholic social teaching, emphasising love for and preference for the poor. There is so much injustice in the world and many of us are at a loss when it comes to acting on or upholding the principles of social justice in our everyday lives. In 2017, *MindFood* magazine published an article about promoting social justice, and these were some of their ideas:

1 Spread the word

Become active in spreading empowering information, whether it is through word of mouth to friends and family, via your online networking and emails, or just by having a conversation with colleagues at work. Sometimes getting the conversation started is enough to spur others to join in too. Always lead by example!

2 Listen more

Before you head out the door to spread your message, remember to always be courteous and open to hearing what others think and feel. While you may not agree on everything, debating issues you feel strongly about in a calm and non-aggressive fashion could be eye-opening and validating for both them and you.

3 Attend a rally or meeting

There is power in numbers. It's good to post information about an event about a cause that you feel strongly about, but even better if you can put it into action. Remember – actions speak louder than words.

4 Reclaim your community

It's important to get to know your neighbours and those around you, as you can't promote social justice on a broader level without having a sense of community. You might find you have similar gripes or hesitations about things going on in your neighbourhood and be able to mobilise for change. It's also important to help those who may be struggling around you first before you seek to help others outside your community.

5 Volunteer

So many good causes need you. Sparing some time to help others in need will help organisations struggling to respond to the demand for help – not to mention, give you a new appreciation for all that you have and continue to empower you to do more. Don't underestimate the power of volunteering – it's food for the soul.

7 Adopt a politician

Write a monthly letter or email to your local member of parliament on issues that are important to you. Take action to support specific legislative initiatives, and give your opinion on what you think they should focus on.

8 Embrace diversity

Attend community events that are ethnically focused to gain a greater appreciation of diverse cultures. Or befriend someone of a different race, religion or age, to gain a better understanding of the issues that affect them.

9 Sign a petition

We are all bombarded with emails and pleas from groups hoping we will sign their petition or pledge. It takes five minutes to sign your name to one of these documents, but could mean the world of difference for those trying to give legs to their cause.

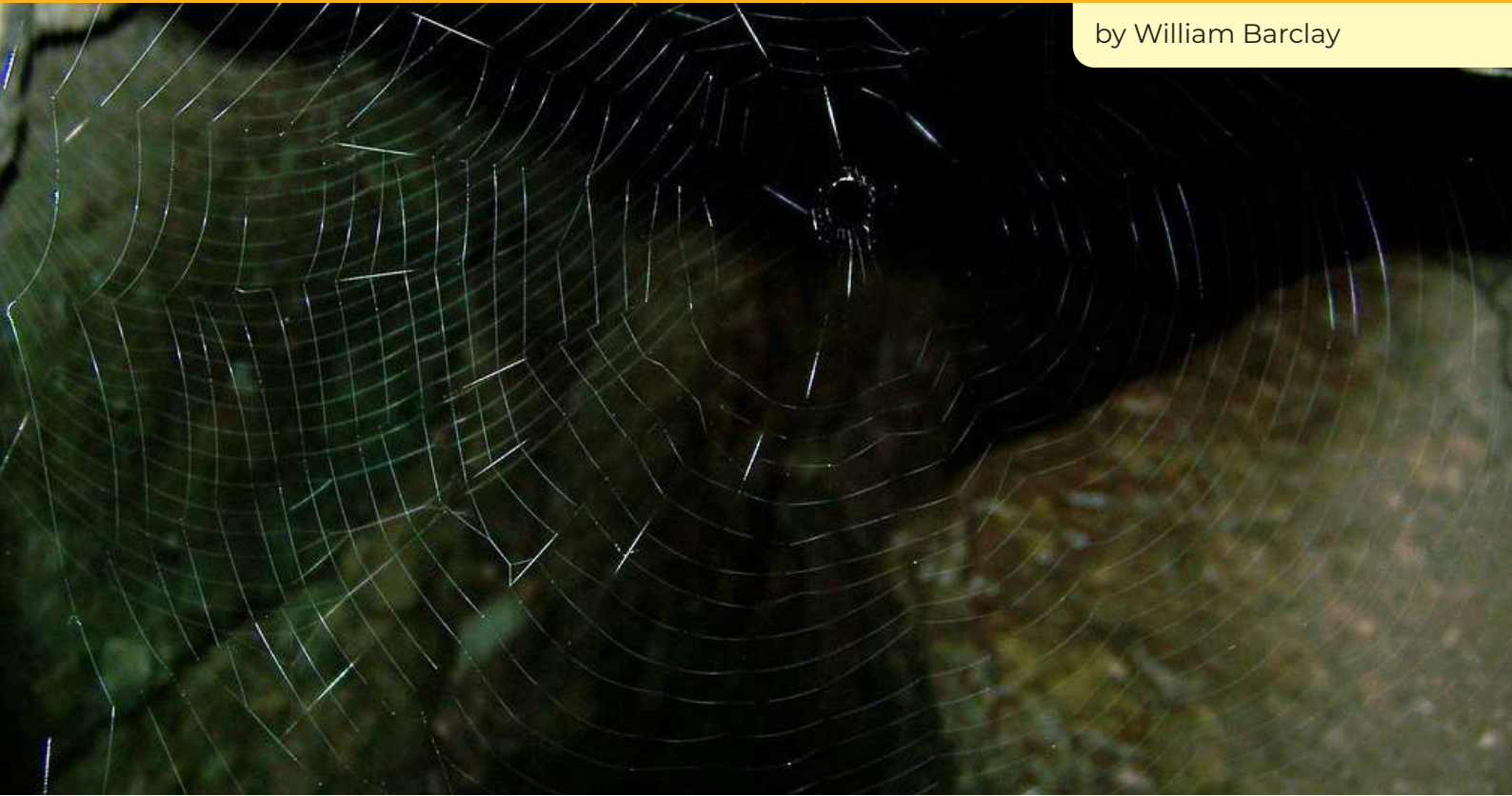
10 Practice what you preach

Remember social justice begins in the home. There is no point going out and urging others in the community to change their words and actions if you haven't first looked at your own stomping ground.

Also, get your friends or family members involved, especially young ones, and keep them informed and educated about social justice issues and human rights. It will help to give them a global approach and perspective to their schoolwork and their life – keeping in mind that they are the future.

The Legend of the Spider's Web

by William Barclay



Escape to Egypt

When they had gone away, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph. "Rise," he said, "and take the little child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you: for Herod is about to search for the little child, in order to kill him."

So he arose and took the little child and his mother by night and went away into Egypt, and he remained there until the death of Herod.

This happened that the word spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

"Out of Egypt have I called my son."

MATT. 2:13-15

When Joseph and Mary and Jesus were on their way to Egypt, the story runs, as the evening came they were weary, and they sought refuge in a cave. It was very cold, so cold that the ground was white with hoar frost.

A little spider saw the little baby Jesus, and he wished so much that he could do something to keep him warm in the cold night. He decided to do the only thing he could and spin his web across the entrance of the cave, to make, as it were, a curtain there.

Along the path came a detachment of Herod's soldiers, seeking for children to kill to carry out Herod's bloodthirsty order. When they came to the cave they were about to burst in to search it, but their captain noticed the spider's web, covered with the white hoar frost and stretched right across the entrance to the cave.

"Look," he said, "at the spider's web there. It is quite unbroken and there cannot possibly be anyone in the cave, for anyone entering would certainly have torn the web."

So the soldiers passed on, and left the holy family in peace, because a little spider had spun his web across the entrance to the cave.

And that, so they say, is why to this day we put tinsel on our Christmas trees, for the glittering tinsel streamers stand for the spider's web, white with the hoar frost, stretched across the entrance of the cave on the way to Egypt.

It is a lovely story, and this much, at least, is true, that no gift which Jesus receives is ever forgotten.

Submitted by Pauline Greig



Year of the Family

Live the joy of God's love

CONTEMPLATING FAMILY LIFE:

Have you heard about the “Year of the Family” as announced by Pope Francis?

In his first three years as Pope, Francis held two universal synods on the family, and gathered the insights of these meetings into the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* – **on the beauty and joy of family life**.

On March 19 this year – the Feast of St Joseph and the 5th anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia* – Pope Francis announced this current period leading up to the **World Meeting of Families** in June next year as the **Year of Amoris Laetitia Family** in which he asked the universal church to revisit his document on the family.

Francis says:

All family life is a shepherding in mercy AL 322

Francis' intention expressed in *Amoris Laetitia* is to **place the family at the centre of attention of the Church and of society**. He is calling us individually and as a Church to a 'missionary conversion' **AL229** in learning how to walk alongside families and help them face challenges confidently **because families are never a problem, they are always a gift, and in terms of the future, they are an opportunity AL 7**. Francis also wants us as a Church to proclaim boldly the “Gospel of the Family”. That is, to hold up for young people and the world a hopeful vision of **family life as a fragile but precious path to human fulfilment because it 'responds to the deepest expectations of the human person' AL 201**

Want to learn more?

To assist us in this 'missionary conversion' the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family & Life has taken the novel step of releasing a new 5 minute video each month in which Pope Francis explains a central theme from *Amoris Laetitia* and families from

around the world share how this teaching applies to their lives. So far 8 of 10 videos, with accompanying study guides, have been produced and can be viewed at *Amoris Laetitia* (laityfamilylife.va)

Another initiative of the Year of *Amoris Laetitia* Family, was the inauguration of the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** which Pope Francis would like us to commemorate each year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the Feast of St Joachim & Anna - Jesus' own earthly grandparents.



Advent program – “Walking Together”

Locally, a network of Catholic groups, movements and agencies who work to support marriage and family life requested that the Archdiocese help them produce an Advent resource focussing on *Amoris Laetitia*. Echoing the Popes vision, this resource is called “Walking Together” and includes a series of four 10 minute videos each with an accompanying discussion guide, which can be used freely.

Explore Week 1 of the resource here: www.cgcatholic.org.au/ADVENT

and watch a three minute trailer here: <https://youtu.be/0eaQJFCNxLI>

Submitted by Carl Madsen

Words and resources used from Lara Kirk, Archdiocese manager for Marriage, Family and Relationships

Behold

With eyes and heart
 Twinned
 To be welcomed and to welcome
 To be held and to hold
 To be understood and to understand
 To be found and to find
 To be touched and to touch
 To be supported and to support
 To be seen and to see
 To be loved and to love
 To long and to belong
 Together
 As one
 Behold

John Bosman msc
 9 October 2021

**If we love the God
who made us**

If we love the God who made us
 and His people whom we meet,
 He will make His home within us
 and lay heaven at our feet!

Eamonn Murtagh

With Mary our Mother, we pray
 for the coming of our Lord;
 with gratitude for His Mercy,
 may He ever be adored.

Shane Murtagh

Smile at first...**A horrible mistake**

Father, I have a besetting sin, and I want your help. I come to church on Sunday and can't help thinking I'm the prettiest girl in the congregation. I know I ought not think that, but I can't help it. I want you to help me with it."

The pastor replied, "Mary, don't worry about it. In your case it's not a sin. It's just a horrible mistake."

Sent with love and laughter by Michael!



Christmas 2021

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
 25 Blackham St, KIPPAX ACT ■ Ph 6254 3236 ■ www.stjohnkipfax.org.au

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24 December

■ 6:00pm ■ 9:00pm ■ Midnight
 CAROLS START 30 MINUTES
 BEFORE MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25 December

■ 9:00am
 One mass only –
 NO EVENING MASS

Sunday 26 December

■ 8:30am ■ 10:00am ■ 6:00pm

Thank you to carers



On Friday 26 November parishioners who visit and take communion to the sick and housebound were acknowledged and thanked at a morning tea.

Helen Kennedy chair of the SJACare team thanked carers for their commitment to their ministry and the pastoral work they do on behalf of our parish and wider community.

We are blessed to have parishioners who care for each other.



SJACare team members

Helen Kennedy
Manel Seneviratna
Bob Raadts
Marian England
Fr. Kimi Vunivesilevu msc





November Baptisms

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

Benjamin Markcrow Son of Tim and Sarah

Teejay Le Son of Tinh and Monica

Xerses and Zeus Gonzales Twin sons of Zean and Diane



NOVEMBER Death notices

Nicholas Moore

7 OCTOBER 1970 – 22 OCTOBER 2021

Isabella Christian

5 DECEMBER 1996 – 31 OCTOBER 2021

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen

2021 Remembrance Day mass





St John Chrysostom

“When the last tree is cut,
the last fish is caught, and the
last river is polluted; when to
breathe the air is sickening,
you will realise, too late,
that wealth is not in bank
accounts and that you
can't eat money.”

Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin
on the value of nature

Inspiration

Every year we celebrate
the holy season of
Advent, O God.

Every year we pray
those beautiful prayers
of longing and waiting,
and sing those lovely
songs of hope and
promise.



Karl Rahner

In the early days of the parish, stalls with local produce
were held to raise funds for particular projects. On one
occasion two baskets of eggs appeared on the table
under the foundation stone in the foyer reading:



Submitted by Eric French

Down Memory Lane

AS WE JOURNEY TO 26/02/2022

2004

Fr. Chris McPhee's farewell
December 2004



Be on earth the
Heart of God



Parish Blessing Song

The Lord bless you and keep you.
Cause his face to shine on you and
have mercy on you.
Turn his countenance to you and
give you peace.

DECEMBER



1	Wednesday	
2	Thursday	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 – 8:30pm
3	Friday	Feast of St Francis Xavier Meditation 6:15 – 7:15pm – Parish Library
4	Saturday	Feast of St John Damascene, Doctor of the Church
5	Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Sunday of Advent – Love. Vinnies Christmas appeal leaving collection
6	Monday	Sacrament of Penance – Formation session for parents
7	Tuesday	Feast of St Ambrose – Doctor of the Church
8	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 167th Anniversary of the Founding of the Missionaries of the Sacred by Fr. Jules Chevalier msc
9	Thursday	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 – 8:30pm
10	Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Lady of Loreto Meditation 6:15 – 7:15pm – Parish Library
11	Saturday	Saint Damasus I, Pope
12	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
13	Monday	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
14	Tuesday	John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church
15	Wednesday	
16	Thursday	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 – 8:30pm
17	Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Group BBQ Presbytery Deck 5:30pm Meditation 6:15 – 7:15pm – Parish Library
18	Saturday	
19	Sunday	4th Sunday of Advent - Peace
20	Monday	Pins & Needles 7:15pm Parish Library
21	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast 7:30am – Bean Origin
22	Wednesday	
23	Thursday	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 – 8:30pm
24	FRIDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE – see notice for mass times
25	SATURDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY... Rejoice a Saviour is born
26	Sunday	Feast of the Holy Family 2 MONTHS TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
27	Monday	Feast of St John the Apostle
28	Tuesday	Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
29	Wednesday	Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
30	Thursday	
31	Friday	Anointing of the sick after 9:30am mass