



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT@Kippax



Time out for reflection

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph The Holy Family

Trust is the essential human orientation towards God

Christmas is about the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth; it is about our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is about rejoicing that God sent his Son to be with us; it is about the Almighty transcendent God taking on flesh; it is about God becoming a living, breathing, walking, and talking human being.

The celebration of Jesus' birth into a family makes this season a time of joy and a time of thankfulness; a time to reflect and a time to convert; a time to focus on our individual as well as our family lives.

The first Sunday feast after Christmas is the celebration of the Holy Family. If the family is the place where we learn to be human by following the example of parents or elders, where we learn to love and forgive, then, like us, the Holy Family probably had disagreements. Jesus was like us in all things except sin.

According to Psychology Today, close family relationships afford a person better health and well-being, as well as lower rates of depression and disease throughout a lifetime. But in many families, getting along isn't a given. The interaction between various members is at the core of these complicated dynamics. We may joke about the stereotypical sources of disharmony—the obnoxious uncle and the ne'er-do-well son—but factors like environment and sibling rivalries do emerge when considering the viability and stability of family networks.

In a functional family, parents strive to create an environment in which everyone feels safe and respected. A positive home requires parents to set and uphold rules, but not resort to overly rigid regulation of any one person's behaviour. In a healthy household, slights and misbehaviours are readily addressed, and boundaries are clear and consistent, all of which help avoid disharmony in the longer term. While this sounds easy, it can be hard to achieve in practice.

Being a parent is a sacred vocation. It is a dignified calling. It demands courage. It demands commitment. Parents have the power of witness and the power of modelling.



Mary and Joseph embark on parenthood with complete trust in God. Whilst not understanding, Mary said yes, because she knew nothing is impossible for God. In the "Magnificat," she unleashes one of the most magnificent songs of praise in all of human history. Her heart overflows with praise for the wonderful acts and mercy of God in her life.

Joseph is depicted as a just and holy man; as a gentle and sensitive man; as a compassionate and merciful man. He loved Mary and was unwilling to expose her to public shame or disgrace. He listened to the voice of God and was committed and yielding to everything God asked of him.

We understand that God does great things only with people who say 'yes' unconditionally. God requires their assent. Then nothing is impossible for God.

God chooses ordinary holy people to be key workers in plans for our salvation. The professionals, the Pharisees are there to run things but God chooses non-professionals for the breakthrough actions leading to life in God.

Christmas is a time when we evaluate our homes in the light of the Holy Family portrait. How do we seek God? How do we walk with God? How do we grow in holiness? How do we encourage vocations?

Resources used:

Fr Gary Walker, Reflection: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, 22 Dec 2020

Psychology Today, Understanding Family Dynamics www.psychologytoday.com/au/basics/family-dynamics

Msgr. Thomas J. Morgan, The Holy Family is a model for all families, 22 Dec 2011

Editor's Note

It is time to say goodbye to 2022 and I can't believe how quickly it has passed by. We have had an action-packed year of celebrations and renovations. We started our jubilee celebrations on the weekend of 26-27 February, the actual anniversary, with a trio of events:

- **Friday 25 February** we had an anointing mass followed by lunch,
- **Saturday 26** we celebrated with the Vigil mass followed by dinner at the Labor Club
- **Sunday 27 10:00am** mass followed by lunch.



We then continued to celebrate throughout the year: Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – morning mass followed by High Tea – and in the evening a Food Truck themed dinner followed by Karaoke.

This year for the first time we celebrated Chevalier Day – 21 October – the anniversary of Jules Chevalier's msc death. We celebrated with mass at 9:30am followed by morning tea and in the evening we had dinner and a trivia night. Both celebrations had a French theme. We also farewelled Fr. Michael with mass and a potluck lunch on Sunday 18 December. Michael has written a farewell message which you will find on pages 5-6. Our final celebration for the year was the Feast of St John the Apostle on Tuesday 27 December, which is featured on page 4. I have no memory of us ever celebrating this feast day – some foundational parishioners may remember if it was celebrated during the first ten years of the parish, but I do not think we have celebrated it in the past forty years.

The renovations that were undertaken during the year were necessary and somewhat urgent maintenance of the building. The leaking roof was the first project and I must admit to being more relaxed these days when there is a major rain event or storm, knowing that we will not have to put buckets in the body of the church to catch the drips. The replacement of the floor to ceiling rotting windows on the western side of the church was also an overdue project. The external lights to the building were upgraded to LED and put on a sensor, with the aim of improving the safety and security of the precinct. The cost of this project was slightly over \$5,000. A parishioner donated the \$5,000 to pay for this project. The other projects which are planned for 2023 are the:

- replacement of the rotting wood which supports the awnings around the building.
- upgrade of the church projectors, another parishioner has donated \$1,500 toward the cost of this project.

As we begin a new year I have a feeling that we will face more change in 2023, but as today's science tells us, our brains need change to stay cognitively healthy. Socrates provides us with the wisdom on how to embrace change.

*The secret of change is
to focus all of your energy,
not on fighting the old,
but on building the new.*

Socrates

May God's providence guide our parish and shelter us as we embark on a new year.

Happy New Year

Marian

Feast of St John the Apostle

27 December 2022



The Feast of St John the Apostle falls two days after Christmas, and as a result it has not been our tradition to celebrate this feast day. However, this year being our 50th Jubilee we decided to celebrate with mass at 11:00am followed by a BBQ lunch.

Approximately 35 faithful parishioners attended the low-key celebration which provided a relaxed atmosphere for parishioners to catch up post-Christmas.

Someone asked as they were leaving if we were going to do it again in 2023... let's wait and see how we feel at the end of 2023?



The grateful heart

As I continue to grow in my understanding and appreciation of the role of the priest in the Church and especially at Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church, I want to thank and congratulate you, for what you, the parishioners provide to the parish, firstly, the witness that you give as a parish faith community to the Heart of Jesus, and secondly, the ministry you do with dedication and commitment to Jesus and the parish.

St John's is an especially vibrant, active and engaged church community. I acknowledge and sincerely thank parishioners and families for your support, encouragement, motivation and blessings. Everyone says that the first experience is the best experience and in my experience that is true. In the beginning when I started my ministry I was nervous, fearful and shy. However, my experience at St John's has helped me acquire knowledge, and confidence. I feel that I have grown, both personally and spiritually. During my formation years the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) taught me about Hospitality and Heart Spirituality. However, here at St. John's parish my experience has been that you practise Hospitality from your hearts. It has inspired me to learn, practice, and to give you the same. I have been treated, accepted and well trained these last three years. As my first parish, your nurturance will stay with me throughout my ministry and inspire me to bring hearts of love to Christ.

Thank you so much for all that you have done for me. I wish and pray for this parish to be united with Christ and to be the first and best disciple of Christ as modelled by our patron saint, St. John the Apostle the beloved disciple of Christ.

I am wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy 2023, filled with health, wealth, and joy. Sending love and warm wishes to you and your family this holiday season. May the New Year bring you prosperity, happiness, and success. May this holiday season be filled with laughter, love, and cherished moments with loved ones.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.....forever and ever Amen.

With blessings,

Michael msc





Two parting jokes...

The hospital sign said:

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged.

A student nurse found one elderly gentleman – already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet – who insisted he didn't need any help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let the nurse wheel him to the elevator. On the way down she asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."



A teenage girl had been talking on her phone for about half an hour, and then she hung up.

"Wow!" said her father,

"That was short. You usually talk for two hours or more. What happened?"

"Wrong number..." replied the girl.

Money Matters\$

In the November edition of KIT, we spoke about Sacrificial Giving and the theological grounding of why we give.

As faith filled people we trust in God's providence and believe that everything we have is a gift from God. This providence isn't of the supernatural order where God performs a miracle to provide for our material needs. But of the natural order, where God's providence is accomplished through us. God works through us, using our actions, words, prayers, and financial contributions so that, as the body of Christ we can continue Christ's mission.

(KIT, Nov 2022 p. 7)

We give because God has given to us first. Jesus was the first fruit given gratuitously to us from God. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"** (John 3:16)

We in turn give back to God the first fruits of our labour. **"You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the Lord your God"** (Exodus 23:19)

During 2022 we embarked on a much-needed maintenance and repair program of our church buildings. The projects completed thus far are listed below:

Project	Cost	Donation towards project
Church Roof	\$ 24,220	
Church Lights	\$ 28,880	
Floor to ceiling windows & painting of the interior of the church	\$ 110,441	
External security/sensor Lights	\$ 5,780	\$ 5,000
PAID TO DATE	\$169,321	

Projects that will be completed during 2023 are:

Project	Cost	Donation towards project
Replacement of blinds on western windows	\$ 3,633	
Replacement & upgrade of Audio Visual in the church	\$ 9,882	\$ 1,500
Replacement of rotting wood on the external awnings & painting of steel mesh	\$ 40,850	
Repairs to the presbytery deck and pergola	\$ 26,900	
PAID TO DATE	\$81,265	
Total cost	\$250,586	

To fund these projects, we have taken out a loan with the Catholic Development Fund for the sum of \$240,000 with monthly repayments of \$2,640.00. We will need to receive \$610 per week just to cover the loan repayments before meeting our other expense commitments.

The church buildings and grounds are a large complex which continually need attention. We know that the longer we leave maintenance projects the more they end up costing. Potential projects are always on our radar such as the potholes appearing in the carpark, which will need to be repaired in the near future.

Your financial support helps our parish meet its commitments. We appeal to parishioners who are not currently on the planned giving program to consider giving a regular contribution via direct debit or EFT (electronic Funds Transfer).

Your giving helps and sustains:

- The financial viability of our parish
- Our pastoral care of each other

Giving is an act of worship, and we include God in our giving when it is given cheerfully and from our hearts.

"Where you treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matt. 6:21)

Treasures from the Archives

Religious Needleworkers (Part 2 – A coded message)



In 1882 a group of exiled Ursuline nuns from Duderstadt in Germany was invited by the Very Reverend Elzear Torreggiani, Bishop of Armidale, New South Wales, to open St Ursula's College, a school for girls, in Armidale, NSW. The sisters remained in the convent until they relocated to Sydney in 2011. Like many contemporaries, the sisters brought with them textiles of particular community significance. The Ursuline Heritage Textiles Collection is now housed at the Ursuline Convent Archives in Sydney. The collection includes an exquisitely embroidered sermon veil. A sermon veil was traditionally suspended from a metal bar, much like a curtain, in front of a monstrance when a sermon was being preached during the rite known as the Public Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A sermon veil was traditionally made from white silk and sometimes decorated with a representation of the Blessed Sacrament.

The cloth measures 82cm by 75cm, which is large enough to conceal a tall monstrance typical of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the centre of the cloth is a depiction of the Blessed

Sacrament exposed in a monstrance. Other exquisitely embroidered motifs reference the stories of Moses, Elijah, Abraham and David from the Old Testament and images, such as a lamb which are symbolic of sacrifice. These images would remind the congregation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the salvation of his people.

In addition to the images, there are two inscriptions. The first is a verse from the **Lauda Sion** written by St Thomas Aquinas in 1264 – **ECCE PANIS ANGELORUM FACTUS CIBUS VIATORUM** which roughly translates as “**Behold the bread of the angels / Made the food of wayfarers (pilgrims)**” and is a reference to Christ as the saving bread of life. The second, longer text reads – **CORPORIS ECCE SACRI PASCHALIS ET AGNUS ET ISAAC QUO PLUIT ET PATRIBUS MANNA FIGURA FUIT**. And is more challenging to translate. The letters V and U are interchangeable in early Latin texts. Replacing the letter V with the letter U and rewriting the text results in an inscription that appears to be in Latin but not obviously from a known liturgical work – **CORPORIS ECCE SACRI PASCHALIS ET AGNUS ET ISAAC QUO PLUIT ET PATRIBUS MANNA FIGURA FUIT**. Emeritus Professor Father Jack Mahoney at Campion Hall, University of Oxford very kindly offered me a translation – “**Behold both the lamb, and Isaac, and the manna rained down on the fathers, was a figure of the paschal sacred body**” and suggested the following as being more in keeping with the significance of the cloth – “**Here is the paschal Sacred Body which was prefigured by the lamb, as well as by Isaac, and also by the manna poured down on our forefathers.**”

The random use of Capital Letters was a mystery until 1886 when Patrick Francis Cardinal Moran visited the convent. Cardinal Moran was a noted Latin scholar and realised that the ‘random’ letters were in fact Roman numerals. Replacing the letters and adding them together with numbers revealed a date.

C I C C C I C L I V I C V L V I I V M I V V I =

100 + 1 + 100 + 100 + 100 + 1 + 100 + 50 + 1 + 5 + 1 + 100 + 5 + 50 + 5 + 1 + 1 + 5 + 1000 + 1 + 5 + 5 + 1 = 1738

The cloth was embroidered by sisters at their convent in Germany in 1738 making it nearly 300 years old and a testament to their outstanding needleworking skills. It is a treasure indeed.

The Suburb called PAGE

The suburb, Page, is named after **Sir Earle Christmas Grafton Page**, caretaker Prime Minister for 19 days in 1939 following the death of Sir Joseph Lyons. He was born in 1880 at Grafton, New South Wales on 8 August, not Christmas Day as his name suggests. His first middle name, which he disliked, was given to him to carry on the surname of a childless relative.

Image: National Archives of Australia



Santa found us!

Christmas 1962 was a little different. The annual 1100 km journey from Adelaide to Orbost happened on Christmas Eve, a day later than expected. Three anxious little girls climbed into the back of the Zephyr station wagon, worried about how Santa would find them in the back of the car. After all, the car didn't have a chimney or a Christmas tree and soon it would be dark. The usual stops happened along the way; a snack at Coomandook under the silos, petrol at Bordertown and Great Western, a sleep for Dad at Bacchus Marsh, wave to the Skipping Girl in Melbourne. Each time the car stopped the girls woke up. Has he come? Will he find us? Back to sleep...

Sunrise near Trafalgar. Look! ... He's been! ... Santa found us!

Three pretty pyjama bags with smiling animal faces. One pink, one blue and one green. Let's look inside...

Travel safely during the holiday season.

Remember ... Stop, Revive, Survive.



Maryanne Ferguson

From the Pastor's Desk

Thank you

I look back on 2022 with so much gratitude. We negotiated our way through (hopefully) the last of the COVID restrictions on places of worship and celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of our parish community. Many other parish events occurred throughout the year, which included one of the highlights for me, the three masses of anointing followed by lunch. Last year in the parish, we also celebrated forty baptisms, twenty-seven children received the sacrament of reconciliation, we had twenty-nine first communicants, and there were thirty-one confirmation candidates. There was also one wedding and there were twenty-one funerals, which sadly included a number of long-time parishioners.

Our parish calendar for 2022 was filled with many liturgical, pastoral, and social events, and I am grateful and wish to thank the many parish volunteers who helped make things happen. From the parish grounds, with a small group of faithful volunteers who maintain the parish gardens and the lawn, to within the parish building, with volunteers who vacuum and clean the church each week, those that assist our sacristan with washing and maintaining altar linen, and those that arrange flowers that add colour and beauty to the liturgical space. For our liturgies, we have our hospitality ministers, acolytes, altar servers, lectors, special ministers, musicians and choir, offertory collectors, PowerPoint operators, and there are those that are an extension of our liturgical celebration, taking communion to the sick or housebound. At parish functions and social events, we have a team of generous volunteers who organise, set-up, cater, and help clean-up afterwards. So many parishioners give their time, offer their talents, and contribute financially to the running and maintenance of our parish and its ministries. It is a blessing to be part of this parish.

Finally, I wish to thank the parish office team and those who are part of our parish's pastoral, liturgical, financial, and SJA Care committees. Your counsel has been invaluable to my continual formation, ministry and vocation as an MSC and a priest.

As we begin a new year, my hope is that together, we will continue to build on all the good that has happened in last fifty years.

With much gratitude!

Kimi msc



A new year blessing

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.

And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

JOHN O'DONOHUE – BENEDICTUS

DECEMBER Death notice



John Dickason [brother of Jan Keenan]

10 MAY 1952 – 12 DECEMBER 2022

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.

Amen

JANUARY 2023

1	Sunday	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God World Day of Peace Happy New Year
2	Monday	
3	Tuesday	
4	Wednesday	
5	Thursday	Adoration–Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm–8:30pm
6	Friday	Meditation @5:15pm – Parish Library
7 & 8	Saturday Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord
9	Monday	Baptism of the Lord
10	Tuesday	
11	Wednesday	
12	Thursday	11:00am Funeral – Richard John Suckling
13	Friday	Meditation @5:15pm – Parish Library
14 & 15	Saturday Sunday	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
16	Monday	Pins & Needles @7:15pm Parish Library
17	Tuesday	
18	Wednesday	
19	Thursday	
20	Friday	Men's Group @6:30pm – Parish Centre
21 & 22	Saturday Sunday	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 3:00pm Sunday Afternoon Book club – Library
23	Monday	Pins & Needles @7:15pm Parish Library
24	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast @7:30am – Bean Origin Belconnen
25	Wednesday	The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle SJA Friendship Group - Mass 9:30am followed by morning tea
26	Thursday	Australia Day Public Holiday – parish office closed
27	Friday	50th Wedding Anniversary Anthony & Chitra Jayawardena @ 9:30am mass followed by morning tea Anointing of sick after 9:30am mass Meditation @5:15pm – Parish Library
28 & 29	Saturday Sunday	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
30	Monday	
31	Tuesday	SCHOOL COMMENCES TERM 1 31 January – Friday 21 April