





To be on earth the Heart of God



KIT **o** Kippax





Time out for reflection

As we celebrate 50 years of being a parish community we reflect on the gift of Heart Spirituality we reflect on the 9" Jules Chevalier msc through the vision of Jules Chevalier msc



Jules Chevalier founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on 8 December 1854.

A young man of 30, he was a man with a sense of mission. Jules' vision was simple. He believed that a person's greatest need, if they are to find meaning and happiness in life, is to learn to believe in God's love for them, and to let it transform their life. His mission was a mission of making God's love known to the world.

A mission of love; manifesting the kindness of God. This mission is carried out in the work of service, and by the way of serving; in love and kindness. The way of serving in love and kindness is manifested by responding to Christ's love with love. We serve Jesus by practising his virtues: his zeal for the glory of God, his patience, his charity towards others, his kindness, his humility, his meekness, his spirit of poverty.

Meekness is the privileged virtue of the Heart of Jesus. It is an indispensable virtue. If we have meekness we have all the other virtues: humility, charity, patience, and self-control.

Living a spirituality of the heart means that:

- We have to go down to the depths of our own soul in a realisation of our profound personal needs of life, of love and of meaning.
- Through faith and reflection, we will find the answers to our own questions regarding life and love, in the Heart of Christ.
- Then, fashioned by these forces, our own heart will be an understanding heart, open to, feeling for, and giving to our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- In following Christ, who loved with a human heart, we will not be disheartened, or discouraged in the face of difficulties.

For nearly sixty years, Jules Chevalier lived his Charism of Kindness. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.

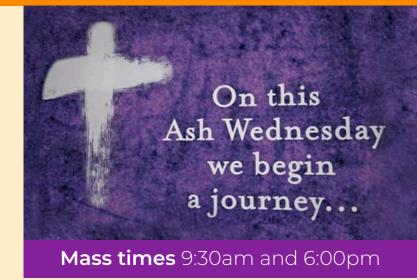
Editor's Note

As I reflect on the month of February it seems to have disappeared in a blur of busyness. Frs. Kimi and Michael had a few days of retreat at Douglas Park with a group of younger MSC's. Nourishment for their bodies and their souls. The parish office has been busy with building projects such as the replacement of the church lights along with organising the 50th Anniversary celebrations, which will all be over by the time you are reading this. However, we are planning to continue the celebrations throughout the year especially on 24 June the Feast of the Sacred Heart. We are also planning a special edition of KIT to commemorate the 50th anniversary celebrations. We anticipate it will be sent out mid March.

This month we said farewell to two very much loved parishioners, Violet Duve and Bob Haverfield, their presence in our parish contributed to its richness. Their obituaries are in this edition of KIT.

As February draws to a close we enter the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation, a time to return to the desert where Jesus spent forty trying days readying for his ministry. It is a time to be challenged, tested, startled, and shocked out of our complacency.

Lent is traditionally associated with penitence, fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. It is a time for "giving things up" balanced by "giving to" those in need. It is a time of going a little deeper, and being pushed out of our comfort zone.



Lent is an invitation to allow God to enter our lives in new ways through abstinence and acts of kindness. It is an opportunity, not a requirement. It should never be morose – an annual ordeal during which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures. Lent is a season where we learn to live joyously.

Jenny McGee has done the research and on page 6 of KIT offers suggestions of online resources for praying during lent.

May this lent be a time of personal growth for each of us, and for our parish, where we experience the abundant life Jesus promises.



NOT FOR RESALE

Women and Men
Installed as Acolytes at
St John the Apostle
Church,





The work of groups such as the Refugee Resettlement Committee, the Social Justice Group, the Parish Pastoral Council, the SJA Care Team, Family Groups and the St Vincent de Paul Conference are just some examples of inclusion in action.

Recognition of the need for greater gender inclusion in the Church has been evident in endeavours such as the use of inclusive language in the readings at Mass. For many years parishioners, Judy Kenny and Mary French, prayerfully amended the lectionary readings, used each week, to be gender inclusive.

Many people will remember the lifelong work of parishioner Marie-Louise Uhr towards a wider role for women in the Church. There have, of course, been many others who have worked in this area.

For years women have served the Parish on the altar as Senior Servers but were not permitted by Canon law to become Acolytes.

On 11 January 2021 Pope Francis announced a small change to Canon law. Pope Francis made his announcement in an apostolic letter, Spiritus Domini. In the document Francis amended the Code of Canon Law to explicitly allow women to be formally installed in the Church as Lectors and Acolytes.

The Pope stated that offering both women and men the opportunity to serve as Lectors and Acolytes

'will increase the recognition ... of the precious contribution that many lay people, including women, offer to the life and mission of the church.' Francis continued that, 'the choice to confer these offices to women ... will make more real in the Church everyone's participation in the work of evangelization.'

In light of the Pope's new mandate, the St John the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee wrote to Archbishop Christopher Prowse requesting that the Senior Servers in the Parish be formally installed as Acolytes and the Readers as Lectors. Archbishop Prowse agreed to the Formal Installation of lay female Acolytes and Lectors and delegated his responsibility, in this instance, to our Parish Priest, Father Kimi Vunivesilevu.

On the weekend of the 5-6 February 2022 our Parish became part of historical change in the Church when women were formally installed as Acolytes alongside men. In two moving and spiritually uplifting ceremonies 10 women and 6 men were installed in the Ministry of Acolyte.

The women were among the first in the world to be recognized in the role. One couple, Chitra and Anthony Jayawardena, may indeed be the first married couple to be installed as Acolytes.

The new female and male Acolytes are Lourdes Asoy, Elaine Carter, Joe Catanzariti, Maryanne Ferguson, Victoria Gonzales, Anthony Jayawardena, Chitra Jayawardena, Helen Kennedy, Sigi Kropp, Peter Le, Joy McInerney, Keran Niquet, Anthony Noakes, Peter Polkinghorne, Maria Scarr and Sabina Van Rooy.

Later this year our Readers will be installed as Lectors.







Online Prayer Resources for Lent

Looking for something a bit different to do during this Lent? Why not try a 40-day prayer challenge or an online retreat!

If you're looking to spruce up your spiritual life during Lent but daily mass isn't really your thing (or you can't make it due to work or other commitments) there are a whole host of other ways to prepare for Easter (pun intended). Here are just a few:

- Online 40-day prayer challenge.
 - This is provided by the good people from "Hallow". Hallow is a Catholic app that offers a free 3 month trial that allows you to join, quite literally, thousands of people around the world in a Lenten prayer journey based around the last 7 words spoken by Christ on the cross at Calvary. At last count some 14,000 people had signed up for it. Each day provides something different to engage in; sometimes listening to a talk, participating in different litanies, listening to music or some gospel readings or a commentary on various stations of the cross.
- If you're looking for something perhaps a little "meatier", you could always try one of the free Ignatian online retreats. The online Ignatian Prayer Adventure is an 8 week adapted version of the Ignatian spiritual exercises and designed as an online Lenten and Easter retreat, but can actually be done anytime, to suit your own schedule. This is a little more involved than the prayer challenge, but nevertheless offers an equally flexible opportunity to engage in daily prayer and reflection. Their second offering, The Ignatian Workout for Lent is, as the name suggests, specifically designed for Lent. This involves weekly audio reflections (every Monday) accompanied by suggestions for prayer and action. It begins the week of Ash Wednesday and continues through Easter Week. Both online retreats are free and you can easily sign up at https://www.ignatianspirituality.com There is also a series of daily Lenten reflections called Living Lent Daily that can be sent directly to your email account. Finally, there is a wide range of other activities, readings and videos that can be used as additional resources to suit the needs of even the most strenuous spiritual athletes among us.
- 3 If you want something with a bit more local flavour, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has produced a Lenten resource called **Merciful like the Father**. This is a shorter program, consisting of six short videos, each centred around the week's Gospel.

- Each session is led by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. It's intended to stimulate discussion and conversation so is best suited for groups. It can be found at https://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-faith/lenten-resource Another offering from the archdiocese, this time with a focus on families and youth is **Easter: Way of the Cross**. This is a series of 14 guided reflections and prayers that explores Easter through the scriptures. It says it's suitable for individuals as well as families or groups. It's on the Youth specific website and can be accessed via www.cgyouth.org.au. Make sure you scroll down towards the bottom of the page to get to the link. Both are free.
- The last resource I want to talk about is an online mini-course specifically designed for women called **Lent at Home**. I found out about this through a link from the Magis Centre (www.magiscentre.com) an interesting site in its own right run by Fr Robert Spitzer (in the US), who manages to combine discussions of faith and spiritual growth with hard core science and rational reasoning. And yes, you guessed it, he's a Jesuit. Actually, full disclosure, I signed up for this Lenten mini-course thinking I was signing up for the online Ignatian Prayer Adventure. Oh well. Apparently it involves a series of 7 weekly lessons, which will be emailed to me each Wednesday and comes with a list of instructions on how I should prepare for it. I can no longer find the original link from the magis centre website, but if you're interested you can email the coordinators directly at retreat@magiswomen. com to enquire about the program. They do offer it for free, but "suggest" a donation of \$USD10 to cover costs.

Now, you have absolutely no excuse not to prepare for Lent. Unless, of course, there's either a blackout or your modem fails.

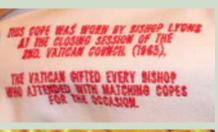
Jenny McGee

Treasures from the Archives

Our parish celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Australia's religious archives hold many textile treasures associated with anniversaries and celebrations. Some commemorate important events in the history of the Church, others are more personal or local in origin. All have a story to tell.

Major events in the Church's history have often been commemorated in textiles. Bishops attending the final session of the Second Vatican Council wore identical white copes and mitres. The cope fabric was woven with the arms of Pope Paul VI. The label inside the cope worn by Bishop Patrick Francis Lyons of Sale records his attendance:

This cope was worn by Bishop Lyons at the closing session of the 2nd Vatican council (1965). The Vatican gifted every bishop who attended with matching copes for the occasion.



Similar copes, each inscribed with its recipient's name, are undoubtedly stored in diocesan archives across Australia.



In 1986 Pope John Paul II visited Adelaide as part of a Papal Visit to Australia. Every officiating priest at the Papal Mass wore identical chasubles not made by professional vestment-makers but sewn by parishioners from

local parishes. Pre-cut kits of plain white woollen fabric and gold braid crosses meant that the chasubles could be made up by competent 'home-sewers' and professional dressmakers and tailors alike. The project commemorated an important event in the history of the Church in Australia and celebrated the talents of its parishioners. These chasubles are still in use in many South Australian churches, especially when several priests concelebrate the Mass.

Other celebrations were more personal. The Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission cares for an extensive collection of textiles associated with Archbishop Daniel Patrick Mannix of Melbourne, including a set of gold silk vestments elaborately embroidered with shamrocks and, rather oddly, the heraldic arms of Austria, Bavaria, and Lorraine. An inscription on the lining of the chasuble records the donor and provenance of the vestments:

Anniversaries and Commemorations





To Archbishop Mannix on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee, October 6th, 1962. From the Maynooth Union.

Archbishop Mannix was a graduate of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, the National Catholic Seminary, in Ireland. The Maynooth Union was founded in 1895 on the centenary of the College to foster a spirit of mutual sympathy between the College and its past students and friends. The vestments are replicas of a set presented to the chapel at Maynooth College by the Empress Elisabeth of Austria, hence the armorials, as a thank you gift following an accidental visit to the college in 1879. [A short account of her visit can be accessed at https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/elizabeth-of-austria-1.188284].

The fact that Archbishop Mannix was presented with a replica of these significant and historic vestments is testament to the high esteem in which he was held. Archbishop Mannix wore the vestments only once; for the celebration of his final Mass on October 6th, 1962 ,the same day as the opening Mass of the Second Vatican Council in Rome. He died a few weeks later, just shy of his 100th birthday. Interestingly these vestments would have been amongst the last routinely made in the Roman or fiddle-back style as following the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the loose, flowing Gothic style prevailed.



17 FEBRUARY 22

God of all grace,
Guide us by Your wisdom,
Support us by Your power.

We come before You, to commit ourselves

To joyfully working together and promoting

The full, conscious and active participation

Of all who seek to worship You, through our parish liturgies.

Help us to prepare liturgical and sacramental celebrations
That model the Church as the Sacrament of unity,
That build up the Body of Christ,
That reflect the diversity of our faith community,
And that embrace with love and welcome

The most vulnerable in our midst.

As we prepare to decorate this coming week for the celebrations of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick, 50 years of St John the Apostle Parish, and unity in diversity and faith in one God.

Send your Holy Spirit to guide and grace us, that the work we do may immerse your holy people more fully into the mystery that is you.

Accept the gift of labour our hands will provide.

May our work, lovingly done, bring us and the people we serve closer to you.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



All tranquil by the lake at peace, beyond the warring cares of earth, lies happiness and silence.

The gentle sounds of bird and bee have cadences both long and sweet; they are the songs of silence.

These moments full of fairy rhyme create a chain of noiseless notes, the silver shroud of silence.

He seeks the stillness of the soul with calm consoling quietude, the healing grace of silence.

And when we listen to and hear His words of peace and quiet love, we hear the voice of silence.

Praise be each moment of the day when solitude with fond embrace enshrouds the soul in silence!

Eamonn Murtagh

Brown hills speckle the eastern part of Australia's Lake MacKay, located on the border of the states of Western Australia and Northern Territory.

Satellite image courtesy European Space Agency

Mystery as My-story

Thank you, Jenny McGee, (KIT Jan) for sharing your prayer journey through finding HALLOW online. Your refreshingly creative use of technology has caused me to revisit my own on-going prayer journey, one that may be of interest to others. As your article has shown, we each must find our own way in prayer.

At present, prayer for me is 'taking myself very seriously as a mystery (Sebastian Moore OSB). In addition, following the teaching of Jesus to 'pray to your Father in secret, and your Father who sees you in secret, will reward you' (Mt. 6:6), is an important component of my prayer life. Rather than being a 'dweller in safe ways', I am a seeker who reaches out:

I'll walk with God from this day on His helping hand I'll lean upon This is my prayer, my humble plea.

(From the Student Prince)

Presence is the vital factor in my daily prayer-life. The gospel story of Jesus has led me to the meaning of the CHRIST and thence to the presence of Yahweh, who is Christ's Father, Abba, and ours.

I have experienced decades of prayers: rosaries, litanies, morning & night prayers, prayers for the souls in Purgatory, daily Eucharist. All had their customary place in the thoughts of the times but for me were of a feared experience. Then came the serious challenges of life: near drowning; a very sick child for a decade or so; false allegations; extensive cancer surgery; open-heart surgery also. I came to know Christ as the 'forgiving victim' and I received an in-depth revelation of the true meaning of the Eucharist, that nourishment within us of the 'Bread of Life'. I find this communal relationship so much more than a connection. For me it is an embracing, loved experience, a very special **Presence** in my life of prayer.

There is a truly prayerful book, currently available on the shelves, *Everything is Sacred* (R. Rohr & P. Boland). This book breaks open one's mystery as my story.

Thank you Jenny McGee, for inspiring me to reflect on my prayer journey.

Brian Mahony

PS I've referred to 'decades'; currently I'm well into my IX.

February Baptisms



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

Sophia Dean Daughter of Gavin and Sarah

Harrison Fischer Son of Brendan and Siobhan

Edward Murray Son of Daniel Murray and Philippa Simpson

Koa Thelan Son of James Thelan and Makara Smith

Self-emptying

'Tis hard to attend to another when the cask of your heart is full of the wine of yourself.
Thankfully there's a tap you can turn called humility that will help you to empty your container.

Then you will be well placed to receive the other, assuming that the antennae of your ears are also well-adjusted. For listening, like loving, requires the creation of space; and like a girl who gives herself to God, that can only be done through self-emptying.

Shane Murtagh

FEBRUARY Death notices

Violet Duve

09 OCTOBER 1928 – 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Robert Haverfield

15 MARCH 1935 – 7 FEBRUARY 2022

Joeseph Vella

19 DECEMBER 1952 – 18 FEBRUARY 2022

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

Amen



Farewell

VIOLET DUVE

9 October 1928 – 2 February 2022



Violet was a presence in our parish that will be greatly missed. She always sat in the front pew, and you felt a sense of security when you saw her there.

If she didn't attend mass on any given day

parishioners would notice and check if she was ok. Over the past two years when Violet has not been able to attend mass due to COVID restrictions and her failing health we have felt her absence deeply.

Violet was a gentle but strong, resilient woman.

A pragmatic woman who was reliable and a woman who did not know the word "can't".

A woman of many gifts and talents, she could sing, cook, sew, and her garden was a delight to behold.

Violet involved herself in the life of the parish in various ministries: communion to the sick, lector, choir, Catholic Women's League, the SVdP Doorknock, the annual mass for babies who were baptised during the year, and rosary before morning mass, just to mention a few. She was generous in ways that we will never know.

A woman of prayer, Violet believed that any difficulty could be handed over to God, and she trusted that God would carry it for her. If you asked Violet for prayers, you would be guaranteed that she would pray for you.

I miss her so much.

Thoughts supplied by Margaret Ohlin

ROBERT (BOB) HAVERFIELD

15 March 1935 – 7 February 2022

The Parish of
St John's remains
indebted to Bob
for the initial design
and installation of
the Sound System —
this continued to be
monitored always,
giving me the nod
whenever I played at
Mass that all was well.



Memories of this lovely man will always be his empathy and knowing.

When he and Margaret travelled Australia caravanning – within hours of arriving, he would be adjusting TV Antennas – making lasting friendships and then seeing the need to publish a "Guide for TV Reception for Caravan folk".

His empathy – connecting many residents of Kangara Waters to "Happy Hour" at 5:00pm sharing any daily news. His empathy – as I returned to Mass for the first time after a long illness, he stood and came and hugged me with tears in his eyes.

Recently we rang Fr. Chris Murphy to share with him the 50th Anniversary celebration of St John's — he delighted in remembering so many parishioners and when we mentioned we had lost Bob Haverfield — he immediately replied "oh! Margaret and Bob Haverfield, they are lovely people"

Memories of gratitude stay with many parishioners of Bob Haverfield as is in Fr Chris Murphy's memory.

Robert and Pauline Greig

Down Memory Lane as we journey to 26/02/2022

St John's will always be 'my Parish' Mandy Lalor

On March 25th 1989 I was privileged to become a Catholic at the Easter Vigil. This was the culmination of many months of journeying on what was the first ever RCIA program in the Parish.

Fellow travellers on the journey were Louise Baker, Jane Curry, Leonie Snodgrass, Elsie Hawketts, Norma Cameron and David Rowe. We were led by a wonderful team of parishioners (too many to mention) and Fathers Leo Hill and Chris Murphy.

I will always cherish the support and love I felt from the St John's community and my family and friends then and since.



St John's will always be 'my Parish' and I know that my late husband, Grant, felt the same way.

Come Sing a Song of Joy

As I arrived at the church each Thursday at 4:00pm I would be greeted with "Good Afternoon Mrs. Greig and may peace be with you". There in the church was a choir of many children with their choir leader, Bernadette Cody, "the lover of children singing".

Bernadette had suggested to Fr. Bede North that there would be many "would be young singers" to form a Choir to sing at a Sunday Mass. Fr. Bede thought it would be beautiful!!

And so the same appreciation followed with (the late) Fr. Leo Hill and then Fr. Chris Murphy. All three often coming into the church telling the choir they heard their beautiful voices in their office.

So Bernadette and her choir sang, giggled and clapped themselves for over 14 years.

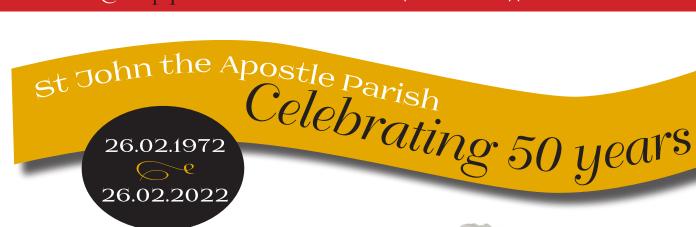
Come Christmas, Bernadette wrote the story of Christmas—a child narrator with choir singing carols at appropriate times, for the Children's 6:00pm Christmas Mass. Christmas became their time of visits (a cappella) to hospital, aged homes and Belconnen Mall.

This story could never be told without the commitment of the many parents who dropped off their children on a Thursday and Sunday to practice and mass. Also to the venues where the children performed delighting their audiences singing Christmas Carols —the parents are truly part of this beautiful story. And Bernadette who dedicated 14 years of her life to nurturing and developing these young voices.

What a beautiful contribution to our parish. Thank you Bernadette!

Pauline Greig





A special edition of KIT highlighting the three celebrations over the weekend of 25–27 February will be emailed out the second week of March.

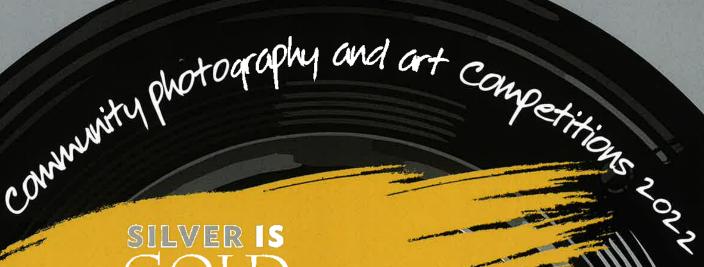
We would like to hear from you!

We will collate your memories and pictures in KIT as a record of our 50th celebrations. Please send your memories to Marian **by 4 March 2022**





MAI	RCH 20	Calendar SUNDAY TUGBER WENTGOOT THEREN THEREOUT
1	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2pm
2	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Masses 9:30am and 6:00pm
3	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm
4	Friday	
5 & 6	Saturday Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent Presentation masses for children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance
7	Monday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Lane] Library 10:00am
8	Tuesday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10:00am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2:00pm
9	Wednesday	
10	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm
11	Friday	Men's Friday night gathering – Presbytery Deck 6:30pm
12 & 13	Saturday Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent
14	Monday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Lane] Library 10:00am
15	Tuesday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10:00am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2:00pm
16	Wednesday	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
17	Thursday	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm
18	Friday	Men's Group – Parish Centre 6:30pm
19 & 20	Saturday	Funeral Formation Seminar – 10:00am
	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Lent Book Club – 3:00pm
21	Monday	Pins & Needles – Parish Library – 7:15pm
22	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast 7:30am – Bean Origin Nettlefold St. Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10:00am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2:00pm
23	Wednesday	
24	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm
25	Friday	Film Night
26 & 27	Saturday Sunday	4th Sunday of Lent
28	Monday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Lane] Library 10:00am
29	Tuesday	
30	Wednesday	Over 45's – 9:30am mass followed by morning tea
31	Thursday	Sacrament of Penance – for the children of the parish - 6:00pm



parking Connection



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Are you confident with a camera or proficient with a paintbrush or pencil?

Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT invite you to take part in their 2022 Silver is Gold Community Photography and Art competitions. There are great prizes to win and the finalists' photographs and artworks will go on display as part of a touring exhibition around Canberra.

Your subject matter should feature an older person or persons (at least 55 years of age) and should portray the value, contribution and importance of older people in our community.

Photographs can be black and white or colour, captured by camera or digital device.

Art entries can use stretched canvas, paper, cardboard, watercolours, acrylic paint, pencil, crayon, charcoal or mixed media materials.

The deadline for this competition is 5pm, Friday 8 April and there are six age categories for both the photography and the art competitions. So grab a granny, snap up a senior or escape with an elder to your favourite location - and show us just how original and outstanding your favourite oldie is.

Because Silver is Gold ... and we'd love for your art to celebrate this.

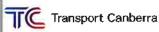
For more information and entry details: visit cotaact.org.au or contact us by email at events@cotaact.org.au or by phone (02) 6282 3777.

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The Canberra Times













