



To be on earth the Heart of God



KIT @ Kippax

## *Time out for reflection*

### The love and support of St John's

I've experienced many joyful occasions at St John's—Easter celebrations, special lunches, laughs with friends—but it's been during times of tragedy that I've felt the most deeply touched.

Four years ago, my dear father was stricken with blood clots and was admitted to hospital for the last time. Fr. Gerard responded to our need immediately, joining my mother and me by his bedside. We remain deeply grateful to him and to our other friends at St John's for visiting Dad. May their compassion and prayers be richly rewarded.

My father died twice. On the first occasion, he collapsed and flatlined. Thankfully, a caring country nurse caught and resuscitated him (contrary to his end-of-life protocols, God bless her!). Somehow she knew that we needed extra time with him. When he regained consciousness, his face was luminous; in fact, he was so joyful, he began punching the air and singing a nursery rhyme! The doctors and nurses were amazed; many said they'd never witnessed such a recovery. Earlier, he'd had vascular dementia and had been incredibly weak. Now he was full of energy and completely lucid – he was himself again. I felt as though I was seeing something akin to the transfiguration; it really brought the gospel to life. And although my mum and I only had one extra day with him, it is one I will treasure forever. I was able to talk freely with him again, and as we looked out of his hospital room window that Friday night, the beautiful twilight colours in the sky spoke of heaven's glory.

After he died the second time, I thanked Fr. Gerard for all of the blessings he'd given him. With characteristic humility, Gerard said, 'It was a privilege to share the journey with you, Shane.' And I thought, that's the Heart of Christ on earth. Jesus walks with us in spirit and beside us in every kind and caring person we meet.

Of course, my mother, my brother Joe (in London with his family) and I cried until we could cry no more. This was not only our beloved husband and father; this was a truly saintly man who had never complained. Rather, he had embraced his cross with love until his final breath, giving me an outstanding example I can only hope to emulate.

As I've observed, we had felt the love, prayers and compassion of the St John's community throughout our ordeal. And we would feel it after my father's passing, and we still feel it today. The parish team were empathetic beyond words and helped us to prepare for the funeral Mass; Greta Grybaitis also helped to arrange the music. To all of them and to every parishioner who reached out, we remain immensely grateful.

I will also make special mention of Xavier Munoz, who assisted Joe and me with our PowerPoint displays and with playing CDs by Enya and Marty Robbins (El Paso). Little did I know then that only two years later Xavier and his mother would go before us to heaven. Xavier made an incalculable contribution to the running of St John's and we miss you, old friend. Thank you.

So many of us at St John's are bereaved and may we continue to support each other. I only need to think of all of the precious, irreplaceable people like my father who have left us in body in recent years and indeed over the past 50 years. May they continue to visit us often in spirit and to pray for us. We are a community of the crucified and risen Christ and our departed loved ones share fully in the joy and glory of His resurrection. Thanks be to Jesus always, and we'll look forward to embracing them again one day.

We may not know the day or the hour, but when death comes we do know that the love and support of St John's will be there.

**Shane Murtagh**

# Editor's Note

After celebrating our 50th anniversary over the weekend of 25–27 February, we moved into March and the season of Lent with celebrating Ash Wednesday on 2 March. Three prayer groups are taking part in a Lenten program and meeting in the parish library weekly during Lent.

I spent the weekend of 11–13 March at St Brigid's Coogee as a member of the MSC Mission retreat team. We presented a retreat titled *Heart to Heart* to the Coogee parishioners, who were very welcoming and their hospitality outstanding. It was a prayer filled weekend which we continue to pray will bear fruit in their parish. The team is scheduled to present the retreat at St John's Kippax later this year. We will keep you updated and advertise in April the date for the retreat.


On Page 6 is the powerful and brave story of Maricel Reginaldo. Maricel's story is the first of a new subject for KIT titled *My Story....* we welcome your stories.

Approximately thirty parishioners attended a seminar titled **Your Life • Your Funeral** on Saturday 19 March. This was an opportunity for parishioners to learn the liturgical guidelines in planning a funeral liturgy. There is a short report inside this edition of KIT.

On Thursday 31 March, the children of the parish and parish primary school received the Sacrament of Penance. Chapter 15 of Luke's gospel presents in succession the three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. At the conclusion of each parable, when what is lost is now found, each of the main characters celebrates with a party. In following this tradition we had a small party following the celebration of the sacrament. Thank you to Norma Sloan for making the cupcakes for the celebration.

With just two weeks until Easter I trust that your Lenten journey has revealed God's compassionate heart to you.

**Marian**

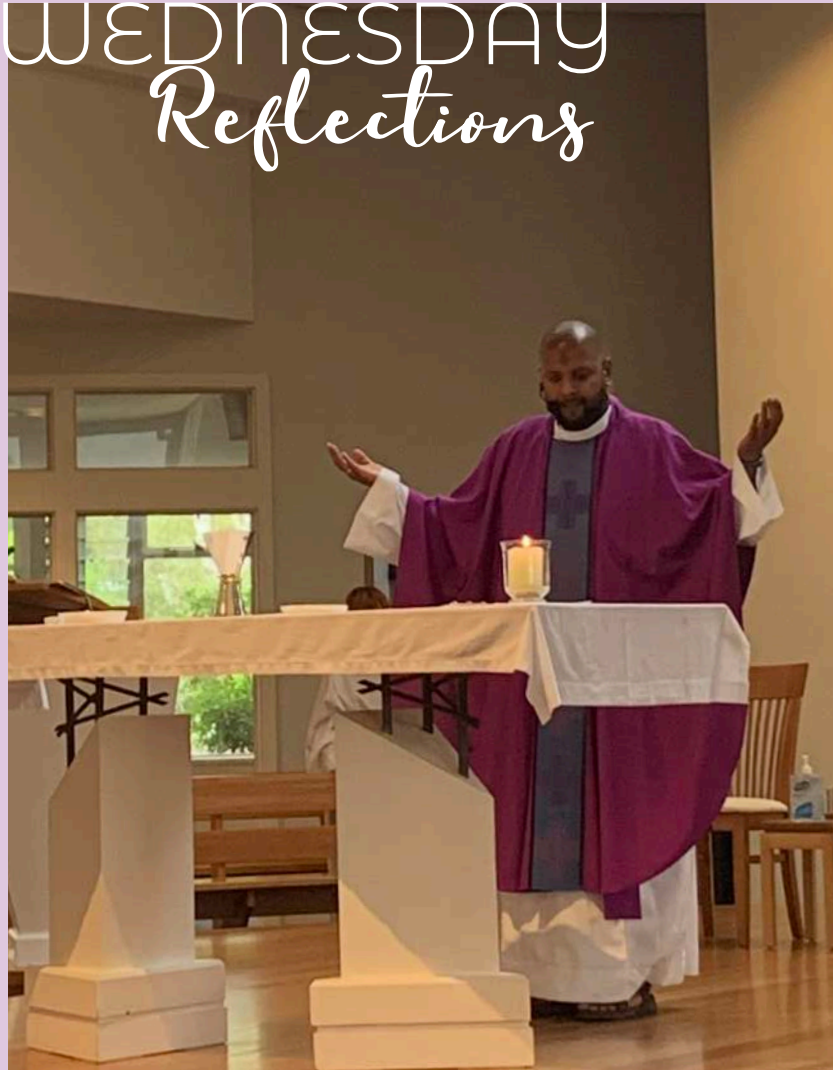


God never tires  
of forgiving us;  
we are the ones  
who tire of  
seeking his mercy.

POPE FRANCIS

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## Reflections



### My Ash Wednesday Reflection

When the church demands repentance as a condition of companionship in its community, it gets the sequence badly wrong. Offering healing hospitality, is the best move.

#### Isaiah!

Sabbath – no travelling, no business, no gossip – make the day holy.

#### Tempted by the devil.

**SUBTLE:** to give priority to material comfort, to have power over others to test God. Let us take some time to examine our own attitude.

Are we giving priority to God or in subtle ways putting ourselves first and God second?

**Ann Reynolds**

REFERENCE: SUNDAY MISSAL –  
LIVING WORD REFLECTIONS



## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE 2022

Lincoln Abbott • Lachlan Abbott • William Bond • Xavier Bonny • Sophia Clark • Noah Dixon • Jackson Dwyer • Campbell Green • Leo Kerlin • James Kiss • Lachlan Lawrence • Evie Matthews • Riley Monck • Thomasina Neilsen • Amelia Nguyen • Evelina Nilsson • Vincent Nott • Austin Patrzalek • Chloe Pearce • Grace Rebecca • Ileana Rozario • Alana Stonham • Amelia Swiderski • Jonah Terron • James Thurbon • Henry Ton-That • Alayna Zarebski • Ethan Zaretsky



# my STORY

## I saw GOD!

Maricel Reginaldo

On 10 July 2020, my husband and I together with a couple with their 8 year old daughter were travelling convoy from Forster NSW to Canberra. We did the responsible thing of stopping at a highway rest area for respite and snacks. After our brief break, the five of us were walking back to our cars when an out-of-control double-tanker truck came from nowhere and mowed us down! The child died instantly and the four of us plus another person were taken to the hospital, me in a critical state. It was a horrific accident that left me and my husband in the Liverpool Hospital ICU for three days before being transferred to the hospital ward. After three weeks, I was airlifted to the Canberra Hospital where I was confined for two months.

My husband and I sustained multi-trauma with several physical and psychological injuries. At one point I was told by doctors that I may never walk again. After five surgeries, I was confined in a wheelchair for several months.

My journey was extremely hard, but it was an opportunity for me to help God carry His cross. Before I closed my eyes every night spent in the hospital for more than two months, tears rolled down my cheeks not in resentment but feeling thankful for another beginning! Despite my immobility and pain, my doctors were amazed when I greeted them with a smile every morning during their rounds. It has been 20 months since the accident and now I can walk.

So, when and where did I see God?

**I saw God** in the loving care and support of my family and friends who were there all the way!

**I saw God** in the magical hands and expertise of my surgeons!

**I saw God** in the doctors, nurses, therapists and all the medical and psychological team that patiently cared for me and is still looking after me now! I could not forget the hospital visit from Fr Kimi (who was almost not allowed in the hospital due to COVID restrictions), the caring blessing of Fr Michael, and the prayers and well-wishes from St John's parish team. I still cry in gratitude for the overflowing love.

**I did not only see God, but I also felt his presence!**

I pray that my story will inspire you to see Him more!

# YOUR LIFE ● YOUR FUNERAL

**“Life has changed  
not ended”**

**Saturday 19 March SJACare facilitated a seminar on planning a funeral liturgy.**

Approximately thirty parishioners attended this informative session. The morning started with morning tea with fresh scones and jam made by Maryanne Ferguson.

The ninety-minute session covered topics such as choosing readings, music, words of remembrance, the appropriateness of photo PowerPoints in the funeral liturgy, burial and cremation. Attendees received a resource pack of readings and prayers with a checklist for planning their funeral liturgy.

The parish office has a funeral liturgy template and attendees are encouraged to send their selections into the parish office where they will put into a booklet and either sent back via email or copied to a USB.

Feedback from attendees has been very positive and parishioners who were unable to attend have called into the parish office to collect the resources.

**SJACare team**

## YOUR LIFE ● YOUR FUNERAL

**Funeral Liturgy Formation**

**WHEN**

**Saturday 19 March 2022**

**10.00am - 11.30am**

**WHERE**

**St John the Apostle  
Catholic Church**

25 Blackham Street WOT 2615

**PRESENTERS**

● Fr. Tokimi Vunivesilevu msc ● Marian England

**● TOPICS**

- The Funeral Rite
- Planning the Liturgy
- Choosing Readings
- Music
- Words of Remembrance

**FACILITATED BY SJACare**

● FR. TOKIMI VUNIVESILEVU MSC  
● HELEN KENNEDY ● MANEL SENEVIRATNA  
● BOB RADDTS ● MARIAN ENGLAND

**“Life has  
changed  
not ended”**

*“everyone who  
lives and believes  
in me will never  
die”. John 11:26*



# Farewell

We say farewell to Margaret Curry who left Canberra on 23 March to take up residency in the beautiful country town of Cowra.

Margaret has served our parish as a Minister of Communion at the 6:00pm Sunday night mass for many, many years. Margaret will be dearly missed. Our loss is Cowra's gain. We pray that Margaret will be blessed and rewarded as she embarks on this new adventure in her life. Two of Margaret's great loves are her cat Dara, and Carlton United football team as depicted in the photo.

One Saturday Easter Vigil I sat beside Margaret at mass. She leaned over and said to me, today is my anniversary of becoming a Catholic. I said wow that is amazing that the date coincides with the Vigil mass this year. Margaret replied, **I never worry about the date I always celebrate the anniversary as the Easter Vigil.** That conversation has always stayed with me and every Easter Vigil I always think of and pray for Margaret and this year will be no different.

God bless you Margaret.

Marian England



## Called by God to serve..... how is God calling you?



Photo: Stephanie Stewart after 6pm mass Sunday 27 March



✚ Time ✚ Talent ✚ Treasure ✚

forms are due to be returned  
by Sunday 3 April.

Please give your prayerful consideration  
to how God is calling you to serve  
in our parish.

## The journey

If heaven is the place to be,  
what are we doing here?  
It is perchance a saving thought  
that heaven is so near.

We go about our daily tasks  
and worry all the while  
when we should be contented  
with our will to reconcile . . .

We wander down life's highways  
with thoughtless, gay abandon  
and rarely think that all our days  
are mantled in God's loving –

But when we come to journey's end,  
it is then we are really free –  
we reach the gate and enter in,  
then praise eternally!

EAMONN MURTAGH

## MARCH Death notices



**Perlita Whitton**

19 APRIL 1949 –  
25 FEBRUARY 2022



**Jim Grace**

24 JANUARY 1944 –  
5 MARCH 2022

Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine  
upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen

# Obituary

**JIM GRACE**

24 January 1944 – 5 March 2022



“Looking Forward, Looking Back  
I’ve come a long way  
down the track...”

(THANKS SLIM!)

## A personal reflection – John Hogan

On Tuesday the 15th March 2022, as I sat in the Church taking in the scene before the Ceremony commenced, quietly reflecting on why we all were here, I glanced across at the Choir and sadly realised two familiar faces were missing, Peter Needham and now Jim Grace. Oh dear, they had always been there, or so it seemed and now they are both gone (Note to self: Don’t join the Choir!); well, the Parish is 50 years old and this must now be expected; but today was Jim’s day, a chance as a community to say our fond farewells to a much loved and respected member of our community.

During Matt’s Words of Remembrance, we learned of a young Jim and to his parents’ chagrin, his notorious adventures with a can of pink paint! Life on the land, Yanko Agricultural College, his meeting a pretty young Miss Southwell whose life was transformed and for the next 50 + years, full of Grace; a long career in the Plant Industry Division of CSIRO, a plant of the Glycine genus named in his honour; but to most of us he was Jim, our friend, the man with Peter Onstenk behind the barbeque at St John’s School Fetes and Church social functions; during the Liturgy, that familiar face and voice in the Choir.

On the 5th March 2022 Jim crossed the Human Race Finish Line, his name now forever etched in the Book of Ancestors. At that moment, it is our belief, life did not end but merely changed forever, for in dying we are born to eternal life.

So where is Jim now? – Jesus tells us:

“I am going to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared a place,

I shall return and take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.” **Jn 14:2–3**

Each time, when you come to receive Holy Communion, reflect on Jesus words and understand you are receiving into your heart, the Body of Christ and his friends.

Until we meet again, RIP Jim

Live Jesus (and his friends) in our Hearts, Forever!

## PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOPS JUSTIN WELBY AND STEPHEN COTTRELL



# APRIL 2022



1	Friday	
2 & 3	Saturday Sunday	5th Sunday of Lent
4	Monday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Lane] Library 10:00am Sacrament of Confirmation formation evening for parents – Parish Centre 7:00pm – 8:30pm
5	Tuesday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10:00am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2:00pm
6	Wednesday	
7	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm– 8:30pm 1st Rite of Reconciliation during adoration
8	Friday	<b>Last day of Term 1 – School Holidays begin</b>
9	Saturday	Vigil mass @ 5:00pm
10	Sunday	<b>Palm Sunday – Presentation masses for candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation</b>
11	Monday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Lane] Library 10:00am 5:00pm Chrism Mass – St Christopher's Cathedral
12	Tuesday	Lenten Prayer Group – [Ann Reynolds] Library 10:00am Lenten Prayer Group – [Judy Kenny] Library 2:00pm
13	Wednesday	7:00pm Practice for Good Friday liturgy
14	Thursday	Holy Thursday – Mass 7:00pm followed by Altar of Repose
15	Friday	<b>Good Friday – Stations of the Cross - 10:00am The Passion of the Lord – 3:00pm</b>
16	Saturday	<b>The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - Mass 7:00pm</b>
17	Sunday	<b>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Masses 8:30am, 10:00am</b> <b>NO 6:00pm evening mass</b>
18	Monday	
19	Tuesday	
20	Wednesday	
21	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm–8:30pm
22	Friday	
23 & 24	Saturday Sunday	2nd Sunday of Easter
25	Monday	<b>ANZAC day public holiday</b>
26	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast 7:30am – Bean Origin Belconnen <b>Term 2 – School resumes</b>
27	Wednesday	Over 45's – Mass 9:30am followed by morning tea.
28	Thursday	Liturgy Meeting - 7:30pm
29	Friday	Last Friday of the Month – Anointing of the Sick after mass SJACare meeting – 10:00am
30	Saturday	

