



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT @ Kippax



Time out for reflection

The Prophetic Voice

You must want love more than anything else; but still hope for the spiritual gifts as well, especially prophecy

“Those who prophesy build up the church”

(1 Cor. 14:1, 4).

Today we very rarely hear anyone say that they would like the spiritual gift of prophesy, or that they would like to be a prophet. When we read the books of the prophets in the Hebrew Testament they don't appear to have had an easy time. Jeremiah complains endlessly about being persecuted for his prophesy's. Jonah tries to run in the opposite direction to where God is calling him. And in Luke's and John's gospels we hear Jesus say that no prophet is accepted in their own hometown. So, who would want to be a prophet?

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to be prophets. Prophetic spirituality is a spirituality of awareness, of choice, of risk, of transformation. It is about the embrace of life, the pursuit of wholeness, the acceptance of others, the call to co-creation. Prophecy is a counter cultural voice that speaks against the degradation of human life and the destruction of the whole of creation.

The prophet is the person who says no to everything that is not of God.

No to the abuse of women and children.
 No to the rejection of the stranger.
 No to crimes against immigrants.
 No to the rape of the trees.
 No to the pollution of the skies.
 No to the poisoning of the oceans.
 No to the despicable destruction of humankind for the sake of more wealth, more power, more control for a few.
 No to death.

The prophet is one who speaks the truth to a culture of lies. And while saying no, the prophet also says yes.

Yes to equal rights for all.
 Yes to alleviating suffering.
 Yes to embracing the different.
 Yes to who God made you.
 Yes to life.



Prophecy is not supposed to be done alone. It is meant to be done with the support of the community. Prophecy is about being a clear voice about a specific need. It is about identifying the clouding forces on the human horizon.

Prophetic spirituality is about living out our faith on the streets of the world, rather than just talking about it. Faith is invalid unless you are living it. Faith is the single gift that makes prophecy real. Without faith, no prophet could ever have ventured beyond the pain of the present.

Prophetic spirituality is an active spirituality that demands as much rock-hard commitment as it does heart-felt concern. It is not an easy spiritual path. It can be tiring, wearying, soul-saddening and at the same time electrifying. It sends us into the world with one eye on the will of God for all of it at all times.

What does a prophet do? A prophet cries out, cries out, cries out. Without fear. Without care for cost. Without end. The prophet is always a challenge to “business as usual.”

May our parish of St John the Apostle be a prophetic voice that builds up the body of Christ!

Editor's Note

Welcome to 2023. During January we have had two new year celebrations. The calendar new year on 1 January, and the Luna New Year of the Rabbit on 22 January. We pray that 2023 will be a blessed year for our parish and parishioners.

I know I can safely speak for Mariana when I say that it is a pleasure for both of us to produce KIT each month. We are very grateful to our regular contributors who make our lives a little easier by their contributions.

KIT was born in COVID from a perceived need to Keep In Touch while we were isolating. The purpose of KIT as a form of communication is to highlight things that have happened during the month and identify events on the horizon. It is also a means of getting to know one another a little better. If you have a story we would love to hear from you. KIT is the parishioner's magazine and your contributions are vital for its continued production.

If there are any budding photographers out there we are always looking for photos for the cover page of KIT. Our theme this year is our local area – so if you have any photos of landmarks around our parish we would love to receive them.

During January we welcomed Fr Gerard back to Canberra, and whilst Gerard isn't at Kippax he is not far away at St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood. Gerard promises to drop by regularly.

Thursday 2 February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. This feast celebrates Jesus' Presentation at the Temple and the Virgin Mary being purified. Parishioners are invited to bring their candles to mass to be blessed. There is an article about this feast day on page 7.

On Friday 27 January Anthony and Chitra Jayawardena celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Morning tea was served after the 9:30am mass. This celebration is featured on page 8.



In this edition of KIT on pages 12–15 we feature YCS the theological reflection model that our SJA Youth have embarked on as their way of interacting with the world and with God. As a YCS member from my school days I can recommend that it is formation that stays with you for life.

We commence our Sacramental Program for the year with the Sacrament of Penance.

There is a formation session for parents on **Monday 6 February** in the parish centre from 7:00 – 8:30pm.

The Sacrament will be celebrated on **Thursday 16 March at 6:00pm.**

The season of Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on 22 February. There are copies of *Triumph – the Lenten Program* from the Wollongong Diocese for purchase in the SJA Shop at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Marian

This month's cover photo was taken looking across the fields behind Macgregor looking towards Strathnairn by Mariana Rollgejer

Reflection on Psalm 50

Psalm 50 is a psalm of David, a prayer of penance and petition. David seeks God's compassion and mercy after greatly offending. I reflect on two lines of the psalm:

**Make me hear
rejoicing and gladness
that the bones you
have crushed may
thrill.**

Sometimes I forget my complete unworthiness before God. I count my offending as not so 'great'. Hey, I could have done better but....I forget that God is love, light and truth and is no 'respector of persons' which means my status in the world's eyes and my attainments in the world's eyes. God is looking for my love and loyalty. Therefore, only my loving creator can crush my self-regarding 'bones' and fashion them into vulnerability and poverty. Only my loving creator can see through the messy self-regard and bring me closer to a light and a life that is thrilling. Only my loving saviour can bring me to his vulnerability, his poverty, and his powerful life by his sacrifice. He'd be thrilled by that.

Surely I can sacrifice my alluring independence and my so-called competence and count on him.

Pam Connor

What I learnt from being on the PPC

A heart for the mission and for all parishioners

"I see a new world emerging – which is inspired by love and mercy – the mystical body of Christ, which is the Church". These are some of the words from MSC founder Jules Chevalier that we use as a prayer at the end of our Pastoral Council meetings. When I first prayed that prayer it didn't mean much to me but over time these words have come to have lots of meaning for me. They are prophetic words full of hope and vision for a Church that will be driven by Love and Mercy flowing from the Heart of Jesus. When you think about it, surely that is relevant for a Pastoral Council of today.

Sound pastoral decisions are informed by the wisdom of the people of God

I came across a template we had for PPC guidelines (thanks Fr Gerald) that contained these great words regarding the **Role of the PPC:**

- Provide support for our parish priest by working collaboratively with him.
- Enable all parishioners to participate more fully in the life of the church.
- Listen to the parishioners' hopes, ideas, needs and concerns.
- Generate responses to these issues.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and each other.
- Establish short term pastoral goals and oversee their establishment.

Patience, Kindness and a loving Heart

It takes time to listen, reflect and discern. We learn to wait upon the Holy Spirit. If you're going to give PPC a go it's good to commit to a couple of years on the Council. It does take awhile to get into the swing of things. Be patient with yourself and each other just as God is patient with us. Rushed decisions without reflection and discernment often don't produce lasting fruit for God's Kingdom.

An invitation and encouragement to Join the PPC

Any Parishioner is welcome to think about joining the PPC. The invite to "come and see" (John 1:46) is always there. The Parish needs all of us to use our gifts. We are all called to full and active participation in the Church's life.

I personally really enjoyed my time on the Pastoral Council. It was a privilege and a blessing. I learnt so much. If you get the chance you should give it a go. There is no application form to worry about.

Carl Madsen

Looking for water Skip?



On Thursday 12 January Skippy paid an unexpected visit to the parish. We think he was looking for water but got frightened off when we turned the hose on.

Thus far we have had visits from possums, plovers and kangaroos. The possums and plovers were looking to take up residency but fortunately Skippy thought better of it.





Walk for Melanoma

Belle Trevaskis (daughter of Erin Hagerty) will be participating in the **Melanoma March on 5 March 2023** to raise money for the Melanoma Institute Australia, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the goal of zero deaths from melanoma. The Melanoma March is a 5km walk and she will be completing the walk with her grandfather (Erin's dad), who she affectionately calls Fafa. Belle's Fafa is currently receiving palliative care for metastatic melanoma. Belle has a goal to raise enough money so that other kids don't need to worry about their grandparents the way she worries about her Fafa.

Please feel free to donate via this link <https://canberra.melanomamarch.org.au/page/BelleTrevaskis> or contact Erin directly.

Meeting

Today I met a man
whose intellect spans
twice ten thousand years . . .
his eyes encompassed
wisdom I have ne'er
before encountered;
his tongue bedecked
each word with
superlative acuity . . .
his mind stretched out
almost to infinity
with such clarity
of vision rarely
found in humans.

Today I met a man,
an intellectual man
before whose mental stature
my mind stood in
awe and trembling . . .
yet we are kindred spirits
since that meeting
and we are friends.

Today I met a man
whose mental vision
clearly sees
across two cultures
and is truly
master of both . . .
a man so rare
that the privilege
of such a meeting
will forever remain
for me a cherished
memory . . .

This day has been for me a day of days –
for I have met a man,
an Aboriginal man . . .
and I am happy.

EAMONN MURTAGH

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is an early episode in the life of Jesus Christ, describing his presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem, that is celebrated by many churches 40 days after Christmas on Candlemas, or the “Feast of the Presentation of Jesus”. The episode is described in chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament. Within the account, “Luke’s narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23–24).”

The Feast of the Presentation is among the most ancient feasts of the Church. Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Presentation of Jesus at the temple is celebrated as one of the twelve Great Feasts, and is sometimes called *Hypapante* (ὑπαπαντή, “meeting” in Greek). The Orthodox Churches which use the Julian Calendar celebrate it on 15 February, and the Armenian Church on 14 February.

In Western Christianity, the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* is also known by its earlier name as the *Feast of the Purification of the Virgin* or the *Meeting of the Lord*. The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is a Principal Feast celebrated either on 2 February or on the Sunday between 28 January and 3 February. In the Roman Catholic Church, the Feast of the Presentation is celebrated on 2 February.

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, and the Lutheran Church, the episode was also reflected in the once-prevalent custom of churching of women forty days after the birth of a child. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is in the Roman Rite also attached to the World Day of Consecrated Life.

Reference: Catholic News Agency /resources



The Presentation of Christ Child in the Temple

by Ludovico Carracci

Ludovico (or Lodovico) Carracci (21 April 1555 – 13 November 1619) was an Italian, early-Baroque painter, etcher, and printmaker born in Bologna.

Blessing of the Candles

Candles are blessed for liturgical use and are also distributed to the faithful. In homes they should be lighted when family devotions, in times of storm, household crises, or other dangers, also at the Communion of the sick and at the administration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Church, moreover, wishes these candles to remind us of our baptismal candles; for the candles we held at baptism signified our heavenly adoption and our duties in the lay priesthood of Christ. Year after year we again receive a baptismal candle so that “with burning lamp” we may hasten to meet the Bridegroom when He comes for the heavenly nuptials.

Celebrating 50 years of Marriage

**Anthony & Chitra
Jayawardena**



27
January
2023

Our sincere thanks to Fr Kimi for the beautiful homily and special blessing given to us at the mass celebrating the day of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Thanks also to Marian, Helen, and Maria for their effort in organising a morning tea to celebrate our anniversary, to those parishioners who joined us for the service and morning tea and to all those who could not attend but sent their warm wishes. We cherish all the remarkable words that you sent our way to make it extra special.

Love and blessings

Anthony & Chitra

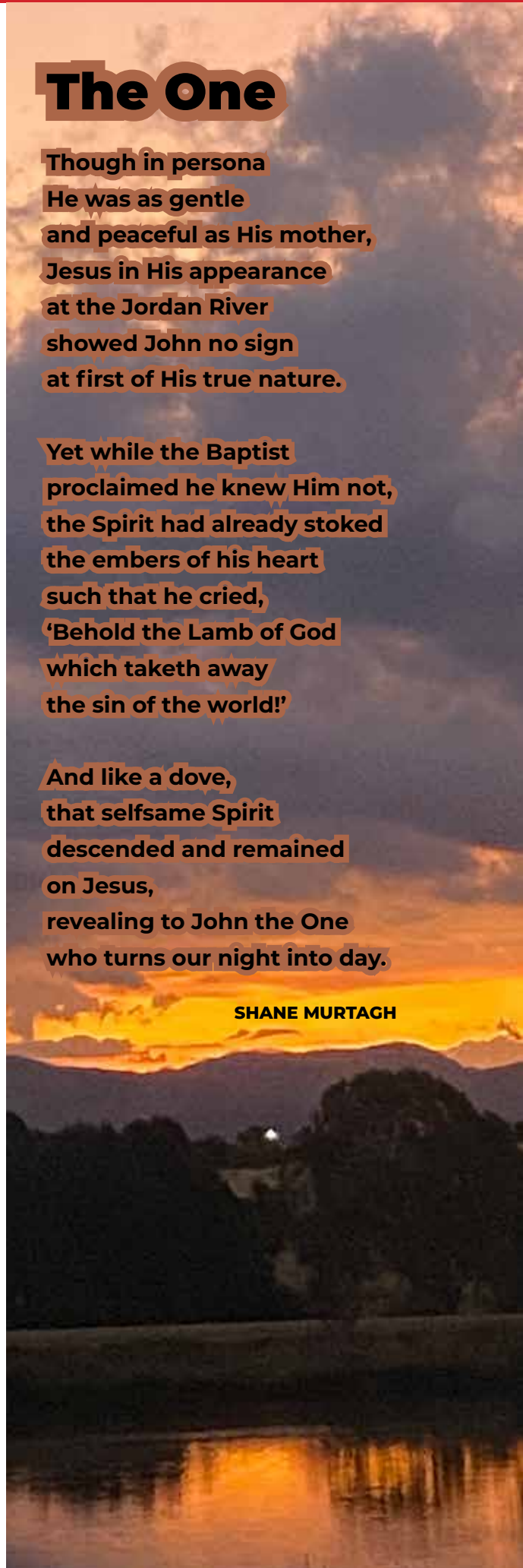
The One

Though in persona
He was as gentle
and peaceful as His mother,
Jesus in His appearance
at the Jordan River
showed John no sign
at first of His true nature.

Yet while the Baptist
proclaimed he knew Him not,
the Spirit had already stoked
the embers of his heart
such that he cried,
'Behold the Lamb of God
which taketh away
the sin of the world!'

And like a dove,
that selfsame Spirit
descended and remained
on Jesus,
revealing to John the One
who turns our night into day.

SHANE MURTAGH



Treasures from the Archives

Ecclesiastical headwear



A



B



C



D

The most recognisable ecclesiastical headwear is probably the bishop's mitre. The mitre has been worn by bishops and abbots since the 11th century. The mitre is made of two stiffened flat panels joined at the sides by fabric strips. The top edge is shaped into a point, and two wide fringed ribbons known as lappets hang from the lower back edge. The mitre folds flat and is stored in a purpose-made leather box. All mitres are the same general shape, but the height and slope has varied throughout the history of the Church.

Mitres can be divided into three main styles. The plain white silk or linen *mitre simplex* is the simplest style. The ends of the lappets on a *mitre simplex* are fringed in red. The *mitre auriphrygiata* is made from gold fabric or white silk decorated with horizontal and vertical bands of embroidery. The name derives from the ecclesiastical Latin *aurifrisius* which means 'embroidered with gold'. The most ornate mitre style is the *mitre pretiosa* or precious mitre. The *mitre pretiosa* is also white and elaborately embroidered with gold, silver and precious stones. A mitre made in the liturgical colours of red, green or purple almost certainly belongs to an Anglican bishop. The mitre is worn over the zucchetto and is removed when the bishop prays during a liturgy.

A A mitre storage case. The initials A.R.E.T. and Bathurst indicate that it belonged to the Very Rev. Albert Reuben Edward Thomas, Bishop of Bathurst 1963–1983 (Diocese of Bathurst Archives)

B A *mitre pretiosa* in its storage case, late 19th century (Diocese of Sale Archives)

C Mid 19th century *mitre pretiosa* of John Bede Polding, first Archbishop of Sydney (Jamberoo Benedictine Abbey Heritage Collection)

D The Very Rev. Guilford Clyde Young, Archbishop of Hobart 1955–1888, wears a low mediaeval or Gothic-style *mitre auriphrygiata* decorated with the same designs as his chasuble, while the concelebrating bishops wear taller mid-20th century style *mitres simplex* of various shapes at the Mass for the 25th anniversary of his installation as bishop. (Archdiocese of Hobart Archives and Heritage Collection)

Sultana Cake, Juicy Fruit, and Razor Blades

6 January 1962

Perched on kitchen chairs, we watched as Nanny and her wooden spoon created an absolute wonder in the huge mixing bowl sitting on the green lino tabletop. We each nibbled a few sultanas and, holding the spoon with two hands, stirred the mixture three times before Nanny slid the rich, buttery sultana cake into the wood burning oven. She wiped our sticky faces (mixing spoons and bowls must be licked clean) and smiled as she said,

"Hold out your hand."

A silver coin dropped into each outstretched hand.

Hugging us she said,

"Off you go. Birthday presents for Pop. One coin for a card, one coin for some *Juicy Fruit* chewing gum, and one coin for two packets of GEM razor blades. Ask the shop keepers to wrap the presents."

The kitchen door slammed behind us as she called out, "Remember to say PLEASE!"

A huge smile spread across Pop's face as we placed the card and tiny parcels in his big strong hands. We waited expectantly as he nimbly unwrapped the tiny packages and then placed the card on the lounge room mantelpiece. With eyes twinkling, he opened a packet of *Juicy Fruit*, popped a piece in each opened mouth. "Shush! Don't tell Mum!", he whispered.

That evening, the thought of sultana cake for dessert had effectively disguised the taste of any pesky vegetables piled on our dinner plates. As we joined in the *Happy Birthday* song, our expectation quickly turned to disappointment. Bread and butter and tangy plum jam took centre stage. The sultana cake was for another celebration – morning tea in the bush. Pop, a sleeper cutter by trade, was going to share the sultana *birthday* cake with the lyrebirds and an inquisitive goanna at his work camp in the bush!

Pop, baptised John Baptista was named after his grandfather, Giovanni Battista, a timber worker from Teglio, Italy. He arrived in the port of Melbourne on January 6th, 1862, aboard a ship, *Hope*, making January 6th just that little bit more special.



Maryanne Ferguson



January Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ
the following child was baptised during the month of January.

Holly Peisker daughter of Dean and Meagan

FEBRUARY Death notices



Richard John Suckling

17 SEPTEMBER 1946 –
26 DECEMBER 2022



Marie Murphy

7 JUNE 1947 –
25 JANUARY 2023

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

SJA Youth

YCS SEE. JUDGE. ACT. Young Christian Students

YCS is a Catholic youth movement run by students, for students

Young people are challenged to take direct action on issues they're facing - no matter how big or small.

YCS offers a unique opportunity for students to lead discussions on what they are most passionate about. Centred around our Catholic faith, the Review of Life means high school students can apply Bible teachings to their own modern-day realities and explore how faith applies to them – **“what would Jesus do in these situations?”**

YCS uses the Joseph Cardijn inspired theological reflection method, **SEE, JUDGE, ACT** which enables students to SEE what is happening in the world around us and analyse the facts. We then JUDGE this in light of our beliefs and the Gospel and take ACTION to transform not only the world around us but ourselves.

Joseph Cardijn

Joseph Cardijn, was a Belgian priest who had devoted his life to bringing Christianity to the working class and advocating for an end to the dehumanising influences that were enforced onto the working class people.

Born in 1882 to a working-class family, Cardijn was exposed to the lives and hardships of the workers and as a result, saw life as a priest as a means of bringing positive change and hope to the people of Belgium. This brought about the international organisation, Young Christian workers (YCW). From there, Young Christian Students was created.



In the Beginning

PY

..First Y.C.S. Leaders' Rally..

1942: the first Catholic Student Social Justice movement is established

The first YCS Leaders' Rally was held in Melbourne on 14 October 1942 when nearly 200 leaders from Melbourne's Catholic colleges met to discuss the work of the newly established Young Catholic Students movement. It was a major event, attracting the attendance of three archbishops and a bishop.

Four Bishops Attend Demonstration

leaders listened attentively to a full report of the activities of the boys' secondary schools (by Mr. Frank Presa) and to a similar account for the girls' schools (by Miss Nanette Kelly). They dealt with the organisation of leaders' groups—the members of which received special training and conducted their own investigations

In November 1945 the Archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix addressed 350 YCS members at a rally held at Sacré Coeur convent Malvern. In his speech Archbishop Mannix we see that Catholic Action/Lay Apostolate in Australia anticipated, in theory, and practice, the change in thinking about the role of lay people in the church that came with the Second Vatican Council.

Through the Decades

1960's



1970's

Bishops' message to youth

SYDNEY, Sunday. — The Pan-Oceanic Bishops Conference told youth in a special message today, "We look forward with hope to the constructive energy that will come from you with your special opportunities, your sensitive social conscience, your compassion, your ideals".

The conference had discussed a summary of information gathered by youth itself for their discussion.

The response of the bishops had been to insist on the positive values of young people: "... We get sick and tired of hearing of the problems and excesses of the few ... We express our conviction that young people today are generous ..."

The summaries had been gathered by the Australian Young Christian Workers and the Australian Young Christian Students, both Roman Catholic organisations.

1970: Bishops speak to students through AYCS

Young Christian Students continues as an organization for Young Catholics of all dioceses and the Pacific region at large to rally around. At a time of rapid change in Australian society, the Bishops of the day continued to show confidence in the integrity and character of young Australian Catholics.

Conference

Racism and the underprivileged in the Australian community are among the topics to be discussed at the Young Christian Students national conference which will begin today at the ANU.

About 140 students, predominantly Catholic, between the ages of 16 and 18 years, will attend the four-day conference at John XXIII College.

World record

A world record for a continuous 11-a-side soccer match was set late on Monday night by teams from Daramalan College and the Blackfriars Priory Young Christian Students Association.

The game ended in a draw, 169-169, shortly before midnight after 29 hours. The previous record of 28 hours was set in the United States.

Twenty-two players began on Sunday night, and seven Daramalan and nine Blackfriars players finished.

The game raised about \$2,500 for the Bangladesh relief fund.

Even when we're
breaking world records,
it's for a cause

In May 1972, 17-year-old Marian (Guy) England, from Cairns Qld diocese attended the YCS national conference at John XXIII College ANU. Never anticipating that one day she would live in Canberra.

2000's



Even what a
social justice action
looks like has changed

Celebrating 80 years

1942–2022



On 14 October 2022,
YCS celebrated 80 years
of being in Australia



**YCS is and must be a
student-run movement**

SJA Youth will hold their first meeting for 2023 on **Sunday 5 February at 7:00pm** after the 6:00pm mass in the parish centre.

If you know any students in years 7–2 encourage them to come and try YCS. It could make a difference to not only their lives but to the world.

FEBRUARY 2023

1	Wednesday		
2	Thursday	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas Adoration – Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm – 8:30pm	
3	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library	
4 & 5	Saturday Sunday	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A	
6	Monday	Provincial Council meeting FR KIMI AWAY	Funeral – Marie Murphy 11:00am Formation session for parents – Sacrament of Penance 7:00–8:30pm Parish Centre
7	Tuesday		
8	Wednesday		
9	Thursday		Parish Pastoral Council – 7:30pm parish library
10	Friday		Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Men's Group @ 6:30pm – Parish Centre
11 & 12	Saturday Sunday	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A	
13	Monday		
14	Tuesday		
15	Wednesday		
16	Thursday		
17	Friday	SJA Primary School – opening school mass @ 12:00pm Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Men's Group @ 6:30pm – Parish Centre	
18 & 19	Saturday Sunday	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A	
20	Monday	Pins & Needles @ 7:15pm Parish Library	
21	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day	
22	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday – Mass 9:30am & 6:00pm	
23	Thursday	Liturgy Team Meeting	
24	Friday	Anointing of the sick within mass @ 11:00am ● FOLLOWED BY LUNCH Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Film Night @ 7:30pm	
25 & 26	Saturday Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent	
27	Monday		
28	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast @ 7:30am – Bean Origin Belconnen	



