





TO BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD



ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH - KIPPAX ACT AUGUST 2025

Time for Reflection

The Power of the Mind

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."— Romans 12:2

The human mind is one of the greatest gifts God has given us. It is the inner landscape where thought, memory, imagination, and desire are born. It is the seat of our decisions, the place where we wrestle with truth, and the ground from which our deepest prayers can rise.

Yet how often do we stop to consider the power of our mind—not just to think, but to shape our entire way of being?

Our thoughts are not neutral. They carry energy, intention, and influence. A thought rooted in fear can spiral into anxiety; a thought rooted in love can lift the heart and bring peace. What we dwell on becomes what we begin to believe—and what we believe directs how we live.

Jesus often spoke to the mind as much as the heart. He said, "Let it be done to you according to your faith." He challenged the assumptions of the day, healed not only physical ailments but also the torment of disturbed minds, and called people into a new way of seeing and thinking.

The power of the mind is not in its noise, but in its direction. A mind anchored in faith becomes a vessel for hope. A mind disciplined in prayer becomes a channel for peace. A mind shaped by the Gospel becomes an instrument of justice, compassion, and love.

Science affirms what Scripture has long declared: our minds are capable of renewal. Through conscious effort, through practice and prayer, we can change the way we think—and in doing so, change the way we live. Neuroplasticity speaks to this truth; so does the long tradition of Christian contemplation and renewal of thought.

But let us remember: the mind is not meant to function alone. It is not the master of the soul, but a servant. When the mind listens to the deeper voice of the Spirit, when it opens itself to wisdom, compassion, and grace—it becomes truly powerful. Not because it controls, but because it cooperates with the greater work of God within.

EDITOR'S NOTES

August was a month rich in celebration, remembrance, and community.

On 8 August, we honoured St Mary of the Cross, (Mary MacKillop) with Mass, followed by a morning tea. A week later, on 15 August, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, rejoicing in her being taken into heaven, body and soul.

Our YCS Youth Group hosted a lively Trivia Night on 17 August with the theme "Women in the Church." The evening raised \$220 for Karinya House for Mothers and Babies-a wonderful effort that combined fun with meaningful support (see page 10).

Karinya

August was also a month of farewell as we celebrated the lives of three beloved parishioners:

- · Mary French 20 August
- · Margaret Bailey 28 August
- · Doug Boer 29 August

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

The Garden Ministry gathered for a working bee on 30 August, a tradition that will now take place whenever there is a fifth Saturday in the month. Anyone interested in joining the working is most welcome. In preparation for storm season, Red Gum Tree Services also tended to our grounds, trimming gums and removing a dangerous branch near the presbytery.



Migrants,

missionaries of hope

On 31 August, we marked Social Justice Sunday. This year's theme, "Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health," highlights the intertwined crises of homelessness and mental ill-health, and the Bishops' call to recognise dignity and extend friendship to those on the margins. You can read the statement here: Signs of Hope on the Edge - Social Justice Statement 2025-2026 (refer to page 14).

Looking ahead to September:

- Sunday 7 September is Father's Day
- Safeguarding Sunday 14 September, marking the end of Child Protection Week (7–14 September).
- Two new choirs will join us at the 10:00am Mass: the African Choir on 7 September and the Vietnamese Choir on 14 September.
- On 28 September, we will observe the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Leo XIV's message, "Migrants, Missionaries of Hope," can be accessed here: World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2025 - Message of Pope Leo XIV (see page17)

As we enter the season of spring, may you be filled with the joy, hope, and renewal this season brings.





Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community Body of Christ.

The following children were baptised during the month of :

Aurora Rodden

daughter of Callum & Madeline

Alexander Lange

son of Ryan & Megan

Brooks Coombe

son of Warwick & Nicole



AUGUST 2025

Funerals



Mary French 21 December 1934 -6 August 2025



Margaret Bailey 17 October 1942 -17 August 2025



Douglas Boer 2 August 1956-18 August 2025



the Piety Store @ St John's!

New stock includes:

- a variety of Rosary beads, including hand made beads by a parishioner
- Baptism, Confirmation and Penance gifts
- Books including My First Mass,
 Michael Fallon msc Bible Study texts,
 second-hand books
- · Christ-based stickers
- 2026 Columban Art Calendars



Resurrecting Sunday Afternoon Book Club?

Do you enjoy reading and sharing ideas with others? We're exploring the idea of re-starting a Sunday Afternoon Book Club a relaxed gathering for conversation, reflection, and friendship over a cuppa.

The details (books, times, and format) will be shaped by those who are interested. If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, please let us know!

Contact: Kirsty at <u>kippax.finance@cg.org.au</u>

Celebrating 130 years of Vinnies Good Works



This year the St Vincent de Paul Society celebrates 130 years since the first recorded conference in our region, which was held in Goulburn. During September and October Vinnies will hold a number of events to mark this milestone. Members of the Kippax Conference have identified a couple ways to mark the history of Vinnies Good Works in our Parish. First, we would like to honour the women and men who have volunteered during the past 50 years with the Kippax Conference to care for the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in our local community. Second, we will host a special Vinnies morning tea after the 10:00am Mass on Sunday 28 September. This article is the first part of a look at our history in Kippax parish. A second part will be prepared for the September KIT.

The first conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society was established in Canberra on 16 October 1924. The inaugural Conference meeting was held at Acton with 20 members in attendance. Soon after, a Conference was established in Queanbeyan. However, within the Canberra-Goulburn region the Society's roots go back further in time, with members gathering and helping the poor and disadvantaged in Goulburn, Crookwell and Yass.

The exact date of the establishment of a Conference at St John the Apostle Parish is being investigated with the assistance of our Head Office colleagues, our Conference archives and our Parish Office records. It would have occurred soon after the Parish started in February 1972. In fact, it appears that in 1973 we had a group for ladies and a group for men. We will add to the history of the Kippax Conference in the September issue of KIT.

The strength and impact of Vinnies good works in communities across the world rests on the commitment and self-giving of its volunteers and members. Conference members have been visiting families and individuals in need in our Parish for over 50 years. While the need for support has increased, thankfully we have been able to sustain an active conference membership at St John's, lovingly supported by our generous parishioners.

Being a conference member is a way of sharing your time and talents with those less fortunate than yourself. As one of our members expressed it: It helps me fulfil my Christian values to help those in need; being a member of Vinnies means living my faith in action.

We would like to honour past members of the St Vincent de Paul Conference of the Parish of St John the Apostle Kippax. The following list of names is incomplete and relies on the memories of current and former members and records of the Conference. With your help we hope that we can compile a comprehensive list of members who have served the poor during the past 54 years. We will continue to explore our Conference's history and present more details in September.

The following list of names includes men and women who visited and helped the poor for much or their adult life and those who gave one or two years. It includes those who volunteered once a month on the Veggie Run on Sunday nights collecting and delivering food to local families. They are all special people, and we honour them for their selfless contributions.

KIT @ KIPPAX

We honour:

Greg Biddle, Liz Cameron, John Carson, Paddy Clark, Nell Clark, Betty Cowman,

Bryan Cowman, Mary Cruickshanck, Robert Cruickshanck, Francesca Deklin, Judith Deklin, Kathleen Dixon, Justin Donnelly, Violet Duve, Therese Edwards, Colin Fox, Eric French,

Anne Fulton, Bob Grant, Tom Halloran, Helen Kennedy, Ted Kildea, Leo Koina, Maresa Laird, Judy Lane, Thaddeus Leach, Alex Leemhuis, Lien Leemhuis, Joseph Le Lang, John Maher, Carmel Martin, David Mather, John McGee, Ian McKie, Joe Mewburn, Joel Motet,

Michaela Motet, Peter Needham, Mercia Needham, James Nield, Vicki Nucifora, Mary O'Brien, Lyn O'Brien, Jim Ohlin, Mark Olsen, Tess O'Rourke, Mark Palmer, David Pigram,

Linette Pilkington-Bone, Anna Pisciotta, Joe Pisciotta, Bev Purnell, David Ritchie, Julie Ritchie, Les Roberts, Paul Rogers, Eddie Roots, Mariana Rollgejser, David Rowe, Jack Schmich,

Donna Scheerlinck, Terry Sheppard, John Skinner, Norma Sloan, Barry Snodgrass,

Brad Spurling, Leisa Spurling, Moira Sutch, Jean Tierney, Margaret Van Haldren, Celia Vucovic, Christine Wells.

Please contact Mike Blyth at michaelblyth54@outlook.com or 0419818410 with additional names and your personal memories of Vinnies in our parish, especially from the early years of the Parish.

Our current membership comprises the following wonderful people:

Judy O'Neill, Karen Bower, Gabrielle Culhane, Margaret Sheehan, Rebecca Jeffreys, Jenny McGee, Anita Kelly, Murray Bruce, Ross Kelly, Mike Kiley, Carl Madsen, James Cox, Michael Blyth and Gordon Donnir.

In December 2024 our Conference was honoured by the St Vincent de Paul Soiety of Canberra Goulburn with the inaugural Frederic Ozanam Outstanding Achievement Award. The letter to the Conference from the Chief Executive Officer and Archdiocesan President noted:



In honour of Blessed Frederic Ozanam's legacy, the Outstanding Achievement Award is awarded to the team or individual who, through their everyday works, embodies the Essential Vincentian virtues of the Society. We noted that your Conference is an active and dedicated group made up of 14 volunteers, contributing significantly to the Society's mission. Your fellow Vincentians have highlighted that some of your Members have been volunteering for over 30 years.

We value this award. It is recognition of many decades of Good Works by Vinnies men and women in the Kippax Parish community.

Thanks for your help over the years and for helping us document our history.

MENTAL HEALTH • MINISTRY









When Love is the Lens: How Beliefs Transform Our Mental Wellbeing

Our beliefs shape how we see the world—and how we see ourselves. They form the lens through which we interpret experience, respond to suffering, and seek healing. Beliefs influence our emotions, our behaviour, and ultimately our wellbeing. What we hold to be true has the power to either limit or liberate us.

Let's begin with some foundational truths—principles that speak to the human condition and the way life unfolds:

- 1. The Law of Action and Reaction: Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.
- o Thought is incipient action.
- o Reaction is the response from your subconscious mind, which mirrors the nature of your thoughts.
- 2. Life is finite.
- 3. Change is constant.
- 4. Suffering is part of the human condition.
- 5. Love matters.
- 6. We are interconnected.
- 7. Truth has consequences.
- 8. What you nurture, grows.
- 9. Gratitude transforms.
- 10. Humans are meaning-makers.
- 11. We long to be seen, known, and to belong.

Each of these truths points to the powerful relationship between belief and mental health. It is our inner world that creates our outer world. The subconscious mind—the seat of emotion and memory—responds not to facts but to impressions. It does not distinguish between right or wrong, true or false. It simply accepts what the conscious mind allows through.

This is why our conscious beliefs are so powerful. They feed and inform the subconscious, shaping our physiological and psychological responses to life. When the conscious mind believes in possibility, the subconscious aligns with that belief. When it holds fear, shame, or unworthiness, the subconscious stores and amplifies that, too.

As Catholic Christians, we believe that God is Love. This foundational belief shapes our response to God—not with fear, but with love in return. To believe that life itself is a gift from God, and that we are totally dependent on that loving Source, is to believe in a relational God—One who desires intimate connection with each of us.

Yet sometimes harmful beliefs creep in. For instance, the idea that sickness or suffering is a punishment from God is not consistent with the Gospel. God does not will our pain; rather, God desires wholeness, healing, and peace for all creation. The Gospel reveals a God who meets people in their suffering and brings restoration—not condemnation.

Faith, then, becomes a powerful path to healing. If the root of some disease or distress lies in the mind—in beliefs formed by trauma, fear, sin, or falsehood—then healing also begins there. Belief in divine love, worthiness, and hope can unlock the body's natural capacity to heal and the soul's ability to flourish.

In the end, what we believe—about God, about ourselves, and about life—matters. Not just spiritually, but mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Because belief doesn't just interpret our world. It creates it.

So today, take a moment to notice your thoughts. Ask gently:

- What am I feeding my mind?
- What thoughts do I allow to take root?
- Do my thoughts reflect the mind of Christ?

Let this be our prayer:

Loving God, renew my mind.

May my thoughts be aligned with truth.

May my imagination be open to your Spirit.

May my intentions be shaped by love.

And may my mind always serve the deeper call of my heart
to know you, love you, and follow you.

Amen

yCS Youth Group Trivia Night Sunday 17 August 2025



WOMEN IN THE CHURCH





AS WE CELEBRATE ST PHOEBE'S FEAST, WE ARE INVITED TO ASK:

·WHO ARE THE "PHOEBES" IN OUR PARISH TODAY?

·HOW CAN WE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THEIR LEADERSHIP?

•WHERE CAN WE MAKE MORE SPACE FOR WOMEN'S VOICES AND GIFTS?



St Phoebe – Deacon

Feast Day: 3 September

A Woman of the Early Church

St Paul writes:

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae... she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well." (Romans 16:1–2)

Phoebe was trusted by Paul to carry his letter to the Romans and was recognised as a leader in the early Christian community. Her witness reminds us that women's voices and leadership have been part of the Church from the very beginning.



Image via Wiki Commons

Women at the Heart of the Church

From Mary Magdalene—the first to proclaim the Resurrection—to countless women who today animate parishes, run schools, care for the sick, lead justice initiatives, and hand on the faith in families, women are essential to the Church's mission.

Clarion Call:
The Spirit is moving! Let us respond with courage, honouring the gifts of women and ensuring they flourish in our parish and beyond.

"What comes from the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped."
#60 Synod Final Document

The Synod's Call

The Synod on Synodality has urged the whole Church to:

- Celebrate women's gifts: Recognise women as leaders in parish, diocesan, and community life.
- Use every opportunity: Encourage women to serve in all roles already open under Canon Law.
- Continue discernment: Keep open the conversation about women and the diaconate.
- Lift up women's voices: Ensure our preaching, catechesis, and Church documents include the stories of women saints, mystics, and theologians.

Atlantic

I could spend all my life
looking at the sea and sky
sitting in a comfy deckchair!
The sea is oh! so wonderful,
now foamy flecked with grey,
the clouds alive and beautiful
as they roam across the sky –
and the flying fish
are a sight to see
as we swish atop the waves
in this lordly ocean liner.
They bring back dreams
of days gone by . . .

when I sat as a lad
on a mossy hill
and listened with sheer delight
to the lark
in the clear blue sky!

Eamonn Murtagh

Keep our lamps lit

Living is sometimes akin to moving in a mist: we can only see so far; moreover, we know not when our master will return.

And so our Lord counsels us
to be like faithful servants,
to keep our lamps lit,
to work for the coming of His kingdom,
to wait for His knock on our open door.

And when we welcome Him,
He'll enter in,
set the table and serve us.
For be it during
the middle of the night
or near dawn,
such is the love of Jesus.

Shane Murtagh







Photo - Elizabeth McDonald

No one in Canberra can fail to notice, that spring is on the doorstep. The birds are more active, the early wattle, which is one of the first signals that winter is coming to an end, is now fully in bloom.

In the southern hemisphere, our seasons are out of sync with the Church liturgical calendar. But for me the feast day coming up on 8 September, the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin, Mary, fits beautifully with our season of Spring.

A Canberra Spring is a time of promise, hope, beauty and extended gentle light, a time when the intimate beauty of God's creation surrounds us.

Fr. Gerhard Peekel MSC, a renowned botanist and missionary in New Guinea wrote:

"In each flower I see our loving God".

Elizabeth McDonald

The Garden of Life

The garden of life nurturing the seed to fruition by the soil's elements from the mothering crusty womb caressed by moisturising drops from the cloud clusters above in companionship with the light of photosynthesis to vibrant growth.

The cosmic planetary relationship, evolution, companionship, of life's growth to fruition..... then repeated.

Once the flowering changes (dies), then to birthing its seeds in embryonic development, re-birthing the gifted process of cosmic reality. (John 12:24)

No death, a change in life, is wasted.

Some facts about homelessness from the Social Justice Statement 2025 - 2026

Signs of Hope on the Edge:

Serving homeless people with mental ill-health



2022-2023

12,500 people who asked for help at a homelessness service died

Canberra City Centre



2022-23

273,600 people were assisted by homelessness services.

Around one-third of these had a mental health issue. Around one-quarter were single parents.

> Homeless youth are at significantly higher risk for developing mental health disorders.

Juarter **SEPTEMBER 2025**

Total Expense due on 30 September \$10,932.88

Insurance Expense for July-September QTR

Public Liability \$944.40 Property \$4,483.38 Voluntary Workers \$224.69 Brokerage Fee \$1,998.70 \$7,651.20 **Total** \$3,281.68 Levy

Electricity Expense for

May \$3,426.85 June \$5,823.79 July \$5,442.95

The net result for these 3 months after taking off the GST and renewable energy rebate is **\$12,582.38.**

These amounts have been paid but this large mid year outlay puts pressure on our cash flow added to which we are still to receive the August & Sept electricity invoices.





Account Name: St John the Apostle Parish BSB: 062 786 Account Number: 00013630 Reference: Ouarterly Appeal







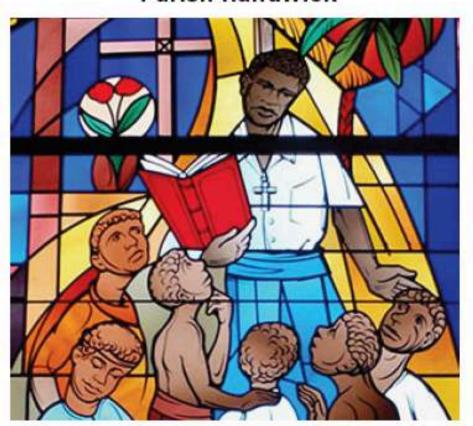
Blessed Peter To Rot

CANONISATION

Sydney Mass

19 October 2025 from 2:30pm

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Randwick



ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MASS

Saint Peter To Rot

- a Saint for Papua New Guinea
- a Saint for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- a Saint for the Pacific
- a Saint for Oceania

Our Saint

Peter To Rot (5 March 1912 - 7 July 1945) was a Papua New Guinea Catholic, He served as a catechist in his village and was entrusted with the leadership of the local parish during World War Il when Imperial Japanese forces occupied the region and imprisoned Catholic missionaries. In response to Japanese oppression of his community, he publicly opposed their actions and continued to hold secret prayer services after the Japanese restricted him from active pastoral service. To Rot married in 1936, and he criticized Japanese attempts to encourage his people to return to the pre-Christian practice of taking multiple wives He was executed by the Japanese in 1945. He was beatified by Pope John Paul Il in 1995, approved for canonisation by Pope Francis earlier this year and will be canonised by Pope Leo XIV on 19 October 2025.

ENQUIRIES, POSTERS & FREE PRAYER CARDS

MSC Mission Office 02 9697 0983

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention September 2025

For our relationship with all of creation.

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



https://www.popesprayer.va/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ENG-HOLY-FATHERS-PRAYER-INTENTIONS-2025-DEF-1.pdf

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The 111_{th} World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which my predecessor chose to coincide with the <u>Jubilees of Migrants and of the Missions</u>, offers us an opportunity to reflect on the connections between hope, migration and mission.

The current global context is sadly marked by wars, violence, injustice and extreme weather events, which force millions of people to leave their homelands in search of refuge elsewhere. The widespread tendency to look after the interests of limited communities poses a serious threat to the sharing of responsibility, multilateral cooperation, the pursuit of the common good and global solidarity for the benefit of our entire human family. The prospect of a renewed arms race and the development of new armaments, including nuclear weapons, the lack of consideration for the harmful effects of the ongoing climate crisis, and the impact of profound economic inequalities make the challenges of the present and the future increasingly demanding.

Faced with frightening scenarios and the possibility of global devastation, it is important that there be a growing desire in people's hearts for a future of peace and of respect for the dignity of all. Such a future is essential to God's plan for humanity and the rest of creation. This is the messianic future anticipated by the prophets: "Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets... For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew" (Zech 8:4-5, 12). This future has already begun, since it was inaugurated by Jesus Christ (cf. Mk 1:15; Lk 17:21), and we believe and hope in its full realization, for the Lord is always faithful to his promises.

The <u>Catechism of the Catholic Church</u> teaches: "The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man and woman; it takes up the hopes that inspire human activities" (N. 1818). What is more, the search for happiness, and the prospect of finding it beyond one's place of origin, is certainly one of the main motivations for the movement of people today.

This link between migration and hope is clearly evident in many contemporary experiences of migration. Many migrants, refugees and displaced persons are privileged witnesses of hope. Indeed, they demonstrate this daily through their resilience and trust in God, as they face adversity while seeking a future in which they glimpse that integral human development and happiness are possible.

To read more go to: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/migration/documents/20250725-world-migrants-day-2025.html

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

St John the Apostle Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people.

We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING VOLUNTEERS

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer is to be an additional point of contact in the Parish on matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people, complementing the roles of the Parish Priest and Parish Secretary. They can provide advice on how complaints can be made, and forward concerns, relating to the protection safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people within the Parish to the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding Manager.



Jenny McGee and Carl Madsen – safeguarding.kippax@cg.org.au

We love to celebrate mass with the children and vulnerable people of our parish. Safeguarding and care is everyone's responsibility.





KIT is produced for the St John the Apostle Catholic Community from contributions submitted by parishioners. Send submissions to kippax@cg.org.au

Editor Marian England * Graphic Design: Kirsty Vera * Front Cover: Fr. Tru: Sunlight on Mt Ainslie St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT * 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

















September 2025

1	Monday	
2	Tuesday	
3	Wednesday	
4	Thursday	7:30pm Gethsemane Thursday - prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
5	Friday	9:30am First Friday - Mass of the Sacred Heart 5:15pm Meditation
6	Saturday	
7	Sunday	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8	Monday	Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9	Tuesday	2:00pm Ichi Cafe Kippax - Community Connections
10	Wednesday	
11	Thursday	
12	Friday	5:15pm Meditation - Parish Library
13	Saturday	
14	Sunday	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Child Protection Sunday 7:00pm YCS Youth Group - Parish Centre
15	Monday	7:15pm - Pins & Needles - Parish Library
16	Tuesday	
17	Wednesday	
18	Thursday	
19	Friday	5:15pm Meditation - Parish Library 6:30pm Men's Group - Parish Centre
20	Saturday	
21	Sunday	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 3:30pm Community Connections - Parish Library
22	Monday	
23	Tuesday	7:30am Women's Breakfast - Bean Origin Cafe Belconnen
24	Wednesday	
25	Thursday	
26	Friday	5:15pm Meditation - Parish Library 7:00pm Film Night - Parish Library
27	Saturday	
28	Sunday	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Migrant & Refugee Sunday
29	Monday	
30	Tuesday	20