



TO BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD

KIT @ KIPPAX



**ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH - KIPPAX ACT
JUNE 2025**

Time for Reflection

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Love Made Visible

Celebrated this year on 27 June

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus invites us to ponder the mystery of God's love made visible in the human heart of Christ. Falling on the second Friday after Trinity Sunday, it comes to us each year as a gentle reminder that at the very centre of our faith is a love that is personal, tender, and poured out for the world.

As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart remind us, Jesus loved with a human heart—a heart that rejoiced, suffered, broke, and burned with compassion. Through this heart, Jesus revealed the face of God: not a distant power, but a God who is Love. This is not just something Jesus taught with words—it was revealed in everything he did. The way he healed, forgave, fed, welcomed, and wept—all these spoke of a God who gives Godself entirely.

Those who walked with Jesus came to believe that this man from Nazareth was completely one with the divine love. It is God who heals through Jesus. It is God who loves through him. In Jesus, the human and divine meet in a profound communion of love. And this love—this Spirit—was not kept locked in time or history. Jesus believed it was God's desire that this Spirit of love be shared with every person, in every place, in every age.

So where do we find God today? The answer, beautifully simple and deeply challenging, is this: **look for love**. Wherever one person gives of themselves for another—there is God. In compassion offered, in forgiveness extended, in quiet acts of kindness and courage—there is the Sacred Heart still beating in the world.

This feast is not just about looking back; it is a call to live now with hearts like Christ's. Hearts open. Hearts strong in compassion. Hearts ready to love, even when it costs.

May we continue to be drawn into this mystery—that the love of God has a human heart, and that this heart lives in us.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.....Forever!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Winter arrived in June with an icy Arctic blast and sub-zero temperatures that lingered throughout most of the month.

Despite the chill, our parish was alive with the warmth of the sacraments. On Friday 6 June, 50 candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Later in the month, over the weekend of 21–22 June, 66 children celebrated their First Holy Communion across six Masses at both St John's and St Thomas' churches. With this, our 2025 Sacramental Program concluded joyfully with the celebration of the Eucharist.

On Friday 20 June, we also celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during Mass, followed by a shared lunch. Please note that our final Anointing Mass for 2025 will be held on Friday 31 October.

We ended the month gathered in prayer and community on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Friday 27 June), followed by a nourishing soup lunch.

Earlier in the month, Fr Roger Purcell msc from the MSC Mission Office visited our parish on the weekend of 7–8 June to promote the annual MSC Missions Appeal.

Thanks to your generosity, our parish contributed \$5,000.

These funds will support vital mission initiatives, including:

- Access to clean water and sanitation facilities,
- Education and care for disadvantaged youth,
- Health programs addressing HIV-AIDS and related issues,
- Environmental protection and sustainable livelihoods,
- Spiritual and practical support for mission outreach,
- Ongoing formation of priests and religious through retreats and workshops.



Looking ahead, July will see the beginnings of our new Catholic Mental Health Ministry. A dedicated group of five parishioners will gather on Sunday 13 July to explore how best to serve in this important area of pastoral care.

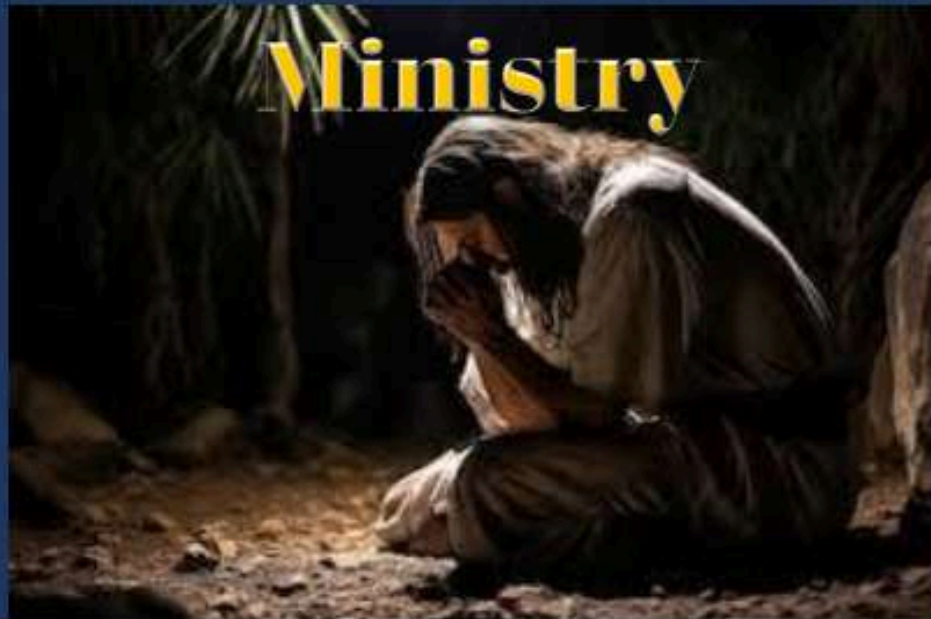
Frs. Tru and Chung will attend a retreat at Douglas Park from 7–11 July. Later in the month, from 22 July to 5 August, Fr Chung will travel to Vietnam to facilitate a retreat for the Vietnamese MSC community.

Finally, on the weekend of 26–27 July, members of the Parish Pastoral Council will speak at all Masses to invite parishioners into the process of naming our newly merged parish.

Wishing you warmth, peace, and many blessings through the month of July.
Blessings

Marian

Catholic Mental Health Ministry



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

A small group of five parishioners will meet to look at establishing a Mental Health Ministry in our parish. The first meeting will be held on Sunday 13 July at 4:00pm in the Parish Library.

What is a Catholic Mental Health Ministry?

A Catholic mental health ministry provides vital spiritual accompaniment and pastoral care for people experiencing mental health challenges and mental illness, as well as those who care for them.

A Catholic mental health ministry helps overcome the stigma and discrimination that people living with a mental illness encounter in the Church and in human society.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

The word health comes from the same root as heal, whole, and holy. To be healthy means to be whole. And to heal is to bring back that sense of wholeness. Health is not just about our bodies. It's about our relationships—with each other, with creation, and with God. A healthy life is built in community. Our families, our friends, our workplaces, and especially our church communities all shape our well-being. They remind us that we do not walk alone.

As writer Wendell Berry once said, “I believe that the community—in the fullest sense: a place and all its creatures—is the smallest unit of health.” In other words, we can't talk about real health if we ignore our connection to others. No one is truly well in isolation. When we think of health this way—as belonging, connection, and love—we see that it's not limited to those who are physically strong or independent. Those living with illness, disability, ageing bodies, or approaching death are not outside of health. They, too, can experience deep wholeness when they are surrounded by love and welcomed into community. Our church is called to be such a community. One where love is shared freely. Where no one is excluded. Where each person is seen, valued, and cared for.

This is the kind of love God shows us in Jesus:

“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Jesus didn't just heal bodies—he restored people to community. Those who were left out because of illness or sin were welcomed back in. He forgave, he touched, he listened. His healing brought people together—physically, spiritually, and socially. God's love is alive in the world, always drawing us toward healing, wholeness, and belonging. This is the heart of a healthy church.

Resource used: Wendell Berry, *Health is Membership*. 1994

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Baptisms



We welcome into the SJA Community Body of Christ.

The following children were baptised during the month of June:

Henry & Vivienne Beattie

children of Gerard & Alexandra

Chimdindu Ojinuka

daughter of Arinze & Ujunwa

Levi & Ellie Cummings

children of Bradley & Jillian

Antonia Gamarra

daughter of Mackarena Burgos Retamal

Funerals



Alicja Kurylowicz

07/07/1929 - 26/05/2025



Marie Hill

08/11/1933 - 29/05/2025



Marcia Jasper

05/02/1938 - 04/06/2025



CONFIRMATION



*50 children received the
Sacrament of Confirmation
and 66 the Sacrament of
Eucharist.
We continue to hold these
children in our prayer.*

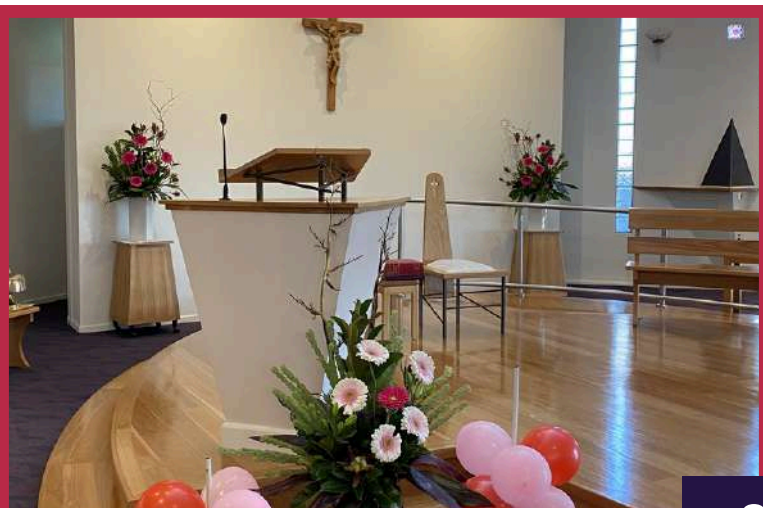


EUCCHARIST



Anointing Mass Lunch June 2025







Thank you to our parishioners for:

Raising over \$8,000 for the St John the Apostle Parish
Quarterly Appeal January - March 2025

Raising over \$2,000 for Project Compassion

WHIRLWIND OF LOVE

Many were there, gathered in prayer:
the apostles and other men and women,
among them Mary
the mother of Jesus
and his cousins.

All were of one accord in one place,
awaiting the arrival of the Advocate.

And from the silence
came the mighty wind and fire
of the Holy Spirit,
who, through the form of flaming tongues,
rested on everyone.

And from this whirlwind of Love,
through their open mouths,
came a flurry of languages,
each perfectly perceived
by the members
of a diaspora
of devout Jews
who'd returned to Jerusalem.

It was the day of the Church's birth,
the day of Pentecost,
the day when the followers of the Way
were inspired to speak of Christ,
to proclaim God's deeds of power.

Shane Murtagh

PARADISE

If my heart
were made of stone,
how could I love?

But if my heart
burns with love
for Him, how
can I fear?

My love for Him
consumes my soul
each breath I breathe
and takes away
all fear and hate.

For love alone
can truly link
His way and mine
as we tread
this path of ours
towards Paradise.

Eamonn Murtagh



10 REASONS WHY PRAYER IS NOT ONLY HELPFUL, BUT ESSENTIAL!

1. Prayer anchors us in God's presence

When everything else feels unstable, prayer grounds us in the One who never changes.

2. Prayer opens the door to peace

Even when our outer circumstances won't change, prayer stills our inner storm.

3. Prayer reminds us we are not alone

In every heartbreak, confusion, or fear - God is with us, listening, holding and guiding.

4. Prayer transforms our perspective

What once felt impossible begins to shift as we see through the lens of grace.

5. Prayer invites the Holy Spirit to act within us

Beyond words, prayer opens us and allows God to work deeply in places we cannot reach ourselves.

6. Prayer softens the heart

It melts resentment, quiets judgement, and makes space for compassion and love

7. Prayer aligns us with God's will

When we surrender in prayer, we move from striving to trusting.

8. Prayer strengthens us for life's battles


It renews our spirit when we feel weary or defeated and reminds us of our true identity in Christ.

9. Prayer connects us with divine wisdom

Not all answers come right away, but in prayer we receive clarity, discernment, and direction.

10. Prayer becomes the doorway to transformation

The more we pray, the more we are changed - not just comforted, but renewed and literally transformed from the inside out.



From thedeeperconnection.org

Naming a Parish

As the two parishes of St John's and St Thomas' continue to merge, we are now at the stage of discerning a name for the merged parishes. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will speak at all masses the weekend of 26/27 July with a view to canvassing parishioner's preferences. The PPC has proffered the following names for consideration and discernment.

St John the Apostle & St Thomas Aquinas Parish

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

St Francis de Sales Parish

St Margaret Mary Parish

St Therese of Lisieux Parish

Christ the Redeemer

During the weeks leading up to 26/27 would you please prayerfully discern your preference.



Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit,

Gift of wisdom and guide of God's people,
we turn to You in this time of change and hope.

As the communities of St John's and St Thomas' continue to grow together,
we ask You to stir our hearts with the love that unites,
and lead us in the path of faithful discernment.

You know the story of our people—
our joys, our struggles, our hopes for the future.

As we listen for Your voice, may we be inspired by the lives of the saints
and the holy names offered for our reflection.

Give us hearts that are open,
minds that are attentive,
and spirits ready to follow where You lead.

May the name chosen for our new parish
honour the past, witness to our faith today,
and call us forward with renewed purpose.

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe in us.

May this name speak of who we are,
and who You are calling us to become.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

July 2025

For formation in discernment.

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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



Pope Leo's Prayer

Lord, I come to Your tender Heart today,
to You who have words that set my heart ablaze,
to You who pour out compassion on the little ones and the poor,
on those who suffer, and on all human miseries.

I desire to know You more, to contemplate You in the Gospel,
to be with You and learn from You
and from the charity with which You allowed Yourself
to be touched by all forms of poverty.

You showed us the Father's love by loving us without measure
with Your divine and human Heart.
Grant all Your children the grace of encountering You.

Change, shape, and transform our plans,
so that we seek only You in every circumstance:
in prayer, in work, in encounters, and in our daily routine.
From this encounter, send us out on mission,
a mission of compassion for the world
in which You are the source from which all consolation flows.

Amen.

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.

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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:** Last of the Autumn Leaves on the Presbytery Deck by Marian England

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT * 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

Join us at ST JOHN'S

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST
4TH TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH



PINS & NEEDLES
3RD MONDAY OF THE
MONTH



FRIENDSHIP GROUP
LAST WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH



MOVIE NIGHT
4TH FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH



MEN'S GROUP
3RD FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH



**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**
3RD SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH



YCS BELCONNEN

JULY 27TH ~ AFTER SUNDAY MASS AT 7:00-9:00
SEE. JUDGE. ACT.



JULY 2025



1	TUESDAY		
2	WEDNESDAY		
3	THURSDAY	Gethsemane - Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - 7:30pm	
4	FRIDAY	1st Friday of the month - Mass of the Sacred Heart Meditation - 5:15pm Parish Library	
5	SATURDAY		
6	SUNDAY	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C NATSIC Sunday	Frs Tru and Chung on Retreat
7	MONDAY		
8	TUESDAY	Community Connections - 2:00pm Ichi Cafe	
9	WEDNESDAY		
10	THURSDAY		
11	FRIDAY	Meditation - 5:15pm Parish Library	
12	SATURDAY		
13	SUNDAY	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C	
14	MONDAY		
15	TUESDAY		
16	WEDNESDAY		
17	THURSDAY	Parish Pastoral Council - 7:00pm - Parish Library	
18	FRIDAY	Meditation - 5:15pm Parish Library Men's Group - 6:30pm Parish Centre	
19	SATURDAY		
20	SUNDAY	Community Connections - 4:00pm Parish Library	
21	MONDAY	Pins & Needles - 7:00pm Parish Library	
22	TUESDAY	Women's Breakfast - Bean Origin Cafe	
23	WEDNESDAY		
24	THURSDAY	Liturgy Meeting - 7:00pm Parish Library	
25	FRIDAY	Anointing of the Sick after 9:00am Mass Meditation - 5:15pm Parish Library Movie Night - 7:00pm Parish Library	Fr Chung Retreat Facilitator in Vietnam
26	SATURDAY		
27	SUNDAY	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C Cuppa after 10:00am Mass YCS - 7:00pm Parish Centre	
28	MONDAY		
29	TUESDAY		
30	WEDNESDAY	SJA Friendship Group - 10:15am Parish Centre	
31	THURSDAY	Parish Finance Council - 11:00am Parish Library	