

TO BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD



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

Time for Reflection

Peace — A Gift to Be Shared

At every Mass, during the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray for peace. Across the world, in every language and time zone, hearts are lifted in the same plea — “Peace be with you.” And yet, conflict and violence continue to shape our world. What, then, does it mean to pray for peace in a time when it seems so fragile, so distant?

In his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us that peace begins not in policies or treaties, but in the human heart. He reflects on the life of St Francis of Assisi — a man who sowed seeds of peace wherever he went. St Francis did not argue or impose doctrines; he simply lived the love of God.

He walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm, and the outcast — the least of his brothers and sisters. In his simplicity and humility, he revealed what true peace looks like: harmony with God, with others, and with all creation.

Pope Francis laments that in today’s world, “the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading,” replaced by what he calls “a cool, comfortable, and globalized indifference.” We may appear connected, yet our hearts often remain isolated. The illusion of control blinds us to our shared vulnerability — forgetting that we are all in the same boat.

And yet, each day offers us a new opportunity — a chance to begin again. In the depths of every heart, love still stirs. Love creates bonds, draws us out of ourselves, and expands our capacity to care. The path to peace does not demand uniformity but invites unity — people working side-by-side toward what benefits all.

Lasting peace rarely arrives through grand decrees; it is built in the ordinary gestures of daily life — through listening, forgiving, and choosing compassion over judgment. Negotiation and dialogue have their place, but it is the courage and consistency of ordinary people that become the leaven for real change. Each of us, in our small way, can help write a new page of history — one filled with hope, peace, and reconciliation.

Peace is a gift that God longs to give — not a prize to be earned, but a grace to be received. And it was first wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. As we move into Advent, we are invited once more to receive this gift — the peace that the Christ Child brings to our restless world.

The theme for the second Sunday of Advent is Peace.

May it not remain just a word we say or a prayer we recite, but a way we live.

What might this offering of peace mean for our community today?

Advent Reflection: The Peace of Christ

Prince of Peace,
in a world torn by division and fear,
you come quietly – small and vulnerable –
to dwell among us.

Teach us the peace that is born not of power,
but of presence.
Open our hearts to see your image in every person,
and to welcome your stillness amid our noise.

May our homes become places of reconciliation,
our parish a shelter for the weary,
and our lives a light that leads others to you.

As we prepare for your coming,
may your peace take root in us –
keep, steadfast, and strong enough
to change the world,
one heart at a time.

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.



EDITOR'S NOTES

October began with a taste of summer — warmer days and the return of daylight saving time on the 5th. However, the warmth didn't last, and by the final week it felt as though we had slipped back into winter once again!



This month's front cover depicts the altar display for Sunday 19 October, in recognition of the canonisation of Peter To Rot. You will find a tribute on page 12.

The RCIA program commenced on 14 September with one person seeking to become Catholic. We are delighted that the group has now grown to six participants. Please keep Alistair, Rian, Jacob, Nicole, Brad & Claire in your prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them on their journey of faith.

Mental Health Week was recognised on Friday 10 October with a morning tea and group discussion on mental well-being — a valuable reminder of the importance of caring for both body and spirit.



We also celebrated the 118th anniversary of the death of Jules Chevalier MSC, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, with Mass followed by morning tea. (See pages 7 & 8 for coverage of this celebration.)

The final Mass of Anointing of the Sick for the year was held on Friday 31 October. This beautiful celebration was followed by a shared lunch — a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and reconnect with parishioners who are not always able to attend Mass regularly.

As we move into November, we begin with the Feast of All Saints on 1 November and the Feast of All Souls on 2 November. On Sunday 2 November, we will also hold our Pilgrimage of Hope Walk, setting out after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. The pilgrimage will take us from St John's to St Thomas', following the peaceful path along Ginninderra Creek.



This month's reflection focuses on Peace, the theme for the Second Sunday of Advent. As we journey through Advent and towards Christmas, we will also explore the themes of Joy and Love in the coming months of November and December, which correspond to the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent. These same themes are echoed in our reflections on mental health and well-being.

*Blessings
Marian*

STAFF HAPPENINGS

By now, you will be aware that the two parishes of St John the Apostle and St Thomas Aquinas will become a united parish under the title Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on 1 January 2026. As part of this transition, there will be some forthcoming changes within the parish office and staffing structure.

While it is certain that staffing roles and working hours will change, these details are still being finalised in consultation between Fr Tru and the Archdiocesan Leadership Team.

What we do know at this stage is that the three current office positions will finish on 31 December 2025 and new positions for the new parish will be advertised. Current staff members are welcome to apply for these positions. Those who choose not to apply, or who are unsuccessful in obtaining a position, will be offered redundancy.

Marian has advised that she will not be applying for her position and will therefore officially finish her service on 31 December 2025. She will take annual leave from 1 December, with her last working day in the parish being Friday, 28 November.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention November 2025

For the prevention of suicide.

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



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

MENTAL HEALTH ● MINISTRY



The Pathway of Peace: Nurturing Mental Health and Well-being

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict or noise—it is a state of inner harmony that grows when we learn to live with life as it is, rather than how we wish it to be. To truly know peace, we must also have known discord. It is often through life's moments of struggle, tension, and loss that we come to value stillness, acceptance, and grace.

In our fast-paced world, we can become preoccupied with organising tomorrow instead of fully inhabiting today. Yet, well-being begins in the present moment. When we slow down enough to notice what is before us—to breathe, to listen, to appreciate—we find that peace begins to emerge quietly within.

Life has its own rhythm, and peace comes from moving harmoniously with the flow of events rather than resisting them. Sometimes what we cling to is taken away, and though we may not understand why, life continues to unfold with purpose. Everything we hold is only borrowed—possessions, roles, even relationships—and the more freely we allow them to come and go, the lighter and more peaceful we become.

Inner peace grows when we develop a mindset of acceptance—acknowledging what we cannot change and responding with gentleness rather than frustration. This acceptance is not resignation but wisdom: it allows the heart to rest.

We also find peace by honouring the uniqueness of others. When we release the need to correct, control, or convince, we create space for genuine connection. In relationships, peace is rarely achieved by proving who is right or wrong; it blossoms when we make an offering of goodwill—when we choose reconciliation over division, listening over judgment, and forgiveness over resentment.

Forgiveness is one of the deepest gestures of peace we can make. It nourishes not only the one forgiven but also the one who forgives. It restores balance to the mind and heart, easing burdens that weigh heavily on well-being.

To live peace is to live gently—with ourselves, with others, and with the world. Every small act of kindness, every choice to pause before reacting, every moment of letting go is a step on the pathway of peace.

Make a gesture of peace today — toward yourself, toward another, or toward life itself — and notice how peace, once given, has a way of returning home to the heart ❤️

Practices for Peace in Advent

As we journey through Advent, we prepare not only for the coming of Christ but also for the deepening of peace within ourselves and our world. You might like to:

Pause daily for stillness. Take a few minutes each day to breathe deeply and rest your mind in quiet awareness.

Let something go. Choose one worry, resentment, or unnecessary task to release this week. Notice the lightness it brings.

Practice acceptance. When plans change or frustrations arise, respond with patience rather than resistance.

Listen without judging. Offer someone your full attention without needing to fix or correct them.

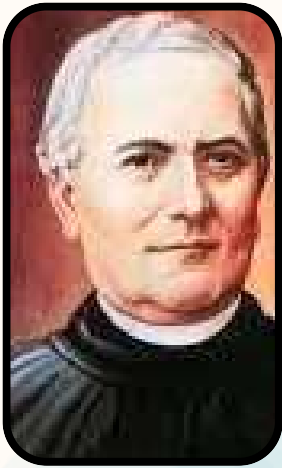
Make peace tangible. Write a note of forgiveness, mend a strained relationship, or perform a small act of kindness.

Simplify your surroundings. Create a peaceful corner in your home where you can sit, reflect, or light a candle.

Give thanks. Each evening, name three simple things that brought you calm or joy.

Advent invites us to wait with open hearts. In choosing peace—moment by moment—we prepare a dwelling place within for the One who is Peace.





Morning tea to mark the 118th death anniversary of *Fr. Jules Chevalier*

Today we commemorate the death of our MSC Founder, Fr Jules Chevalier. We could look at the events in his life, where he lived, how he lived. Such details are part of history.

Our more important task is to ask ourselves “What does being part of an MSC family and the world-wide larger Chevalier Family mean for each of us?”

Jules Chevalier’s life was centred on God’s love. Love for every human being, for the Church, for the poor, the marginalised, on those who didn’t know God’s love and mercy. Like us, Fr Chevalier lived in challenging times. France was still coming to terms with a post French Revolution society – with its many changes and challenges. Other countries in Europe were also facing enormous change. We are witnessing similar challenges in the world today, especially in Europe as well as in the ongoing disputes in the Middle East.

Chevalier emphasised God’s love. Whilst he had to live and function in a Church of ‘pray, pay and obey’ his spirituality was based on the fact that God so loved the world, He gave his only Son so that all who believed in Jesus could have eternal life.



Jules Chevalier msc

15 March 1824 - 21 October 1907

A Mission of Love — A Charism of Kindness



Rooted in the Gospels, Fr. Jules Chevalier msc, discovered a way of seeing Jesus that shaped a mission for all time:

To serve others as missionaries of Christ's love
Walking always in the way of love and kindness.

How did Fr Chevalier sustain this spirituality? He focused on God's love, care and compassion. He made God's love the centre of all that he did and believed. He preached the importance of Our Lady in all human relationships with God, with faith, with others, with understanding society and being part of it.



When he wanted to establish the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, his faith guided him to make a novena to Our Lady, asking for direction and reassurance that Heart Spirituality was part of God's plan. His prayers to Our Lady were answered in the form of an anonymous donation of money which enabled Fr Chevalier to proceed with developing a place to live and to be the centre for the ongoing development and growth of Heart Spirituality. As he had vowed, Fr Chevalier established the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We have recently become Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish – a special way of acknowledging and living our Heart Spirituality.

We are now challenged to follow in Fr Chevalier's footsteps and make the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved, forever. We are gifted to have our MSC priests, Fr Tru and Fr Chung, to lead the way.

As we live in such uncertain times with enormous change, unrest and social upheaval how do we take up the challenge to be on earth the Heart of God? We do it in the way we interact with each other, with our family and friends, with the world around us. We could feel somewhat overwhelmed by this but I think that we can be encouraged and guided by the words of the hymn written by Br James Maher MSC:

*Lead us to listen, to hear the Heart speak.
Oh God in the quiet voice, lead us to you.
Heighten our wisdom, enlighten our vision and
teach us to live and love as you do.*



Baptisms



We welcome into the SJA Community
Body of Christ.

The following children were baptised during the month of October:

Lucy Read

daughter of Jacobe and Sarah

Jamieson Russell-Farnham

son of Sarah

Niyah Reginaldo

daughter of Ren and Ebeny

Kaden Lauro

son of Chaddy and Leizl

Lachlan and Jesse Sep

sons of Christiaan and Nikki

Luka Depisol

son of Antony and Kaitlyn



.....
The annual Remembrance Mass
Saturday 15 November 2025 at 10:00am

Remembrance Mass • 15 November 2025

Margaret Bailey
Douglas Boer
Teresa Bond
Elaine Carter
Margaret Conlon
Helen Dodds
Michael Fallon msc
Mary French
Syouji Gozum
Marie Hill
Fay Hodgetts



Marcia Jasper
Alice Kurylowicz
Cesar Leon
Mary Moran
Chris Murphy msc
Valerie Patterson
Than Phan
Margaret Richardson
Sue Ringshaug
John Stefek
Waine Summerfield

Haiku

Beautiful dreamer
creating simple verses,
artful word building.

When we think deeply
using imagination
gems are created.

The red ladybird
resting on a rose petal
brings beauty alive.

The rolling ocean
making wonderful eddies,
evoking surprise.

A child's daisy chain
reflects the setting sunrays,
innocence revealed.

A peaceful donkey
eating a lump of sugar,
a thank you from Sam.

A fluffy chicken
newly emerged from its shell
graces our vision.

The sound of a plane
hurtling through the upper air
rumbles our eardrums.

The gentle raindrops
falling on the dry rooftops,
making soothing sounds.

The lightning flashes
and the loud thunder clapping
bring welcome rainfall.

Eamonn Murtagh

Our humble roles

An unseasoned player
on a theatrical stage
is often tempted
to go above and beyond the lines,
to overdeliver;
an experienced one
knows that the seed of the word
contains the tree.
And thus to grow, it simply
needs to be planted.

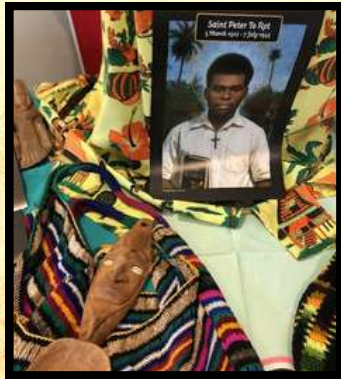
The apostles of Jesus
thought at first it was mostly up to
them,
just as we can think it's up to us.
But the Lord underscored
that faith the size of a mustard seed
is all we need to let God achieve
what seems impossible,
like telling a mulberry tree
to uproot itself
and resettle in the sea.

As unworthy servants,
we need only do our duty,
liberating us to play
our humble roles
without need of thanks or praise.

Shane Murtagh



BLESSED PETER TO ROT



Dear Brothers, Sisters, Lay Members, of the Chevalier Family this Sunday the universal church will rejoice in the canonisation of the Blistered Martyr, Peter To Rot, the first saint of Papua New Guinea, a lay catechist, formed in the faith by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. His life, offered in faith and love is the fruit of the Gospel sown by our MSC confreres in Papua New Guinea who, upon arriving in these islands of Oceania, discovered the seeds of the kingdom of God, finding the Heart of Jesus already beating in the heart of the Melanesian people.

Besides being a celebration for the whole church and especially for the church of Papua New Guinea, it is also a celebration to all of us as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. It is our celebration as well as for the entire Chevalier Family. In this future saint we contemplate the strength of the faith, the courage of a love that does not yield to fear and the authentic witness of a lay missionary, of a catechist who grew up in ordinary loyalty of daily life.

The Lay Members of the Chevalier family at the international level have already chosen him as their protector, whose light will inspire all those who share our charism, our spirituality, our mission in the world. I bid you from the bottom of my heart, I encourage you from the bottom of my heart to all our communities, parishes, Provinces, schools, Formation houses, all MSC Missions, all around the world to make your own this celebration as MSC and The Chevalier Family, to share and make known the history of our future Saint Martyr to remind us of his prophetic witness, take root in every community. In every house/community, in every chapel of our parishes, in every classroom in our schools, in all the houses of our parishioners, may the memory of the Martyr St Peter To Rot remain in our hearts and inspire new generations to live the Gospel with courage, tenderness and unwavering faith.

Excerpt taken from Fr. Abzalón Alvarado MSC, Superior General, before the canonisation of Blessed Peter To Rot

Full document found at: <https://misacor.org.au/item/31407-greetings-from-fr-abzalón-alvarado-msc-superior-general-before-the-canonisation-of-blessed-peter-to-rot>



Book Review

The Choke - Sofie Laguna

The Choke captures life in rural Victoria during the late 1960s, as a society still bearing the scars of war. Ten-year-old Justine, abandoned by her mother and rarely visited by her volatile father, is raised by her Pop, an old man haunted by memories of the Burma Railway. Growing up in a harsh, male-dominated world, she learns to make sense of life largely on her own. Her friendship with Michael, a disabled boy dismissed by others as “dumb,” offers her a glimpse of warmth and belonging.

Justine finds refuge among Pop’s chooks and at The Choke—a narrow bend of the Murray River where beauty and danger intertwine. Unaware of the darkness surrounding her father’s life, she must eventually face painful truths and choose her own way forward.

Haunting and compassionate, The Choke is a powerful portrait of a child navigating a world of violence, silence, and survival, where solace is found in nature and the fragile hope of love.

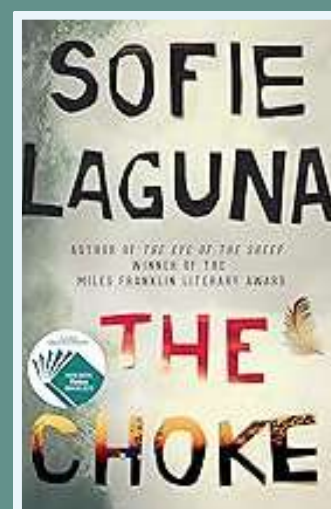


Image Source: Amazon

Sunday Afternoon Readers

Sunday Afternoon Readers will next be meeting in the Parish Library on Sunday 23rd November.

Contact Kirsty on kippax.finance@cg.org.au for more details.
All are welcome to come!



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 @Kippax

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: Altar Display for Blessed Peter To Rot, photo taken by Elizabeth McDonald
St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT * 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

NOT FOR RESALE OR REPRODUCTION

JOIN US **AT ST JOHN'S!**

**WOMEN'S
BREAKFAST
4TH TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH**



**FRIENDSHIP GROUP
LAST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH**



**MOVIE NIGHT
4TH FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH**



**PINS & NEEDLES
3RD MONDAY OF
THE MONTH**



**MENS GROUP
3RD FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH**



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



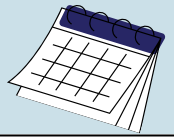
**BOOK CLUB
4TH SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH**



**YCS BELCONNEN
AFTER SUNDAY MASS 7PM-8PM
NOVEMBER 16TH 2025**



November 2025



1	Saturday	
2	Sunday	All Souls Day - Commemoration of the Faithful departed Pilgrimage walk from St John's to St Thomas' 11:00am BBQ lunch 12 noon
3	Monday	
4	Tuesday	
5	Wednesday	
6	Thursday	7:30pm Gethsemane Adoration 7:00pm Parish Finance Council meeting
7	Friday	1 st Friday - Mass of the Sacred Heart SJACare meeting 11:00am Meditation - Parish Library - 5:15pm
8	Saturday	
9	Sunday	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
10	Monday	
11	Tuesday	Remembrance Day Community Connections - Coffee Ichi Cafe Kippax 2:00pm
12	Wednesday	
13	Thursday	PPC Meeting 7:00pm
14	Friday	Meditation - Parish Library - 5:15pm
15	Saturday	
16	Sunday	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C Community Connections - Parish Library 3:00pm YCS Youth Group - Parish Centre 7:00pm
17	Monday	Pins & Needles - Parish Library 7:00pm
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	Sharon's Birthday
20	Thursday	
21	Friday	Meditation - Parish Library - 5:15pm Men's Group - Parish Centre 6:30pm Movie Night - Parish Library 7:00pm
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Year C Sunday Afternoon Readers Book Club - 3:00pm Parish Library
24	Monday	
25	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast - Bean Origin Cafe Belconnen 7:30am
26	Wednesday	Friendship Group - Christmas gathering 10:15am Parish Centre
27	Thursday	Liturgy Meeting 7:00pm
28	Friday	Anointing of the sick - after mass Meditation - Parish Library - 5:15pm End of Year - Ministry thank you mass 6:15pm and dinner following the mass
29	Saturday	Retreat - St Thomas' 2:00pm concluding with 6:00pm mass
30	Sunday	First Sunday of Advent - Year A Retreat - St John's 2:00pm concluding with 6:00pm mass