



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT @ Kippax



“Where God is born, hope is born.
Where God is born, peace is born”.

Pope Francis

To the SJA Parish Community

This year has presented all of us with challenges unlike those we have experienced in the past. As we approach the season of Christmas and look with hope toward a new year, we would like to thank all of you for your understanding and encouragement throughout this year.

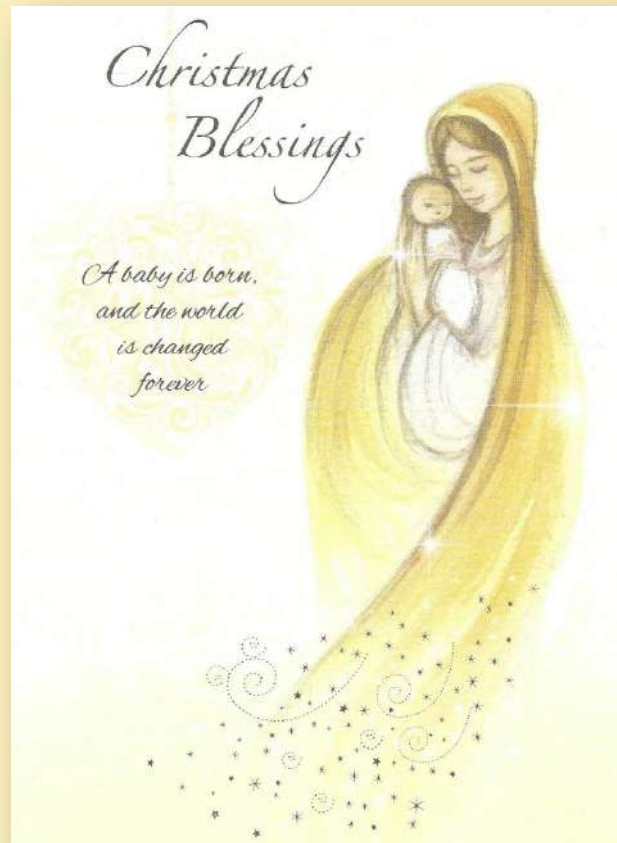
Our special thanks goes to the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and the Liturgy Team for their guidance and support as we navigated a difficult year. We would also like to acknowledge all parishioners who have contributed their time and talent through the different ministries and groups within the parish and to all of you for your continued financial support throughout the year.

This year, we also acknowledge the work of Eóin (our Youth Minister) and all those who have been part of the youth group and the families who have supported them.

We wish you and all your loved ones a holy and happy Christmas and may your experience of 2021 be illuminated by Christ's guiding light and love.

With love, gratitude and every Christmas Blessing!

Kimí msc, Michael msc, Marian, Sharon G., Sharon L. & Eóin.





Christmas messages

Carl Madsen

CHAIR OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Happy Christmas everyone. My favourite title for welcoming Christmas each year is "Emmanuel – God is with Us". God is indeed with us and as we welcome him again it is good to remember that He has already welcomed us with open arms and ready to embrace.

This year has been challenging and unprecedented. However, my experience has also been of much blessings and I am so grateful for what the Lord does in the quiet moments of life to draw us deeper in identity and purpose when we make room for Him in our hearts. It seems that amidst all the worldly challenges there is a deeper grace going on. For all of us, the Holy Spirit working to make the paths straight and bringing us back to our foundations.

When I look at the wonderful people going to Communion at Mass what I see is God's Love for them and their love for God. It reminds me that even just being hungry for God is a blessing. By grace we become shining lights in the darkness, given for the sake of the world around us. What amazing grace and healing we have in the Eucharist. So much to be joyful about.

I hope that we can all feel the Joy this year that is available to us at Christmas. I also want to say thanks to all at St John's for the willing participation, loving service, and wonderful witness of so many. Now is the time to celebrate God's goodness.

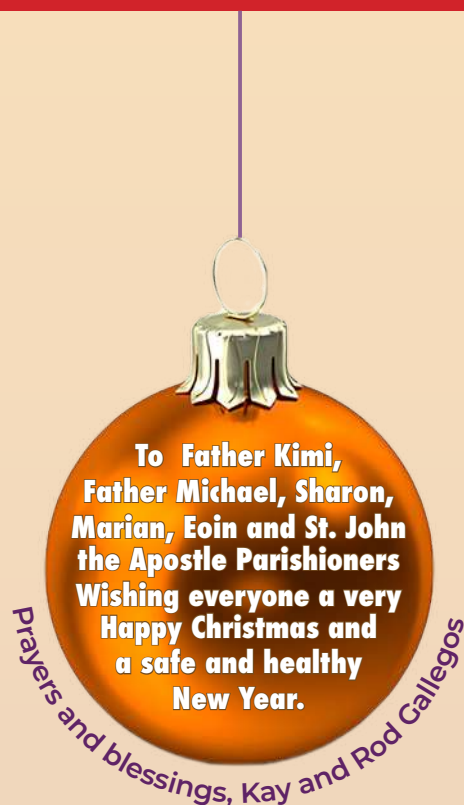
*Jesus is the
reason for this
Season*
With blessings, peace and love - Pauline and Robert Greig

*Wishing Fr. KIMI
Fr. MICHAEL and Ms Marian
a blessed Christmas and
a happy new year 2021.
Thank you for
your kindness
and care.*
From Janet and Raymond Woon and Joanne, David and Sammy Graham

Love, thanks and a holy Christmas

- Violet and Jean, we love you and we miss you.
- Thanks to the wonderful people who clean the church and care for the lovely garden.
- Thanks to all who contribute in so many areas in St John's; know that Shane and I pray for you all daily, especially for the sad, the lonely, those with incurable diseases, those with mental disease and with different kinds of disability.
- Please remember those confined to their homes, those who have lost loved ones – our love reaches out to you.
- From our hearts, we thank the few beautiful people who reach out to us.
- We extend our love to Marian, Sharon, Mariana & our great priests, including Fr Gerry, whom we will always remember.
- We also love Greta and want her back.
- Love to you all – you angels know who you are.
- Thank God for St John's. You who can, try a little harder to say "Thanks" and to reach out to those who need help.
- Thank God for my darling Eamonn who, with me, were always there for people with an open door always ready to share. And now I have Shane.
- Thank you, God.

**Love, thanks and a holy Christmas
to all from Philomena, Eamonn &
Shane Murtagh**



It is time to count our blessings

Dear friends, the birth of Christ is a sign of the Mercy of the Father and a promise of joy to us all. His message shines upon our wounded world, to console the afflicted, the oppressed, and to bring about conversion to hearts, especially those full of anger and hatred. Christmas is a season of enjoying the simple things that make life beautiful. May you have great memories that will permanently touch your Heart. The true meaning of Christmas is giving and sharing the love and reaching out to those who have touched our lives. It is a time to count our blessings and be grateful for them. You have touched my life in so many ways, and I thank you for being a wonderful friend. Your friendship and your love is the best Christmas gift that I've ever received. I am wishing you and your family health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New Year. So once again I would like to wish you all a very blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

**With Blessings,
Michael Stephan MSC**

Christmas Greetings from Moruya

Dear Fr Gerry, Marian, Sharon and all Friends of the Parish.

Yes, it has been more than 3 years since we left the flock of Kippax and a lot of water and events have passed under the bridge. The retirement village was a total flop for us and we managed to resettle in Moruya after many ups and down, more downs than ups, but 5 weeks ago we both sat on our rear deck, looking at all the trees and the birds flying past and concluded, that we were in paradise, best living space we have ever enjoyed, however, fate did not allow us to gloat too long.

After many years, including our time at Kippax, both Clare and I have battled with her demons, dementia, but finally she has succumbed to it and has already spent 3 weeks in permanent care. She has settled in well and is enticed to do exercises and community games etc. and this was something that she did not do at home.

She had it all over me and I gladly endured, NOT suffered, this caper. Had it not been for our family looking in from the outside and noticing how it started to affect me without my realisation of my plight, apart from losing weight (now 65 kg) it appeared not to be a problem.

However, they painted me into a corner and hence, Clare is now in care and looking at her, she appears to be at least 5 years younger and more relaxed. For me, it has been a real separation pain and it is still hurting badly.

Luckily, I have my workshop reinstalled and am active in painting, not the town, but my watercolours. Managed to get a group of budding artists together and meet once a week and it is a very welcome diversion.

I went to the parish BarBQue last night and managed to relate the grizzly bear storey with much appreciation and brought a lemon meringue pie along that stunned the country folks. Yes, I still do a lot of baking using my Dutch recipes.

Anyhow, that is enough sadness and pain, I hope that you all are well and that you will have a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

These season's greetings are for all who remember us. May God bless you all and with much affection, again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All.

Bert and on behalf of Clare

Bert and Clare Broekhuysen
48 Evans Street, Moruya 2537
Ph. 4403 3752

SJAcare



The SJA Care group wish everyone a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.

2020 has been full of challenge; restrictions have meant isolation, loneliness, and anxiety. Visiting has been limited and has affected those who are housebound and also the team of visitors and ministers of Communion.

We look forward to more contact in 2021, to resume visiting and support, to continue:

- Pastoral visits and/ or Holy Communion to the sick and housebound, to the nursing homes and to anyone going through difficult times.
- Befriending those who are living alone.
- Short term meals where required.
- Support to those bereaved, before and after the funeral and in the weeks and months to follow.

The number of volunteers has declined so we welcome new people to our visiting team. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to be involved in any of the above. We will then contact you.

Phone 6254 3236 ● **Email** kippax@cg.org.au

Like a sage

One day I knew not what to write
and then my silver pen took flight!

Off she went across the white page,
inscribing maxims like a sage.

All females are icons of God,
words to which I could only nod.

The heart knows what the head cannot;
sensitivity is your lot.

You must forgo power and wealth;
spiritual peace is your health.

Then of a sudden she came back,
leading me down another track.

One can only flourish by grace
on this voyage through time and space.

Mary's soul was pierced by a sword;
so must yours to be with our Lord.

The Spirit hovers like a dove;
call Her down so that you can love.

And with such unprompted wisdom,
my pen left me in God's kingdom.

Shane Murtagh

First Defenders Wear Fur Coats

This year of lockdown has produced some interesting events and documents for me.

My mother died a few years ago and my twin sister (I was one of eight children) has continued to live in our family home in north east England. During the lock down she has been sorting through the various letters, documents and photographs my mother has stored away and has come up with some interesting pieces of information about my parents.

My mother volunteered early in WW2 for the ATS (she said she could see conscription of women coming and she wanted to get in before all the best jobs had gone). Among the jobs she did was cook (Including for the officers mess), driver of heavy vehicles and searchlight operator. As a searchlight operator she was stationed in Cambridgeshire near Ely. This station was part of a ring of searchlights around London which constituted the first line of defence against German bombers.

One of the photos my sister found was of a searchlight crew (All Women, the men had gone to reinforce the regiments in North Africa) all wearing some very glamorous fur coats. Apparently the ladies of the area on hearing that their first defenders were all freezing at night had donated their fur coats to them. It made me wonder if the ordinary everyday Australians had any metaphorical fur coats we could donate to our first defenders against this horrible virus.

Janet Almond

Time out for reflection

The Incarnation

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.

1 Cor. 12:27

Today, as it was two thousand years ago, Christ wants to enter this world. It is for this that the Holy Spirit is sent from the throne of the Father and of the Son. It was for this that on the cross Christ broke down the fences and walls – so that he may be embodied anew among people: the church [Eph. 2:14-16].

The living Word once took on flesh in Mary's son. The eternal, living Word – Christ – now takes on a new body in the church. Therefore, the apostle Paul said that a mystery was entrusted to him, which he calls the body of Christ [Col. 1:24-26].

The fact that the church is the body of Christ means that he becomes visible and real in the world.

Thus in his letter to the Colossians, Paul speaks of “the mystery” of the body of Christ, “which is Christ in you,” and refers to the expectation of Christ's

future coming-the “hope of glory” [Col. 1:27].

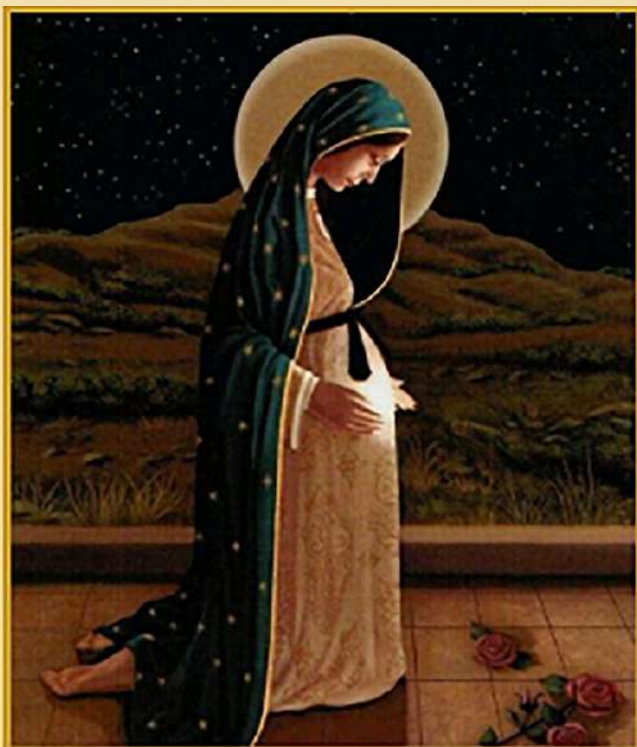
The “hope” is the expectation, the assurance of a completely new order. And by “glory” Paul means Christ's majesty in his accession to the throne. This is the glory: that God in Christ really rules over all things. All political, social, educational, and all human problems are solved in a concrete way whenever Christ rules.

**What is needed is action,
not theology.**

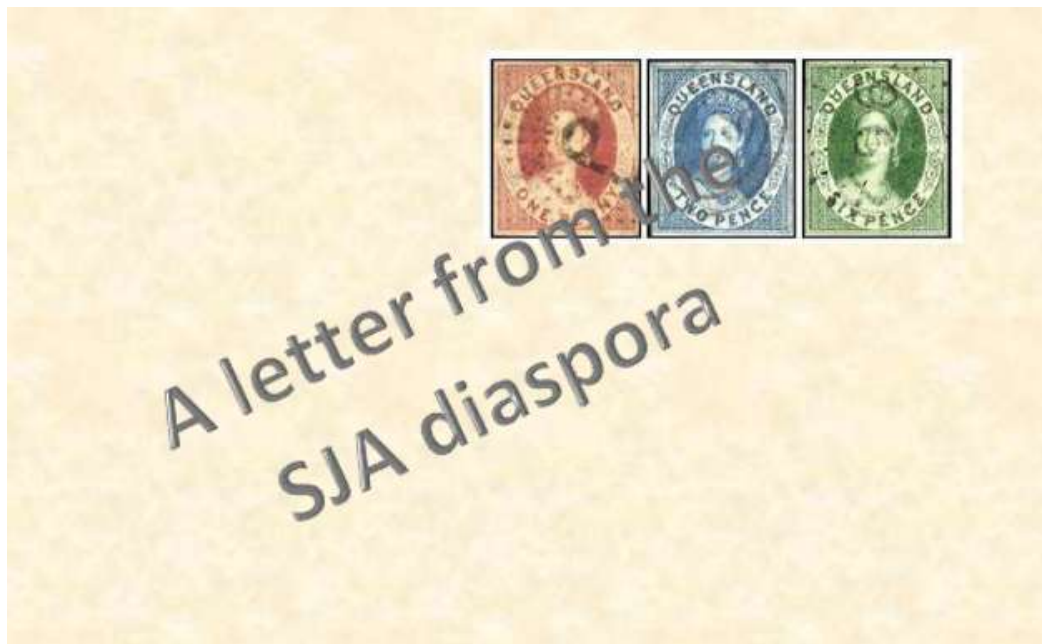
There is a reason why talk about the future coming of Christ fades away in people's ears today. What is needed is action, not theology. Something must be established, something must be created and formed so that no one can simply pass off the reality of Christ's incarnation. This is the embodiment, the corporeality of Christ – the church.

Just as Christ was in Mary, so Christ wants to live in us who believe and love. If Christ is real in us, then we will live in accordance with and reflect the character of God's future. This is not something moralistic or legalistic; it is something organic. It takes place now, through Christ in the church. The future kingdom receives form in the church.

For this reason the church must represent now God's peace and justice in our world. This is why it must be free of all actions by which human individuals are made great. This is why it cannot shed blood or tolerate private property. This is why the church cannot lie or take an oath. This is why it cannot tolerate the destruction of bridal purity and of faithfulness in the marriage of two people. This is why it lives as simply as possible in order to help as many people as possible. This is why the church expends all its life and energy to make room for God to bring everything under God's rule.



Eberhard Arnold [1883-1935]. *When the Time was fulfilled: Christmas Meditations*. Plough Publishing, NY.



Brisbane Queensland
1 November 2020

Good morning Marian

I hope you're well. Helen Kennedy just forwarded the October Kit which looks amazing. Congratulations to you and your team on a reflective and informative newsletter.

Helen and the prayer group keep me up-to-date on Kippax happenings and it's great to see the parish thriving, among the turmoil that is 2020. I will always feel part of the Kippax parish community.

Can you believe it's coming up 10 years since our beautiful Terry left us?! He's always in our hearts and, unsurprisingly, often in our thoughts and conversations. I miss his smile and hearty laugh!

I've settled very well in Brisbane, surrounded by family, old and new friends. I have a ground floor apartment, with the most amazing outdoor area, with gardens I'm gradually reviving. I live in Morningside, about 7Kms from the city and 10kms from Manly, where our son Dom and family live. The time was right for a city-change! I transferred my Rotary membership to Brisbane and am a member of an active community focused group. I am grateful I relocated while I had the energy and, more important, in control of my decisions.

I wish you and the Parish community a peace-filled Christmas.

Kind regards
Carmel Martin

HEARTS IN ACTION



Our companion families and the members of St John the Apostle Conference wish all parishioners a very happy and blessed Christmas. Thank you for your generosity throughout 2020. In a year like no other, you have made a difference by giving people hope and sharing love, joy and peace.

SJA Vinnies Conference members.

Thank you.



Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas.



If you would like more information about Vinnies Conference work in our community please contact Mike at michael.blyth@fourszenes.com.au or 0419 818 410

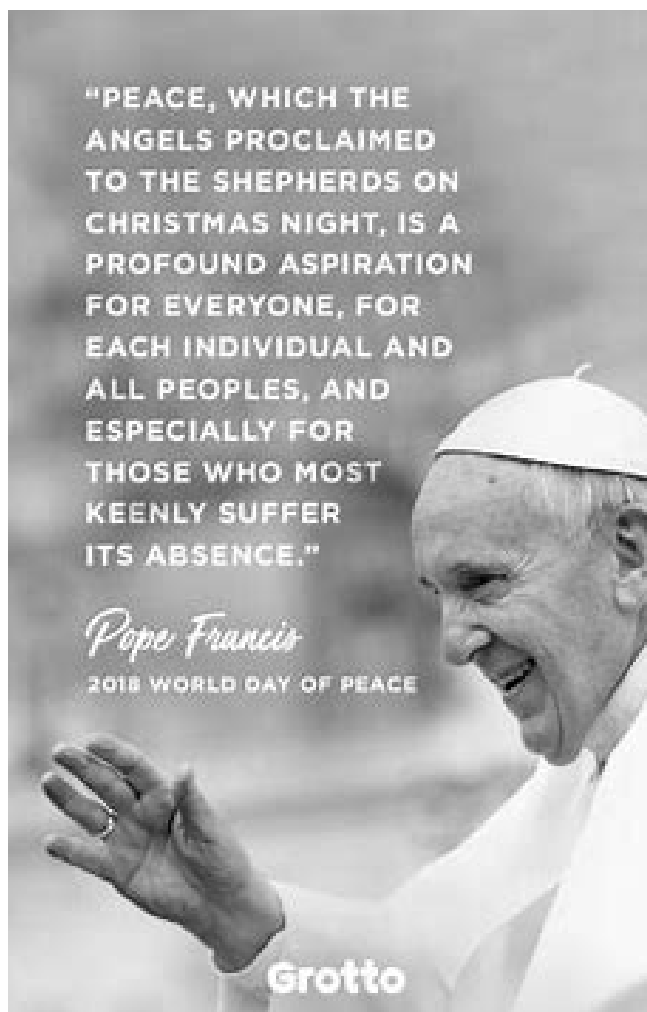
Social Justice News

JANUARY CALENDAR

1 Jan	World Day of Peace
3 Jan	Anniversary of the First loans offered by Grameen Bank
4 Jan	World Braille Day
24 Jan	January International Day of Education
27 Jan	World Leprosy Day

1 JAN World Day of Peace

Every year on January 1, the Pope marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace.



"I'm encouraging young people to become social business entrepreneurs and contribute to the world, rather than just making money. Making money is no fun. Contributing to and changing the world is a lot more fun."

Muhammad Yunus

intelligentHQ

3 JAN Anniversary of the First loans offered by Grameen Bank

Grameen Bank is a microfinance organisation and community development bank founded in Bangladesh. It makes small loans (known as microcredit) to the impoverished without requiring collateral. It created a banking system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity.

The origin of Grameen Bank can be traced back to 1976 when Professor Muhammad Yunus, of the University of Chittagong, launched a project to examine the possibility of designing a credit delivery system to provide banking services targeted at the rural poor. The Grameen Bank Project (Grameen means "rural" or "village") came into operation with the following objectives:

- extend banking facilities to poor men and women;
- eliminate the exploitation of the poor by money lenders;
- create opportunities for self-employment for the vast multitude of unemployed people in rural Bangladesh;
- bring the disadvantaged, mostly the women from the poorest households, within the fold of an organisational format which they can understand and manage by themselves; and
- reverse the age-old vicious circle of "low income, low saving & low investment", into "low income, injection of credit, investment, more income, more savings, more investment, more income".

Professor Muhammad Yunus won a Nobel Peace Prize for this work in 1996.

4 JAN World Braille Day

This day, the birthday of Louis Braille, was officially designated by the UN General Assembly. Its aim is to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind people. By enabling them to participate in society, pursue educational opportunities, attain commensurate employment, and enjoy the many activities of everyday life.

24 JAN January International Day of Education

The United Nations recognises that education is essential for the success of its Sustainable Development Goals and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for everyone by 2030.

In Australia, education is something we take for granted, but in many countries, particularly in Africa, many children do not get the opportunity to go to school. Many of these are girls or children living conflict-affected areas. Education plays very important role in eradicating poverty and providing livelihood through employment, developing skills, economical and social development, and raising living standards.

Lack of access to education is a major predictor of passing poverty from one generation to the next, and receiving an education is one of the top ways to achieve financial stability.

27 JAN World Leprosy Day

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease, has struck fear into human beings for thousands of years, and was well-recognised in early civilisations. There are many accounts of Jesus healing lepers in His time, and there are accounts of leprosy in the Old Testament as well.

Leprosy affects people physically, but it can also destroy their psychological health and ability to be part of the community because of the stigma associated with the disease.

To conceal their leprosy, people can avoid seeking medical help or interacting with other people. This can result in unemployment, depression, a worsening

of their condition including permanent disability, and these then intensify the stigma.

Even when people affected by leprosy are cured, people may be unable to reintegrate into their families, marriages, jobs and wider communities. In one study in Nepal, a third of leprosy patients were abandoned by their spouses. Community awareness, advocacy and counselling can help address stigma and are an integral part of tackling leprosy.

The young woman in the photo, Munia, had leprosy, and was:

- Set on fire by uncles who feared leprosy
- Chased from her home by knife-wielding villagers
- Forced to flee for her life and sleep in a train station.

A beggar took her to the Leprosy Mission where she received treatment and was cured. After surgery on her disfigured hands, she learned how to do beautiful embroidery. She is unable to return to her village but is now able to live independently.

India and Nepal account for over half of the world's cases of leprosy. No country is immune however, and Australia still has cases reported every year. The poor are disproportionately affected, and in Australia most cases have occurred in the indigenous population. In the 1950's, leprosy affected as many as ten percent of indigenous Australians in some regions. These sufferers were often subject to terrible mistreatment and segregation.

While the disease no longer presents a serious health threat here because treatment is readily available, our near neighbours Papua New Guinea and Timore-Leste do not have such strong health systems and leprosy still presents challenges.

There are many social justice issues currently not being addressed by the parish community because we no longer have a committee. If anyone is interested in meeting every few months, please contact us.

For more information on social justice issues, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council's website: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> contains a large amount of information in the form of statements, monthly briefings & leaflets.

Contacts

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Thank you for all you
have contributed in 2020,
we look forward to
receiving your contributions
in 2021



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NOT FOR RESALE

Thanks be to God
for his indescribable gift!

2 Cor. 9:15

