



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT@Kippax

KIT Christmas Cards

Parishioners are invited
to send in their Christmas messages
and wishes for 2021 for the December KIT.

Please email your greetings into
kippax@cg.org.au by 10 December 2020.

Looking forward to receiving
your Christmas messages!

PS: If you want to include an image you must send it as a JPEG/BMP file, not embedded in a word document.

Time out for reflection

The Eve of Advent

In the past God spoke....through the prophets at many times and in various ways.

Hebrews 1:1

Advent is a time in which we share in the longing of all those who lived in the distant past. We must feel how, in their suffering and struggle, they too longed for redemption and liberation, for unity, for peace, for a golden age. They waited for a manifestation of God's love and unity, for a breaking in of his justice among the nations. We must learn to put ourselves in the place of all those in Israel who were waiting for him who was to come. This One who was to free them from their need and disruption, from sin, from their lack of fellowship, from their lost condition, so that they might come to God.

This faithful, eager longing expects still more from the One who is to come. We are convinced that there is One who will create peace and social justice for everyone. We expect him and thus long with a humble spirit that his rulership is recognised in every country. And when this happens, he will turn bloody weapons into tools for work, and we shall become true brothers and sisters. The Messiah-King of peace and justice, the world ruler of love and joy will reign! This is the expectation of old, and this is what we think of when we approach the season of Jesus' birth.

Like the prophets of old, we too need to feel the outrageous injustice that exists within society today and how heavy a burden this is. Injustice ought to stir our hearts; the lack of peace in a world bristling with weapons should haunt us. Disunity exists not only among nations, but also in the midst of every nation. There are far too many unjust governments today. A grave evil results when all our honest labour is supplanted by factories and modern technology.



The workers are like living corpses who have no influence on the shaping of the economy, even though it is from their hands that all the things come which are enjoyed and distributed and sold.

Dissensions between classes, races, and ethnic groups continue to erupt, and in large cities and industrial centres violence floods the streets – a civil war, a war between brothers. Lovelessness is so great today that on the one side people have their nice homes and secure livelihoods, while on the other side parents lay their children on the counter at the welfare centre for all to see. Some live so well while millions are on the way to perpetual poverty. Let us remember what Jesus said about the end of the age: Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most people will grow cold, and then the end will come.

Advent is a time when we await God's intervention in the need of the present day, as he intervened then in Jesus' birth. We long for the highest power to rescue this unhappy, torn humanity that knows so little community. Now is the time to ask God for a radical change in all things, even if this means we must go through judgement.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES – TryBooking Links

THURSDAY 24 December – 5:00pm Family Mass <https://www.trybooking.com/BMXND>

THURSDAY 24 December – 7:00pm Family Mass <https://www.trybooking.com/BMXNI>

THURSDAY 24 December – 9:00pm Youth Mass <https://www.trybooking.com/BMXNJ>

THURSDAY 24 December – Midnight Mass (Carols at 11:30pm) <https://www.trybooking.com/BMXNM>

FRIDAY 25 December – 9:00am Mass [currently at 100 capacity] <https://www.trybooking.com/BMXNO>

These links will close on Friday 4 December at 5:00pm after this date we will inform parishioners of any Government changes to physical distancing rules which may increase the numbers we can have in the church.

HEARTS IN ACTION

Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2020



The weekend of 28 and 29 November is the commencement of Advent and the launch of the Vinnies 2020 Christmas Appeal at St John the Apostle Kippax.

There are many ways that you can help make Christmas a joyful celebration for families in our community that are struggling financially or emotionally at this time of the year:

- You can donate food items for Christmas hampers
- You can buy a gift for a child
- You can help deliver hampers
- You can make a financial donation to our Christmas Appeal.

Food gift cards will be available after each Mass on 28 and 29 November and 5 and 6 December.

Your donations of food and gifts can be left in the boxes near the Christmas tree or at the Parish Office by **Sunday 13 December**.

Gift cards will be on the Christmas Tree on 28 and 29 November and 5 and 6 December. Your gift should be returned unwrapped or placed in a gift bag with the gift tag from the Christmas tree attached showing the child's name.

Please return the gift by Sunday 13 December.

My Food Gift Cards

Six different food gift cards will be available.

Each card has a list of non-perishable food items for you to buy. Feel free to take as many different cards as you like.

We will gladly accept other non-perishable food items as well. If you are unable to get to the church to pick up a couple of food gift cards, the preferred items are:

Jar of jam
Jar of coffee
Large packet of chips

Jar of pasta sauce
Breakfast cereal
Chocolates

Packet of lollies
Cans of spaghetti and baked beans
Small Christmas pudding

Can of Milo or similar
Packet of sweet biscuits **OR** shortbread
Box of Christmas bon-bons

Packet of nuts
Packet of pasta – spaghetti, penne **OR** rice
Tinned fruit

Box of tea bags
Packet of savoury biscuits
Bottle of cordial **OR** fruit juice

Christmas Gift Cards

Gift cards for children will be hanging on the Christmas tree. Each card includes the name and age of the child and their interests to guide you when selecting a gift. There may be some adult gift tags (toiletries etc) as well. Please take only one gift card so that all those wanting to buy a gift can do so.

More information can be obtained from Mike at michael.blyth@fourszenes.com.au or 0419 818 410



HEARTS IN ACTION



Hamper delivery

Hampers will be delivered on Saturday morning 19 December

Hamper delivery will be subject to COVID-19 safety precautions as prescribed by Vinnies and the St John the Apostle Parish. It will be different to previous years. If you would like to help with delivery, please contact a Vinnies member in the foyer after Mass and add your name, contact details and preferred delivery time and suburb to the delivery sign-on sheet. Alternatively, contact Mike Blyth and let him know your contact details and delivery preferences.

Financial donations

You can help needy families at Christmas by making a financial donation as you leave the Church on Saturday 5 December or Sunday 6 December.

Your donations will help us to pay for supermarket gift cards which will be included in the hampers so that families can buy perishable items for their Christmas meals. Envelopes are available for credit card donations and a receipt for cash donations can be provided. You can donate online at: www.vinnies.org.au or phone 13 18 12. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be left at the Parish Office during business hours Monday to Friday.

Thank You and Merry Christmas

Your generosity brings the joy and happiness of Christmas to struggling families in our community. Your love and support give them hope, and they are most grateful. On their behalf, we wish you a joyful Christmas.

This year your gifts will help us provide hampers for about 50 families including more than 80 children.



SCAN TO GIVE

Donate now to support the 2020 Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Use a camera phone to scan the QR Code above. If you're unsure how to use a QR Code, you can also go to donate.vinnies.org.au/

 **Vinnies**
good works

KIT Quiz 1 Belconnen

- 1 Belconnen was the name of the 800-hectare land grant made to which colonial inland explorer?
- 2 The Ngunnawal word meaning 'throwing little rays of light' is the name given to which creek?
- 3 Into which river does the creek in question 2 flow?
- 4 The first shopping development in Belconnen is named after which First Fleet surgeon?
- 5 Having streets named after Aboriginal tribal groups, what name was given to the first Belconnen suburb?
- 6 Which valley derives its name from the Aboriginal expression meaning 'the sound of thunder'?
- 7 The manager of 'Emu Bank Station' is remembered in the name of which Belconnen office complex?
- 8 What are the names of the two suburbs that will form the West Belconnen/Parkwood cross-border development?
- 9 Dr Jan Lhotsky wrote an account of his 1834-1835 travels from Sydney to which alpine range?
- 10 Intersecting with Ginninderra Drive, which Charnwood roadway commemorates a couple prominent in the formation of the ANU and the Canberra community?
- 11 Lieutenant General James Gordon Legge leased this farm under the post WWI 'Soldier Settlement Scheme'. He named it after the school he attended in England. What school in Belconnen shares the same name?
- 12 Which shopping Centre is named after a sportsman who, like his schoolboy idol, 'rolled his sleeves between wrist and elbow'?
- 13 The streets of which Belconnen two suburbs bear the names of presiders of the court?
- 14 The streets of Hawker have a naming theme of pastoral stations from which territory?
- 15 Which area of Belconnen celebrates scientific endeavour?
- 16 Which suburb is named after a President of the United Nations General Assembly?
- 17 What is preserved in the volcanic tuff on the banks of Ginninderra Creek in Latham?
- 18 Which Belconnen bakery recently wished a Michelin star chef 'welcome home'?
- 19 Where would one find an elephant in Belconnen?
- 20 Which suburb, with streets commemorating notable women, was named for two notable men?

What & where are these Belconnen landmarks?



ANSWERS 1 Charles Sturt 2 Ginninderra 3 Murrumbidgee 4 Jamison Centre 5 Aranda 6 Molonglo Valley 7 Cameron Offices 8 Strathnairn & Macnamara 9 Australian Alps 10 Tillyard 11 Cranleigh School 12 Kippax Centre 13 Higgins, Latham 14 Northern Territory 15 Florey 16 Evatt 17 Indigenous stone grinding grooves 18 Spence 19 Cambodian Community Buddhist Temple, Scullin 20 Cook



Social Justice News

DECEMBER CALENDAR

1 Dec	Anniversary of the first raising of West Papua's Morning Star Flag
2 Dec	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 Dec	International Day of People with Disabilities
5 Dec	World Soil Day
9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 Dec	International Human Rights Day

1 DEC Anniversary of the first raising of West Papua's symbol of independence, the Morning Star Flag

December 1 is the anniversary of West Papua's independence. On this day in 1961 West Papuans were granted their freedom by the Dutch – they raised a new national flag and sang a new national anthem. A year later Indonesia launched a colonial invasion, and managed to annex the fledgling nation. Since then tens of thousands of civilians – nearly 10 percent of the population -have been killed.

The separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM) was set up in the mid-1960s in response, and an armed struggle has persisted on and off in the decades since. Raising the West Papua flag is one of the key forms of resistance to Indonesia's occupation, but it is considered a crime to fly it.

The region has wealthy deposits of gold, copper and timber, but the villagers have been routinely uprooted from their homes and some have had to work as forced labour. Access to education is minimal. 42 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS has exploded.

The vast majority of Papuans are Christians and their faith sustains them in their resistance to Indonesian occupation, with many public acts of resistance taking the form of prayer gatherings. Just several weeks ago, the Indonesian Army shot two Catholic catechists, killing one, because they were suspected of belonging to a separatist movement. This was disputed by the local priest.



In 2017 more than 1.8 million West Papuan people signed the West Papuan People's Petition to the United Nations calling for a vote on independence.

"It's worth noting that, as much as their faith strengthens Papuans in their struggle, Indonesian soldiers and police often respond by denigrating and mocking their Christianity," said Peter Arndt, executive officer of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane since 2001. Over the last three years, he has travelled several times to West Papua and the Pacific as part of his commitment to deepening solidarity with marginalised and oppressed peoples.

3 DEC International Day of People with Disabilities

The theme for this year is Not all Disabilities are Visible and focuses on spreading awareness and understanding of disabilities that are not immediately apparent, such as:

- mental illness,
- chronic pain or fatigue,
- sight or hearing impairments,
- diabetes,
- brain injuries,
- neurological disorders,
- learning differences
- and cognitive dysfunctions.

According to the WHO World Report on Disability, 15 per cent of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, are living with disability. Of this number, it's estimated 450 million are living with a mental or neurological condition— and two-thirds of these people will not seek professional medical help, largely due to stigma, discrimination and neglect.

December 3 is an annual occasion designated to join together to support people with disability in our communities, and raise awareness of the importance of creating a future where people with disabilities experience equal opportunity and face no barriers in all aspects of their lives.

9 DEC International Anti Corruption Day

Corruption is a serious crime that can negatively affect the social and economic development in any country, and no country is immune to this crime. International Anti-Corruption Day, held every December 9 each year, focuses on how corruption negatively affects education, health, justice, democracy, prosperity, and development of a society. While both poor and rich countries suffer from corruption, the sad thing about it is that it hurts poor people more. The people engaged in corruptive practices make money at the expense of the poor, who have no means to change the balance of power. As a result, corruption leads to worsened poverty rates, instability, and civil unrest.

This year's theme is Recover with Integrity. The United Nations has established the COVID-19 Anti-Corruption Response and Recovery Project, which is particularly relevant during the health emergency created by the crisis, which has existing corruption vulnerabilities worse, especially in the health sector.

UN chief António Guterres warned that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are falling "disproportionately on the most vulnerable: people living in poverty, the working poor, women and children, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups".

Addressing the US General Assembly, Pope Francis urged that the poor and weakest members of society should get preferential treatment when a vaccine for the coronavirus is ready. "If anyone should be given preference, let it be the poorest, the most vulnerable, those who so often experience discrimination because they have neither power nor economic resources," he said.



10 DEC International Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December every year. It is traditionally the day that the five-yearly United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights and Nobel Peace Prize are awarded.

The 2020 theme Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights focuses on the need to ensure human rights are central to recovery efforts from COVID-19. It is an opportunity to address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and to tackle entrenched inequalities and discrimination.



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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Rotary Ginninderra Recognises Star Secretary



The Rotary Club of Ginninderra has awarded Sharon Greaves one of the five Vocational Excellence Awards for 2020 at their award night on Tuesday 17 November at the Belconnen Raider's Club with a dinner. Sharon was there with her husband Geoff, children Lucas and Nicola and her daughter in law Baylee and Fr Michael.

The vocational excellence award goes to local people who have demonstrated high levels of work skills that have made a significant contribution to their local community.

During this year when COVID-19 concerns were extremely high Sharon undertook additional work to ensure that the Parish Team and parishioners were kept up to date with COVID policies and restrictions.

Sharon on behalf of the parish community we thank you for all that you continue to do for our parish.

Sabina Van Rooy

MEMBER OF THE ROTARY CLUB
OF GINNINDERRA

Rotary Club of Ginninderra, ACT

Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence

Sharon Greaves

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH KIPPAX

The Rotary Club of Ginninderra, as a member club of Rotary International, is pleased to recognise individuals who have contributed to the community through their dedication and achievement of excellence in their chosen vocation.

Presentation of this Rotary Award to Sharon Greaves is in recognition of her high quality work, and her deep commitment to the parish of St John the Apostle Kippax over the past decade as parish secretary. Sharon is a valued member of the Pastoral Team which includes Pastor, Assistant Pastor and Parish Pastoral Associate/Parish Manager. Her professional approach to her role has greatly assisted overseas Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) priests in their appointment to St John's.

Sharon has worked closely with parishioners, parish committees, the MSC Religious Order, Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn, and the ACT and Federal Governments regarding child protection and many other government requirements. She is the face of the parish when people visit the parish office, and is the friendly voice on the phone when assistance is needed during difficult times – the passing of a family member or friend. She strongly believes in the need for opportunities for parish members to be involved in the parish work, and prepares the weekly COMPACT Bulletin and weekend Ministry rosters.

During 2020 Sharon made sure that the office received the latest information regarding COVID restrictions that affected the parish. She often worked additional hours to confirm that the required procedures were completed, and that the Sunday Mass was uploaded on YouTube, and sent out on Saturday evening for parishioners to view.

It is with great pleasure that the Rotary Club of Ginninderra recognises Sharon with this Rotary Vocational Excellence Award.

Ravi Sood
VOCATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Bill Wattam
PRESIDENT

17 November 2020



WE NEED YOUR VOICE AND MUSICAL TALENTS

We invite everyone who is interested in participating
in the music ministry to contact the parish office
or Joan Breen the Music Ministry Coordinator

MOBILE 0418 464 727

EMAIL robjoanbreen@optusnet.com.au

Liturgical Music

Music is a gift of God and part of the created order.

Human music-making participates in the music of creation and reflects the order, beauty, and diversity of God's creation.

God as Creator is the source of both our song and our human bodies. In addition, this same creative God is present in a particular way when our bodies serve as instruments of his praise.

God bestowed upon his people the gift of song.
God dwells within each human person, in the
place where music takes its source.
God, the giver of song, is present whenever
his people sing his praises. [STL]

Music is integral to the celebration of the liturgy.

Music is not an option – we do not sing at the liturgy,
we sing the liturgy!

Liturgical music is ministerial, it serves the liturgy.

Music should never dominate or distract from the liturgical action. It never stands on its own; rather it serves the ritual.



THE ALTO'S LAMENT

It's tough to be an alto
when you're singing in the choir.
The sopranos get the twiddly bits
the people all admire.
The basses boom like loud trombones,
the tenors shout with glee –
But the alto part is on two notes
or (if you're lucky) three.

And when we sing an anthem
and we lift our hearts in praises
the men get all the juicy bits
and telling little phrases.
Of course the trebles sing the tune –
they always come off best;
the altos only get three notes
and twenty-two bars rest.

We practice very hard each week
from the hymn-book and the psalter,
but when the conductor looks at us our
voices start to falter.
"Too high!" "Too low!" "Too fast!"
"You held that note too long!"
It doesn't matter what you do –
it's certain to be wrong!

O shed a tear for the altos –
they're martyrs and they know,
in the ranks of choral singers
they're considered very low.
They are so very 'umble
and a lot of folks forget 'em;
how they'd love to be sopranos,
but their vocal chords won't let 'em!

And when the final trumpet sounds
and we are wafted higher,
sopranos, tenors, bases –
they'll be in the heavenly choir.
And while they sing "Alleluia!"
to celestial flats and sharps,
the altos will be occupied
polishing the harps.

Author unknown

Composed by 'Bob the Organist' whose real identity has never been revealed. The poem was discovered stuffed behind the vestry door of a church in Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands.

*We know that all things
work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according
to his purpose.*

Romans 8:28

Community is alive and well at St John the Apostle in Kippax!

In last month's KIT there was a wonderful reflection on community and its fundamental role in our religious traditions. One idea in particular caught my attention: "In order for community to emerge, we need time, vision, and a certain rhythm of silence with each other." This notion of communities emerging and developing organically is something that members of the Parish Pastoral Council have prayed over and discussed a number of times. We are all so enthusiastic to build the community in our great parish yet we are aware of the pitfalls of trying to 'force' community where it cannot grow.

We want to ensure that the community groups that emerge at St John's are driven by the needs and wants of the parish community. To date, the groups offered at our parish include:

- **Prayer group** – meets every Tuesday 10:00am in the parish library.
- **Book Club** – every third Sunday of the month at 3pm in the parish library – all welcome.
- **Pins and Needles Craft Group** – third Thursday of the month at 7:15pm in the parish library.
- **Men's Group** – meet monthly 6:00pm in the parish centre.
- **Women's Breakfast** – every fourth Tuesday monthly at 7:30am. Lucky Shot Cafe Hardwick Cr, Kippax
- **Christian Meditation Group** – meets in the parish library every Friday at 6:15pm.
- **RCIA** – a program of conversion offered through the parish for non-Catholics.
- **SJA Youth group** – High school students in years 7-12, First and third Sundays after the 6:00pm mass.
- **SJACare** – supporting parishioners in our community

- **St Vincent de Paul** – a wonderful, international organisation helping those in need. Meets in the SVdP meeting rooms on Monday evenings fortnightly at 7:30pm
- **Refugee Resettlement Committee** – volunteers who visit refugees to offer friendship and assistance.
- **Social Justice Committee** – discusses social justice issues in liaison with the Diocesan Social Justice Commission and the National Social Justice Council

We also invite parishioners to take part in the various ministries the church offers, into an area where they may feel a calling. For example, the Pastoral Council, the Music Ministry team, the Finance Committee and the Liturgical team would all love to welcome interested parishioners into their fold. Being part of these communities within the broader parish community is a wonderful way to enhance your feelings of belonging and commitment to our church.

Small groups are a lovely opportunity to lean deeper into the faith with likeminded people and we are keen to hear your thoughts and ideas about what the parish could offer to meet your needs. With easing restrictions surrounding COVID-19 and as we wrap up 2020 and head into 2021 it is the perfect time to renew our vision for the parish and with the help of all parishioners continue to develop community across a broad spectrum of needs and interests.

For more information on the various Ministries or any of the small groups offered at St John's please contact the Parish Office on 6254 3236.

Kirsty Vera

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Advent

Advent is a time to demonstrate the prophetic call to be countercultural. Most particularly it is a time of vigil, of silent prayerful waiting upon the Lord. Advent is a time when the parish makes a “retreat” – a time of prayerful reflection. Parish meetings and programs should not occur during this time.

Mood

The mood should be kept simple and reflective but no sombre, but one of restrained joy. The music and the environment are essential in helping to create this mood.

Readings

Year A

In Advent we begin a new cycle of readings. In Year A we read from the Gospel of Matthew. The first readings are from the prophet Isaiah and capture the spirit of God’s people longing for salvation. The epistle readings are from Romans and James.

Year B

This is the year of Mark. The gospel readings for the first and Second Sunday of Advent are from Mark. However, the third and fourth Sundays of Advent are taken from John and Luke, respectively. The first readings are predominately from Isaiah and capture the spirit of God’s people longing for salvation. The epistle readings are from 1 Corinthians, 2 Peter, 1 Thessalonians, and Romans.

Year C

All gospel readings during Advent are from Luke. First readings are from Jeremiah, Baruch, Zephaniah, and Micah (a wonderful treat).

Environment

Violet is the colour of the season with the optional use of rose for the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). It is a good idea to try to distinguish the season of Advent from that of Lent by choosing a violet toned by the blue spectrum (as opposed to the Lenten hue of violet that is more toned by the red spectrum).

In Australia, the jacaranda blue is gaining popularity as a colour in Advent decorations. This is a wonderful opportunity to creatively harmonize the natural season of the Australian summer with the liturgical season of Advent in floral arrangements in the church.



Music

It goes without saying that we refrain singing Christmas carols during Advent. There is a rich repertoire of Advent music to draw from. As we move from Ordinary Time into Advent it is worthwhile employing a different setting of the Mass. Such a setting could be used during the entire Advent-Christmas cycle. Likewise, an alleluia could be chosen specially for use during Advent.

Christmas



Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar # 32

Like the season of Advent, the Christmas season is at odds with secular society. For just as Christmas celebrations are pre-empted during Advent, Christmastide is overshadowed by Boxing Day, New Year’s Eve, and other secular events. For most people, the spirit of Christmas quickly evaporates after 25 December.

This was not always so as the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” testifies – the twelve days from Christmas Day (25 December) to Epiphany (6th January). The Christmas spirit was kept alive through various festivities including Twelfth Night entertainments (on the eve of Epiphany) to close the Christmas season.

The Latin Rite calendar extends the Christmas season a little beyond the traditional 12 days to take in the Feast of the Baptism of Lord (the Sunday after Epiphany) which serves the dual purpose of closing the season of Christmas and ushering in Ordinary Time.

There is a tendency to sentimentalize Christmas by focusing almost exclusively on the Baby Jesus. But this is above all about the incarnation: God becoming human. Certainly, God was born in time as an infant, which stirs our hearts with wonder that our God should visit us in such an unexpected way.

The *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* speaks of the Christmas season as celebrating the “birth and early manifestations”. These manifestations include the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and the first miracle of Jesus at Cana.

Thus, Christmas invites us to explore the full range and depth that this season presents to us.

Mood and Style

We turn our minds to thoughts of peace and are mindful of those in need, especially the poor. The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt to escape the tyranny of Herod, also reminds us of the plight of refugees. Thus, the mood of joy so characteristic of this season must be balanced with sobering awareness of our call to justice.

Readings

The readings for the Solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Epiphany of the Lord are the same for the three-year cycle. The feast of the Holy Family and Baptism of the Lord, however, have different gospel readings assigned for Years A, B & C.

The first readings during the Christmas Octave are from the First Letter of St John which continues the meditation of the Word becoming flesh.

Music

The most notable inclusion into the liturgy after its absence during Advent is the *Gloria*. Of all the Christmas refrains, this is the most pertinent as it is taken from the chorus of the angels in Luke's gospel (2:13-14).

Environment

The Nativity scene is a particular favourite at Christmas, especially with children. The scene is best displayed apart from the sanctuary as it is an object of devotion rather than a liturgical symbol.

Reference:

A Parish Guide to Celebrating Ordinary Time
Gerard McCormick msc

Sabina Van Rooy

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Christmas Jam Strawberry, Cranberry and Orange Jam



(makes about 8 cups or 8 x 250ml jars)

An adaption of Canadian recipe.

Fresh or frozen berries are used in Canada.

Ingredients

- 1kg chopped or sliced strawberries
- 1 cup of water
- Zest and chopped flesh of 2 oranges (discard the white pith)
- 1 x 275g jar of cranberry sauce/jelly (Woolworths or Coles home brand is fine)
- ½ cup dried cranberries/craisins soaked overnight in 1½ cups of water – do not throw away the water.
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice or allspice (optional)
- 1.3kg sugar

Method

- Simmer strawberries in 1 cup of water until soft, mash or puree if you want a smoother jam. Use a large saucepan, stockpot or jam pan (about 7 litre capacity for this recipe)
- Add the chopped oranges and zest, cranberry jelly, the soaked dried cranberries and their soaking liquid, and the spices if used. Bring to a boil and boil for 5 minutes.
- Add the sugar, stir to dissolve and bring back to a boil.
- Boil, stirring often, until jam reaches setting point. Keep an eye on the mixture as it may boil over.
- Pour/ladle jam into hot, sterilised jars. Seal jars while still hot.

Parishioner's *Stories*

Tracing Family History: THE LEAD PENCIL



We were able to identify a family connection through names written in pencil on the back of the photograph, taken in 1915.

It is our Italian ancestor, great, great grandfather Giovanni Battista Donchi, and his Australian wife and children.

Our next quest is to find out what occasion was being celebrated.

The humble pencil is the family historian's friend. Sorting through boxes and albums of old family photographs is a source of delight as well as frustration. These illustrated cards tell stories and jog memories and can also create a whole lot of questions.

Who are these people? Where was this event? What's happening here? When was this picture taken? A pencilled note on the back of a photograph unlocks many a mystery.

The boy with a centre parting in his slicked down hair, who is he?

That's Dad aged eleven!

Now we know why he always had a bottle of Californian Poppy hair oil in the bathroom cabinet.

This one says 'Auntie Flo'! Who's she? A surname would help.

Why does everyone look so elated?

The answer - in pencil on the back of the photo, 'VJ Day'!

Who is the baby sitting in the bath sucking on the face washer? Babies, especially wet babies, look the same.

Who is the lady hiding under the brim of that hat?

Did grandma really wear her mini skirt so short?

Who wore a brown suit to his wedding?

What's so special about that tree/rock/bird/building/cloud/thing?

No-one will know the answers unless the humble lead pencil does its job. Remember to use a pencil before putting photos in a box.

And for the computer literate – please label all your picture files.

Margaret & Maryanne Ferguson



November Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children baptised during the month of November.

Brooke Cowan Daughter of Matthew and Jessica

Rosina Kirby Daughter of Keira-Jane

Sonny McGee Son of Ben and Casey

Remembrance Mass



The annual remembrance mass was held on Saturday 14 November. In celebrating this mass we remember our relatives, friends, parishioners and loved ones who have died during the past 12 months.

In his homily Fr. Kimi said that we mourn our loved ones passing because of the impact they have had on our lives.

The reason why we continue to remember them is not necessarily because of the length of time we've known them. It is usually because of the impact their lives have had on us. The things they did that expressed their love for us and/or those things we did to express of our love for them. And the fact that we still remember them and mourn their passing is itself an expression of that love.

Our loved ones are never forgotten and this year we particularly remember:

Lillian Mary Templeton

Bruce William Davis

Peter Bernard Hayes

Phyllis McAlister

Lola Boer

John Machin

Nola Newton

Walter Kulesza

Bryan Cowman

Pauline O'Gorman

Denis Hogan

Zeffirina Penfold

Caleb Shaw

David Mather

Garrick "Bud" Kelly

Elsie Bingham

Eileen June Gamack

Doris Galea

Tom Hallahan

Paul Harries

Lidia De Montis

Xavier Munoz

Carol Gibb

Brenda Boreham

Rick Chee Keng Loh

Advent 2020



Sunday	29 NOVEMBER	First Sunday of Advent	Hope
Monday	30 NOVEMBER	"Follow me" Mt. 4:19 How do you respond to Jesus' call to follow him?	
Tuesday	01 DECEMBER	Today I will trust in God and allow the day to unfold knowing God is with me.	
Wednesday	02 DECEMBER	There is enough food in the world for everyone – let us share our good fortune.	
Thursday	03 DECEMBER	Preach the Gospel by your lived life.	
Friday	04 DECEMBER	Does the way I spend my time reflect the priority of Christ in my life?	
Saturday	05 DECEMBER	Be watchful! Be alert! How can I be more attentive to the presence of God in my life?	
Sunday	06 DECEMBER	Second Sunday of Advent	Love
Monday	07 DECEMBER	How am I preparing my heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas?	
Tuesday	08 DECEMBER	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 166th Anniversary of the founding of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart	
Wednesday	09 DECEMBER	"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest" Mt. 11:28 Take some time today to rest in the Lord.	
Thursday	10 DECEMBER	Human Rights Day SJA Kippax Liturgy of Forgiveness 7:30pm	
Friday	11 DECEMBER	Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life. Jn. 8:12	
Saturday	12 DECEMBER	Write a card or letter to someone who is housebound and is unable to join the parish community.	
Sunday	13 DECEMBER	Third Sunday of Advent	Joy
Monday	14 DECEMBER	I am "the voice of one crying out in the desert." Jn. 1:23 How do I share my faith with the people around me?	
Wednesday	15 DECEMBER	When have I failed to recognise Jesus in my life?	
Wednesday	16 DECEMBER	The things that we love tell us what we are. St Thomas Aquinas	
Thursday	17 DECEMBER	"This day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the JOY of the Lord is your strength". Nehemiah 8:10	
Friday	18 DECEMBER	Sorrow prepares you for JOY...whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place. Rumi	
Saturday	19 DECEMBER	As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray that God will watch over us and guide us.	
Sunday	20 DECEMBER	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Peace
Monday	21 DECEMBER	Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Lk. 1:38	
Wednesday	22 DECEMBER	Loving God open our hearts so that we may say YES as Mary did.	
Wednesday	23 DECEMBER	You are the image of God. You are valuable. You are unique.	
Thursday	24 DECEMBER	Peaceful is the one who's not concerned with having more or less. Rumi	
Christmas Day		Unto you is born this day a Saviour which is Christ The Lord	

