





To be on earth the Heart of God



jarden

Philomena & Eammon Murtagh's back garden

The great touchstones of the Christian story are set in gardens:

The Garden of Eden – Creation

The Garden of Eden – Adam & Eve experience the primordial emotion of Shame.

The Garden of Gethsemane – Betrayal and Crucifixion

The Garden of the Empty Tomb – Recognition and Resurrection

The Tree of Life – The healing of the Nations [Revelation 22:1-2]

Taken from: And God Saw it was Good, by Matthew Anstey

Time out for reflection

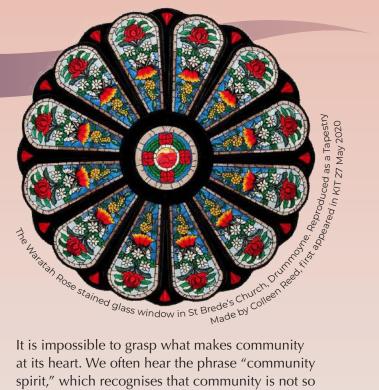
Our Longing for Community

Each one of us wants to belong. No one wants to live a life that is cut off or isolated. The absence of contact with others hurts us. When we belong, we feel part of things. We have a huge need to participate. When this is denied us, it makes us insecure. Our confidence is shaken, and we turn in on ourselves and against ourselves. It is poignant that we actually are so fragile inside. When you feel rejected, it cuts deep into you, especially if you are rejected by those whose acceptance means a lot to you. The pain of rejection only confirms the intensity of our longing to belong. It seems that in a soul-sense we cannot be fully ourselves without others. In order to be, we need to be with.

There is something incomplete in purely individual presence. Belonging together with others completes something in us. It also suggests that behind all our differences and distances from each other, we are all participating in a larger drama of spirit. The "life and death of each of us" does indeed affect the rest of us. Not alone do we long for the community, but at a deeper level we are already a community of spirit.

There is a Providence that brought us here and gave us to each other at this time. In and through us, a greater tapestry of creativity is being woven. It is difficult for us to envisage this. We live such separate and often quite removed lives. Yet behind all the seeming separation a deeper unity anchors everything. This is one of the powerful intimations of the great religious traditions. The ideal of community is not the forcing together of separate individuals into the spurious unity of community. The great traditions tell us that community somehow already exists. When we come together in compassion and generosity, this hidden belonging begins to come alive between us.

Consequently, a community which is driven by power or too great a flurry of activity and talk will never achieve much more than superficial belonging. The attempt to force community usually drives the more creative and independent people away. We do not so much build community as if it were some external and objective structure as we allow community to emerge. In order for community to emerge, we need time, vision, and a certain rhythm of silence with each other.



It is impossible to grasp what makes community at its heart. We often hear the phrase "community spirit," which recognises that community is not so much an invention or construction of its members, but a gift that emerges between them and embraces them. We do not make community. We are born into community. We enter as new participants into a drama that is already on. We are required to maintain and, often, reawaken community. Perhaps community is a constellation. Each one of us is a different light in the emerging collective brightness.

A constellation of light has greater power of illumination than any single light would have on its own. Together we increase brightness. Yet no star can move away outside the constellation in order to view the overall brightness. It is interesting how perspective is such a powerful force in determining what we see and what we miss.

Many of the astronauts who have voyaged into space have had amazing experiences. As they move further and further away from the earth, many of them were overcome with emotion and affection for that diminishing little blue planet called earth. Raised infinitely out of their individual communities, they gradually had a total view of the earth. Looking through the accelerating infinity of space, their hearts were touched with tenderness for home.

Similarly, with us, within the solitude of our own individual light we can never glimpse our collective brightness. All we see are frail candles, stuttering in the wind and the dark. Yet this should not make us insensitive to the embrace and the potential of our greater light. What kind of luminous view the dying must have as they slowly ascend to leave here?



HEARTS IN ACTION

Vinnies Update

The feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, occurred on 9 September. The occasion is usually marked with an appeal for funds to support the Society's twin conferences in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. St John the Apostle Conference is twinned with the Conference of Sts Peter and Paul in Thuraiyur, Trichy, Tamil Nadu India. We did not have an appeal this year because of the generous response that we received from parishioners to the 2019 appeal. We send money to Sts Peter and Paul each quarter. Recently we sent \$380 which includes \$200 for COVID-19 support, \$100 for Christmas and \$80 which is the normal quarterly payment.

Sts Peter and Paul use the funds to support poor families in their community. Our friend Fr Michael who is from Tamil Nadu, is helping us communicate with our twin by translating our letters into Tamil. The members of Sts Peter and Paul were extremely excited to know that we had Fr Michael's help. They email us in their best English describing their situation and how they are helping needy people. In their most recent letter, they advised that they had provided educational bursaries to six students as well as welfare support to local families. Their President wrote: 'In this Pandemic period our India has suffered a lot. Here people need financial assistance very much for their basic needs. We do Special Prayer for your people who are affected by the pandemic'. We pray for them as well as they are doing it a lot tougher than us. The accompanying photos show the beneficiaries of the education grants and the families that received welfare support.

We have asked our twin to use the additional funds for the fourth quarter to support more students and families in their community. This support is due to donations from the generous parishioners of St John the Apostle Kippax. Thank you.





Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2020

Following approval from our Head Office, preparations are underway at St John's Kippax for the 2020 Christmas Appeal. This year we must follow strict COVID-19 safe procedures which will affect how we received donations, pack hampers and deliver hampers. More information will be included in Compact and in the next edition of Keeping in Touch.

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





HEARTS IN ACTION

Youthcarastus

The St John's Youth Group has been meeting in the parish for the past 3 years. Many different people have come to the youth group over this period, allowing them to build friendships and find a place to connect with other young people interested in faith. We have had many nights of games, sharing a meal, bible study, growing in faith and sharing our values. I've been fortunate to be a part of the group both as a student, then as the Youth Minister leading the group.

At the end of this year, my position as Youth Minister will be coming to an end. While I will continue to be involved in the group, I won't be able to lead and run it. As a result, we have begun discussions about how the youth group can become a more self-sustainable group, allowing it to continue with or without a Youth Minister in the future. While we are still early in our discussions, all the group members have shown great initiative.

A few students offered to prepare and plan the faith-based activities of the group. Some offered to help organise food. Others said they could help

plan the games and social activities. It was wonderful to see everybody volunteering to support the youth group based on their own strengths, and it's been really fulfilling to see how much the students value the group and want it to continue.



The continuation of the youth group is going to depend greatly on the help and initiative of people in the Parish. If you would like to be involved in the youth group next year, it would be great to hear from you. You can help by providing food, supervising, or even planning and running formation sessions, sharing your own faith experiences or helping students to plan the faith-based activities themselves. It is a great opportunity to share your faith and support the faith of others, and does not have to be a regular commitment – the more people that offer to help, the more we can share the load! Feel free to contact the parish office or **eoin.garton@cg.org.au**

Eoin Garton

Getting nearer to God's heart





At home we have a plaque in our garden with the following verse:

The kiss of the sun for pardon,

The song of the birds for mirth,

One is nearer God's heart in a garden,

Than anywhere else on earth.

It is from a poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney called God's Garden (1913). God's garden at St John's Kippax is maintained by two teams that meet once a month. Our members are ageing, and numbers are falling. However, in addition to the Saturday teams there are a few parishioners who do some weeding and pruning in their own time. The rain this spring has been wonderful, but with it comes more weeds and vigorous, unrelenting growth of the lawns and shrubs. So, we need more workers in St John's garden.

If you would like to be nearer to God's heart in St John's garden, your help would be greatly appreciated. There are many ways you can help. **Please call Mike on 0419 818 410**.



Social Justice News

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

3 Nov	Feast Day of St Martin de Porres
6 Nov	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
12 Nov	Anniversary of the Dili Massacre
15 Nov	World Day of the Poor
16 Nov	International Day for Tolerance
19 Oct	World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
20 Oct	Universal Children's Day

3 nov Feast Day of St Martin de Porres

Martin is the patron saint of mixed-race people, and was a Peruvian lay brother of the Dominicans who was born in 1579. He lived an austere life devoted to the poor, particularly the sick, and in his lifetime many miracles were attributed to him.

He suffered discrimination for being of mixed race, and for this reason was not allowed to become a brother or priest. So he was happy to work as a volunteer performing menial tasks in the monastery. After some years he was admitted to the Third Order of Saint Dominic, but discrimination was still strong even in religious houses, and he had to endure many insults there.

He was assigned to the infirmary where he cared for the sick and also looked after the poor outside the monastery, including African slaves. Occasionally



he would bring the sick and homeless to his own bed so that he could look after them. He also founded a Home for orphans and slaves in Lima.

Martin was praised for his unconditional care of all people, regardless of race or wealth. He took care of everyone from the Spanish nobles to the African slaves. Martin's life reflected his great love for God and all of God's gifts.



for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

During armed conflict, the environment has been a largely unrecognised victim. Many wars have been fought over our natural resources, such as minerals, oil, land and water. And in order to gain an advantage, armies have often damaged or destroyed these resources: crops have been destroyed, animals killed, and forests destroyed, often with highly carcinogenic chemicals that linger for years.

This day aims to promote awareness of how damaging war is to the natural environment. Around the world, seminars, classroom activities, and radio talks are held to aid awareness. People learn and share information about the dangers of new technologies in war that pose as yet unknown threats to the environment. People around the world are also made aware that all efforts must be taken to limit environmental destruction caused by conflict.

15 nov World Day of the Poor

It was established by Pope Francis in 2016. The theme for this year is "Stretch forth your hand to the poor". The Pope calls on people to keep their gaze fixed on the poor, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, and warns us against succumbing to a "whirlwind of indifference". The Pope laments the frenetic pace of life today and adds that it is only when something happens that upsets the course of our lives, do our eyes become capable of seeing the goodness of the saints "next door". Devoting a significant part of his message to the Covid-19 pandemic, Pope Francis draws attention to the many "outstretched hands" in the form of doctors and nurses who have been caring for patients in these difficult months. He also commends the outstretched hands of administrators, pharmacists, priests, volunteers and others who have given of themselves day and night and without fanfare.

15 NOV World Day of the Poor CONTINUED

He also describes how the command: 'Stretch forth your hand to the poor' challenges the attitude of those who prefer to keep their hands in their pockets and to remain unmoved by situations of poverty in which they are often complicit.

"Some hands are outstretched to accumulate money by the sale of weapons that others use to sow death and poverty... Others still, parading a sham respectability, lay down laws which they themselves do not observe."

He continues by saying, "the 'end' of all our actions can only be love. This is the ultimate goal of our journey, and nothing should distract us from it."

Even a smile, remarks Pope Francis, is something we can share with the poor and is a "source of love and a way of spreading love. An outstretched hand, then, can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ's disciples."

16 nov International Day for Tolerance

In 1995, UNESCO created the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance to define tolerance for all governing and participating bodies. UNESCO created an award to recognize those with great achievements in promoting the spirit of tolerance or non-violence in fields such as science, culture, and the arts.

Tolerance means to accept and respect other people with different lifestyles, ideologies, habits and customs. In principle this is easy to acknowledge, but in everyday life it can be difficult, for example, when we are confronted with opinions or behaviour that we dislike or disagree with, or with which are offended.

In Jesus' time there was much intolerance, such as that between Jews and Samaritans. Jewish religious leaders scorned the common people. Jesus stood out as vastly different, loving people as individuals and not judging them according to their status, sex, or ethnicity.



19 NOV World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Child abuse takes many forms: sexual abuse via the internet or grooming at school or sports, or children denied an education and forced to work in poor conditions. Sometimes personal or family circumstances might put the wellbeing of children under pressure: poverty, unemployment, family violence, alcohol and drug use, and social isolation can all impact on children. This day aims to highlight the problem of abuse as well as the need to intervene urgently by programs of prevention.



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

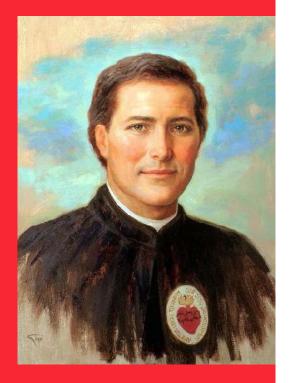
ANGELA BOREHAM

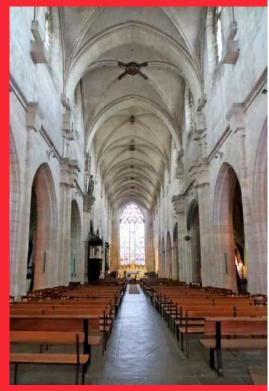
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Heart Space





Taken from: Jules Chevalier – man with a mission E. J. Cuskelly msc.

Jules Chevalier -Man with a Mission

21 October is the anniversary of Fr. Jules Chevalier msc, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. He is the inspiration for the members of the Chevalier Family. Within the MSC society the anniversary day is known as Chevalier Day and celebrations happen throughout the international MSC provinces. In Australia this is particularly so at the four MSC schools, Downlands College Toowoomba Qld, Chevalier College Bowral NSW, Daramalan College Canberra ACT, and Monivae College Hamilton Vic.

Jules Chevalier arrived in Issoudun in 1854, aged 30, ordained 3 years, and appointed curate to the parish of Saint Cyr, where he knew that here, in this unlikely place, his true life's work could really begin.

Jules gave himself generously to the will of God. He was formed in the French School of spirituality practised and taught by his director Fr. Ruel as well as by other Sulpician Fathers who staffed the seminary of Bourges.

This spirituality was Christ centred being summed up in three steps:

Christ before our eyesreflective meditation; adoration.

Christ in our heartsour affective response; communion.

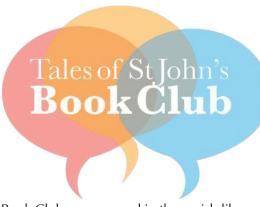
> Christ in our handsunion with Christ in action.

On 9 September 1860 Jules had an audience with Pope Pius IX. Where the Pope acknowledged the work that Jules was undertaking to establish a Society of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The Pope told Jules that this was fine work and the Church and society have no hope except in the Heart of Jesus. It is he who will heal all our ills, the Pope said. He exhorted Jules to Increase and multiply; and to preach this saving devotion everywhere.

Jules responded with, "Holy Father we have a motto which seems to correspond with what you have just said; perhaps it is somewhat ambitious, but here it is.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be every loved!

At this audience the Pope granted canonical approbation on the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.



Our Book Club commenced in the parish library many years ago, in 2007. We meet monthly on the third Sunday (except sometimes not in December and when we have interruptions such as COVID in 2020). This year we had a few months break but we are back to our regular meetings in the 'new COVID world".

Many books are sourced from Libraries ACT where we have a Book Club membership, but at other times we source our own copies of mainly new releases. Members mainly can read titles from hard copy or EBooks are an option that suits others. We read all categories of fiction - contemporary, Australian, historical, classics, crime thrillers, non-fiction such as biography and memoir and choose books that are not too long (300–400 pages). We discuss and give our views (both for and against) the book we have all read in the previous month. Since recommencing this year the genres have ranged from a memoir, history and we are now reading a thriller – *The Ruin* by Dervla McTiernan.

A synopsis of the book discussed in October

The Good Shepherd by C S Forester was a military classic about naval warfare in WW2. The book group's view was that it was a short book with descriptive writing, great characterisation, tension, and suspense. It revolved around a group of naval vessels protecting merchant ships in convoy across the Atlantic Ocean. The book is written from the perspective of the naval Commander Krause who came over as strong, resolved, focussed, deeply religious man who under great pressure had to keep track of an enormous amount of detail and command the vessels to safety from imminent threats from u-boats. The conditions were atrocious, radar equipment uncertain and his command of his men and their mission is exemplary in so many ways. The movie Greyhound released in 2020 is based on this book.

If you think our Book Club may appeal to you, new members are welcome to come along to a meeting and see if they enjoy it. Enquiries can be made to Sharon in the Parish office who will put you into contact with a member. Compact contains the date and title of our book. Happy reading everyone.

Treasures

in our Parish



Margaret Ohlin one of our parish treasures takes delight in her court yard garden. The dogwood tree is over 45 years old, it was there when Margaret and Jim purchased their home.

The Azalea bush has flourished this spring with the nurturing spring rains and brought much joy to Margaret.



KIT@Kippax





Pastoral visit from Archbishop Christopher Prowse

On Friday 23 October 2020 we had a joyful visit from our Archbishop Christopher Prowse, at St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax.

The morning's 9:30 Mass was well attended by about 60 people on what was a beautiful spring Friday. I think we all enjoyed his Grace's warm and encouraging words in his homily which was a message of HOPE during his pastoral visit to our parish.

He told us that for our Diocese in these challenging times, the current 'pandemic' is not really COVID-19 but loneliness. People's stories and data are showing that many people are experiencing isolation and loneliness in these times. 'We should not think just of ourselves, but reach out to others around us' he said. The Archbishop also said he hoped his visits would help us all be reminded of God's love, and Jesus as the Good Shepherd who is close to us.

After Mass we shared an enjoyable morning tea. The Archbishop had encouraged us to stay around for a chat and a cuppa, saying, 'I would like to get to know you and hear your stories'. Coffee, tea and cakes were plentiful. There were photos and videos taken and everyone seemed to be enjoying the opportunity to gather in a way that has been a bit rare this year. We thank the Archbishop for his pastoral visit, and thank you to everyone involved.

Carl Madsen

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR



SJA – Pastoral Appointments

It is with great delight that we welcome
Fr. Kimi's appointment as Parish Priest of
St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax for a term of
three years commencing 1st January 2021.
Fr. Michael will also continue his ministry here at
St John's.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of Frs. Kimi and Michael.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Grant us, the parishioners, these same gifts to support and sustain them in their ministries.

Amen

Parishioner's Stories

CANBERRA a Country Town

I have lived in Canberra for 55 years after coming to train as a Midwife for one year and then stayed on and on. In the late 60's the population was around 80,000+ less than the grand final crowd at the MCG in Melbourne. It was not unusual that one would meet an expat in the street and admire their babies. I am quite convinced that Canberra is still a place where you are amazed at the connections between people, and who is a friend of so and so.

COVID time has been so interesting during the time of lockdown and beyond. Then we were allowed out!! The joy that my three friends and I felt on the day when we could meet at Snapper by the Lake for lunch, was like Christmas. There was on-line ordering, walking well over near where boats are launched, three of us at a table and another sitting further apart with her own lunch. We were all very aware of restrictions.

I was wearing a very bright red jacket and red hat as one knows the lake area can be cool. It was a beautiful sunny winter's day. However, it warmed up and so my jacket was hung on a branch of a bare tree and my hat on top of a shorter one. There were many comments by passersby as the magpies were around as well welcoming people who were out and about. A very colourful scene it was. There was a group of artists nearby and one came and asked if we minded if she took a photo of the hat and jacket in the tree.





Last week one of the lunch group who lives in Cook, attended The Community Hub at Flynn for U3A. She sent me a photo of two paintings of a Red Hat quite sure it was my hat. I eventually went and found the Hub and then contacted the artist in order to purchase them. Yesterday they were delivered.

We were both so excited as she was thrilled that it was my hat, and I because it reminded me of the joy experienced on that day. The artist was not going to accept any money but then we decided the price on the cost of frames. When my family heard the story they felt that it was typical of how Canberra networks happen.

Many years ago the Parish Priest at Bateman's Bay gave a sermon which I have never forgotten about JOY. True Joy comes after at a time of 'darkness'. It is a great feeling.

Judy Netting



After a 7 month COVID break the women of SJA met for breakfast on Tuesday 27 October 2020. It was great to see and catch up with people that we haven't seen for half of this year and to hear the news of their families and how they have been coping this year.

Lucky Shot Cafe at Kippax is the venue and they are happy to accommodate us as we are negotiating our way back to social activities.

Women's Breakfast is every 4th Tuesday at 7:30am @Lucky Shot Cafe – Hardwick Crescent KIPPAX. If you have never been, why don't you come and try?

Celebrating our Liturgy in Ordinary Time

PART 2

Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character, thirty-three or thirty-four weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in its fullness.

This period is known as Ordinary Time.

General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar # 43

Readings

Year B

Mark is a gospel that is read, and it moves along with great speed and urgency. Halfway through the Ordinary Time during this Year of Mark we detour to the Gospel of John, from the 17th Sunday to the 21st Sunday. Here we have John's account of the feeding of the 5,000 and his subsequent "Bread of Life" discourse.

As in Year A the first readings are all taken from the Old Testament and again present wide variety of readings from various books. The Second Reading follow a semi-continuous pattern They are taken from the letters of St Paul, St James and from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Year C

The scope, intent, and trajectory of the gospel of Luke and its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles, is presented to the reader as a vision of the salvation history. The promise made by God in the First Testament has been fulfilled in the person of Jesus: "God has visited his people and redeemed them" (Lk1.68). Luke follows Mark's framework of having Jesus journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, but then in Acts he relates the mission of the early church setting forth from Jerusalem "to the ends of the earth". The role of the Holy Spirit features prominently in Luke-Acts.

Table fellowship is a hall mark of Luke's gospel. Jesus association with the poor, the outcast and

Ordinary Time is truly extraordinary

because through Christ,

all time has been sanctified

sinner is often seen as the hospitality that God offers and the mercy that God bestows on those who respond to God's offer of forgiveness. Finally, it is often noted the important role women play in Luke's gospel.

The Second Reading follow a semi-continuous pattern. They are taken from the letters of St Paul: 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 and 2 Timothy, 2 Thessalonians and from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Music

Unlike the other seasons, there is no music specially written for Ordinary Time. It is important to maintain a high standard of liturgical music throughout the year regardless of the season.

Environment

Green is the colour of Ordinary Time. It is also the colour associated with nature. Flowers provide variation throughout Ordinary Time. Whatever is in season should be used: floral arrangements in mid-winter should look different to those of springtime.

Sanctoral Cycle

The period of Ordinary Time between the Christmas Season and Lent contains only one important feast: The Presentation of the Lord. But this feast day, although falling outside the season itself, is in fact one of the Christmas feast days.

The second period of Ordinary time begins after Pentecost – the great feast that brings the season of Easter to a close. This period of Ordinary Time begins with a cluster of feasts: Trinity, Body and Blood of Christ and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and ends with the feast of Christ the King.

Feast days ranked as solemnities take the priority over Sunday. If such solemnities, such as Sts Peter and Paul, The Nativity of St John the Baptist, The Exultation of the Cross etc. fall on a Sunday, then they take the place of the Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Reference:

A Parish Guide to Celebrating Ordinary Time Gerard McCormick msc

Sabina Van Rooy
LITURGY COMMITTEE



October Baptisms

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

.Amara Melpa

Daughter of James and Shanna

Charlotte Walter Daughter of Thomas and Chitra

.Adeline Wedd

Daughter of Craig and Rowena

Our Saviour

He was born in a stable yet did not complain.

He worked as a carpenter; Joseph taught Him the trade!

He went to the river and by John was baptised.

He prayed in the desert and by Satan was tried.

He taught from the hilltops that we might believe.

He worked many wonders and sinners forgave.

He died on the cross to show us His love.

He rose from the dead to prove He is God.

Eamonn Murtagh

KIT@Kippax

is produced for the St John the Apostle Catholic Community from contributions submitted by parishioners.

Send submissions to kippax@cg.org.au

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NOT FOR RESALE

OCTOBER Funerals



Carol Gibb 1 January 1947 -23 September 2020



Brenda Elaine Boreham 26 December 1928 -10 October 2020



Rick Chee Keng Loh 30 December 1948 -15 October 2020



Arron "Azza" George Foster 19 January 1980 – 13 October 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen

