



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

4 HARTLEY STREET, P.O. BOX 9, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Guided by the Holy Spirit, OLSH Parish in Central Australia is a family of God actively engaging in Jesus' love bringing justice, compassion and charity to all creation.



Parish Contacts:

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Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5:00p.m.

Facebook Page: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

8:30 am - 12 noon

Saturday and Sunday - Closed

Parish Priest:

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD

Assistant Parish Priests:

Fr Prakash Menezes SVD

Fr Olivier Noclam SVD

Resident Priest:

Fr. Jim Knight SVD

Parish Council Chairman

Mr Manfred Casseeram

Liturgy Coordinator

Sr. Anne Surtees OSU

Sacristan

Ms Sue Bain

RCIA Director

Sr. Helen Kennedy FMM

Parish Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

Safety & Health Officer

Mr Fred Twohig

Parish Treasurer

Mr Kevin Hickmott

OLSH College Principal

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

St. Joseph's Flexible Centre

Mr. Ben Ebert

Safeguarding Officers:

Mr George Tetteh, Ms Pane Komene & Mr Manfred C.

Parish Mass Schedule:

Monday to Friday: 7 am & 5:30 pm

Saturday 11 am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community

1st, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sundays of the month

- 11am Aboriginal Community Mass at South Terrace. 2nd Sunday of the month—

11 am Aboriginal Community Mass at Amoonguna, Southeast of Alice Springs, off the Ross Highway.

Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

Baptism: By appointment: one month's notice required.

2nd Sunday of the month. Formation of parents falls on the 1st Monday of the month. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm

Marriage:

By appointment only, 12 months' notice required.

Year of the Family in the Diocese of Darwin based on Pope Francis'



“Since time is greater than space, I would make it clear that not all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium. Unity of teaching and practice is necessary in the Church, but this does not preclude various ways of interpreting some aspects of that teaching or drawing certain consequences from it”. Prologue #3, Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*. Question: Name a particular teaching on Family or Marriage that is consistent with tradition and sacred scripture?

4th Sunday of Advent Year A
17th – 18th December 2016

St Joseph, the “Quiet Dismissal”

When Joseph realises Mary is “with child” before they have lived together, he decides to divorce her quietly. Here is Mary, a woman she loves so much he wants to marry her, and is willing to divorce her quietly. He does not commit himself to her, nor does he scream and shout at her for supposedly having relations with someone else. When faced with conflict, Joseph reacts without passion. He just quietly lets things go.

Is there a “quiet dismissal” within us? Are there events which, although obviously unjust, we just ignore? Think about your relationships. Do we commit to helping people or fight it out with them? Are there ever times when we do that? Look at your place of work. Do things ever happen which are unjust but you “look the other way” because you don't want to get involved? Go to the global level. We would rather not talk about it because issues such as migration, nuclear arms, refugees, women traffickers, abortion etc are uncomfortable topics. Meanwhile, missiles are stockpiled at an ever accelerating rate and we allow other people to plan destruction of the world.

But Joseph is more than a “quiet dismissal”. He has the capacity to dream, to see things differently – in a very radical way. Imagine envisioning that your wife has conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and that child is going to save people from sin!

Joseph decided to stay.

He received Mary into his home as his wife. He takes in life and treats it with acceptance and warmth. There is a dimension in us which accepting, living and kind. Joseph was with this dimension within himself. Am I?

It is to this person, Joseph, that the Father trusts his only Son. He is God's choice to nurture his Son. Within us Jesus awaits birth. He is within our very imperfect selves. But the Father, who has created us in his image, has entrusted us with the Spirit of His Son.

It is up to us to nurture him as a father and mother bring Jesus to life within us.

Fr Raass SVD

We acknowledge the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to the Elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia. As we share our faith within our Catholic family we also acknowledge those that paved the way to give us our Church and Parish and welcome all into our community.

Daily Readings: starting 19 December 2016

Mon: Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Lk1:5-25
Tues: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Wed: Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18 Lk 1:39-45
Thu: 1 Sam 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
Fri: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66
Sat: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 Lk 1:67-79
Sun: Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Ellen Gunner, Penelope Fleming, Joan Brenton, Pauline Cardozo, Shiroma Bulner, Anne Tobin, Anne Courtney, Eric Rooke, Margaret McNaught, John Gaces, Thomas Andrew Jackson, Joyce Komene, Vera De Silva, May Shah, Bernadette Dowd, Clare Edwards, Mary Dick, Georgina Gilbert, Kathy Golotta, Gesu Golotta, Eufelia Canta, Clare Lorkin, Rose Almanza

May the Lord grant them healing.

Recent Death: Latai Mailau

Death Anniversary: John Sheehan

May their souls rest in peace



**AMORIS LAETITIA
THE JOY OF LOVE**

LIVING THE WORD

The Australian Church has become a multicultural Church, with the traditions of many lands finding expression here, especially in the way Mary and Joseph are honoured. Are there particular traditions or ways of celebrating special feasts in our parish?

Devotional Practices:

Prayers of the Holy Rosary

Monday to Thursday 5pm

Prayers of Devotion to St. Joseph

First Wednesday of the month 9am

Contact: Cathy Golotta 8952 1991

Syro-Malayalam (Indian) Fellowship

Sunday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Home Based)

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Fridays from 6-7pm and every second Saturday of the month from 3-4 pm at Missionaries of Charity Convent, 12 Standley Crescent.

Christian Meditation (Presbytery Chapel)

Thursday 12:00 - 12:30pm

Weekly Bible Sharing

Wednesdays 6:15pm -7:30pm

Mothers Praying for Your Children

1st and 3rd Wednesday night at 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word

Every Sunday from 9:20am

Divine Office - Liturgy of the Hours

Monday to Friday 6:45am

OLSH PARISH ADVENT PROGRAMME: WEEK 4



Create a sacred space in your home and prepare an Advent wreath with four candles. Set aside a time with all members of the family and commit to it. You may use some reflective music.

Sunday 18th December, 4th Sunday of Advent: Light your fourth candle. Read the Gospel of Mathew 1:18-42. Spend some quiet time with the Lord. Ask yourself the question and share your responses: *Have you undertaken a bold and trusting action, even though you were dubious about the outcome? How was your trust rewarded?* Your prayer for today and week 3: Say one "Hail Mary" every day. Action: Sing some Christmas Carols around the fire this week leading up to Christmas.

Advent Monday Reflection, Songs and Prayer

As advertised in week 1 of Advent, Fr Prakash Menezes SVD will facilitate an hour of Advent reflection in the main Church on Monday 19th December from 7:00pm – 8:15pm.

Theme: **"Emmanuel: God is With Us"** a time to reflect on God reaching out to us.

Thank you to those who attended last Monday's reflection.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation



Essentially, the sacrament of penance is the healing of our relationship with God which has broken down because of sin. Just as the wound of sin is varied and multiple in the life of individuals and of the community, so too the healing which penance provides is varied.

Those who by grave sin have withdrawn from the communion of love with God are called back in the sacrament of penance to the life they have lost. The sacrament of penance is, in one respect, the renewal of our Baptism and allows us the freedom to live the Christian life, to be the people God made us to be. What a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas.

Come this **Tuesday 20th December from 7:00pm** onwards, at the big church and prepare to be amazed by God's love and mercy.

Sign Up Roster Folder

As we move into the Christmas season, many people will be going on holidays. To assist with the smooth running of our liturgies over the holiday period, sign up rosters for readers and communion ministers can be found at the back of the church. Please sign up if you are going to be in town.

Thank you - Sr Anne

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is the main protagonist, while Luke's story of the birth of Jesus centres on Mary and her response.
- There are significant differences between the two accounts which can be understood as reflecting the particular theological perspective of each author and the way each seeks to point the identity of Jesus and address the concerns of their own communities.
- Did you notice that there is no stable or manger in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth? Jesus is born at the home of Joseph and Mary who live in Bethlehem. Look at the birth stories in Luke (1-2) and in Matthew (1-2) and see who visits the infant Jesus.

Liturgy Corner

Next to the 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**. GNLYC 32-3

The homily is a means of bringing the scriptural message to life in a way that helps the faithful to realise that God's word is present and at work in their everyday lives. *Verbum Domini (2010) 59*



OLSH Parish Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

7:00pm Children's Vigil Mass

All children are asked to dress-up according to his/her favourite character in the Christmas story or the entire Bible. Children will be asked to participate in the Holy Mass. Please contact Sr Anne Surtees for further information.

11:00pm Carols & Reflection

12:00am Christmas Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25

9:30am Mass ONLY

Christmas Mass & Sunday Obligations

OLSH Parish is offering Christmas vigil Mass with children on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and the 9:30am Sunday Mass only. You may fulfil your Christmas and Sunday obligation by attending either of the Masses on Saturday. Please take note that the Catholic Church always "counts" the Vigil Masses toward our Sunday obligation.

All Alone on Christmas Day?

Christmas is a time for religious reflection on the awesome mystery of the God who became a human person. It is also a time with families, friends and loved ones as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus. However, it could be a difficult time for those who will be all alone on Christmas Day without the presence of their partners, children and friends. December 25th can be the longest day of all.



If you find yourself facing this Christmas alone and worrying about your family, the priests of OLSH Parish warmly invite you to join with them on Christmas day from 12:30pm onwards.

Please RSVP Fr Raass by Monday 19th December.

Divine Word Missionaries 2017 Calendar

Feel free to pick-up a 2017 Church Calendar put together by the Divine Word Missionaries. There is a box along-side it for donations only. Money will be go to the Missions. Don't feel guilty if you cannot place a coin. Simply take it as a small gift from the SVDs.

Saints of the Week

St Peter Canisius (priest, doctor) - December 21
St John of Kanty (priest) - December 23

Cleaning: 24 December 2016 **Group 4**
Stephanie King, Jan Jennings, Mary Neck, Joyce Clifford

Counters: 25 December 2016
Mike & Rita Steller, John Lillecraap

Last Week's Collections:
1st Collection: \$ 1,440.80 (for the presbytery)
2nd Collection: \$ 793.15 (for the parish)
Planned Giving: \$ 905.00

Thank you for your time and generosity!

Groups please remember to keep the Bulletin Team informed if you change your days/times etc.



Eucharistic Adoration & Christmas Carols

Day and night, Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because you are the most important person in the world to him! THIS IS THE SPIRITUAL HEART OF THE COMMUNITY, THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AND ALL HUMANITY.

Come and adore the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament this Friday 23rd December 2016 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. It will be held in the main church immediately after the Holy Mass.

Since Advent has shifted to the Christmas story, this will be a special sacred time to put in your final spiritual preparation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be made available during the Adoration with special Christmas Carols sung before the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Bring all young people, friends and families.

Aboriginal Chaplaincy Christmas Masses & Visitations

DATES	COMMUNITIES	TIMES
19th Dec	Alkupitja (Gillen Bore)	5:00pm Mass (baptism)
20th Dec	Amoonguna	10:00am Mass
20th Dec	Cottage (Prison)	6:30pm
21st Dec	Jay Creek	To be confirmed (Baptism and First Communion)
22nd Dec	Corkwood (Burt Creek, Sandy Bore)	2:00pm Mass (Baptism)
23rd Dec	Harts Range	12:30pm Mass
27th Dec	Hidden Valley	6:00pm Mass
28th Dec	Yuendumu	12:00am Mass
30th Dec	Charles Creek (Ilpey Ilpeye)	5:00pm Mass

The above visitations might be an opportunity for you to visit our Catholic Aboriginal Australians in remote areas.

WELCOME!

OLSH Parish WELCOMES all new parishioners and their families. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to any of the priests or members of the Parish Council. We hope you will enjoy your stay with us and contribute to the reign of God in Central Australia.

Roster for weekend of 24 - 25 December 2016

	Commentator	Readers	Ministers
Sat 7:00 pm	Volunteer	Children's Christmas Vigil Mass	Fred Twohig Thelma Bowen Volunteers (3)
Sat 12:00 mn	Volunteer Christmas Midnight Mass	Jo Molin Pane Komene	Ruth Sexton Volunteers (4)
Sun 9:30 am	Volunteer Christmas Day Mass	Tinna Buenviaje Sneha Nair	Mel Buenviaje Sammy Nobleza Volunteers (3)

4th Sunday of Advent Year A
17th - 18th December 2016

Entrance Antiphon:

cf. Isa 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 23:1-6

R/ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfill the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer

Communion Antiphon:

Isa 7:14

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES & MEETINGS

Adult Faith & Culture Formation (Mondays)
Theme & dates - refer to bulletin

Prison (Correctional Centre) Ministries
Tuesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm &
on these Sundays: 15th Jan 2017.

Ministers' Ecumenical Fellowship
1st Tuesday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am
at Desert Life Church

Bread Delivery to Town Camps
Wednesdays from 7:00pm-7:30pm

Yuendumu Aboriginal Mission (5hrs drive)
2nd Wednesday of the month

Children's Sunday School
Every Sunday from 9:20am except on school holidays

Jay Creek Aboriginal Mission (20m drive)
3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-
7:00pm

Old Timers Aged-Care Ministries
Thursdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Parish Council Meetings
1st Thursday of the month from 5:00pm-7:00pm

Catholic Youth of Alice Springs
Fridays from 6:30pm at JP2 Hall

Hetti Perkins Aboriginal Ministry
3rd Friday of the month from 10:00am-11:00am

Harts Range Aboriginal Mission (3hrs drive)
4th Friday of the month

Finance Team Ministry
1st Saturday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

CAAAPU (Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation)
2nd & 4th Sundays from 6:00pm-6:45pm
Social Justice Awareness Group: 4th Sunday
of the month from 3:00pm-4:30pm

Sunday Mass Pick-Up: Every Sunday if you
can help those who wish to attend Mass at 40
South Terrace and the main Church.

*Is God calling you to any of the above
ministries and more? Call the presbytery and partici-
pate in God's Mission.*

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom
shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said,
"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +