



# 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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**Email:** olsh\_parity\_asp@bigpond.com

## Website:

www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au

## Bulletin: Email:

olsh.parity.bulletin@gmail.com

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 Alejandro de la Sotta SVD

Fr Olivier Noclam SVD

## Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr Binesh Joseph CST

## Parish Council Chairman

Mr Manfred Casseeram

Contact: chairpersonppc@gmail.com

## 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 Tony Caddy FMS

## St. Joseph's Flexible Centre

Mrs Sitinder Bahia

## Sunday School Catechists

Genetti, Holroyd-Decosta, Knight

## Hospitality Coordinators

Losana Hay and Ruth Sexton

## Safeguarding Officers:

Mr George Tetteh, Ms Pane Komene

& Mr Manfred Casseeram

Contact: olshsafeguard@gmail.com

## Smart-Loving Ministry

Mr & Mrs Emil Tabadda

## Parish Mass Schedule

Monday to Friday: 7am & 5:30pm; Saturday 11am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am & 5:30 pm;

## Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community

11am Indigenous Community Mass

## Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

## Year of Youth in the Diocese of Darwin



“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.” “Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.” “Besides, we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor.” “We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.” (Quotes from Laudato Si’)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C  
15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018



**“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths:  
All people shall see the salvation of God” Lk 3: 4,6**

John the Baptist had a central role to play in the coming of the Saviour. The light in question was Jesus. John was a strong personality and a man of principle. He didn't go in for a life of comfort. He lived not in a palace but in the desert. His lifestyle, as well as his personal integrity, lent credence to his words. He was a living example of what he preached. And when his task was done, he moved aside to make way for Jesus.

Jesus still needs witnesses. Fortunately, there still are people who witness faithfully and at no little personal cost. (The following example is from The Tablet, May 1998).

*A priest tells how a few years ago he made a visit to China. While there he met an elderly couple who were both doctors. They had studied together at medical school, fallen in love and married. She was a Catholic, he was not. She wanted to convince him that he should join the Church, but he did not wish to be baptised. A short time later she had a child.*

*During one of China's political movements, the husband, along with several other intellectuals, was arrested and sent to a labour camp. The separation was very difficult for the wife, who had to work long hours at the hospital during the day and care for her son at night. In addition to her loneliness, she was under pressure from the Government to divorce her husband and to renounce her religion, so that she could gain political advantages. But she refused. Every night after she returned home, she and her son knelt down to pray and ask strength from God to endure the difficulties.*

*At the end of the 1970s, she heard that her husband and other intellectuals were to be allowed to come home. When the day came, she and her son went to the railway station, where they were the only family members on the platform to welcome the men. Unable to endure the long separation, all the other women had divorced and remarried. Deeply moved, her husband took instruction and was later baptised.*

That woman bore witness to the light just as truly as John the Baptist did. Now it's our turn. For many people in the world today Christ has become a very dim and distant figure. Christ still needs witnesses, people who can effectively make him present to other people.

Without the witness of Christians the face of Christ, already blurred, will continue to fade from our world. He will continue to stand among us, unknown and unrecognised.

The task is not one for the individual Christian only but for the Christian community as a whole. It is easier to witness to Christ as a member of a supportive community.

May the Lord's birthday remind us, reassure us, and bring us joy.

Fr. Alex, 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.*

**+ PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +**

**Daily Readings: starting 17 December 2018**

**Mon:** Gen 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17  
**Tues:** Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-24  
**Wed:** Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Lk 1:5-25  
**Thu:** Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38  
**Fri:** Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18 Lk 1:39-45  
**Sat:** 1 Sam 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56  
**Sun:** Micah 5:1-4 Lk 1:39-44  
 Heb 10:5-10

**+ Pray & read your Bible every day +**



**Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick**

Maria McDonald, Kathy Golotta Kwerralya Quall, Virgie Gomugda Golfo, Tom Wyatt, Tricia Wormald, Eric Robinson, Marie Liedwinger, James Harvey, Grace Boog, Coleen Langcake, Carapiet Shafraz, Felisa Sara, Garry Smith, Rob Dominiquez, Betty Rawson, Ellen Gunner, Latai Mailau, Penelope Fleming, Joan Brenton, Pauline Cardoz, Shiroma Bulner, Anne Tobin, Eric Rooke, Margaret McNaught, Thomas Andrew Jackson, Joyce & Duncan Komene, Bernadette Dowd, Georgina Gilbert, Clare Lorkin, Luigia Sabadin

*May the Lord grant them healing*

**Recent Death**

Pete Sumang - May his soul rest in peace

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:15 pm

**Baptism:** By appointment, one month's notice required. Formation of parents falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 pm -8:00 pm

**Marriage:**

By appointment only, 12 months' notice required for divorced requiring annulment otherwise 6 months for free-to-marry Catholics.

**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 Friday from 6-7pm; 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 -7:00pm

**Children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word**

Every Sunday from 9:20am

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

Every Thursdays 6:15pm - 7:15pm

**Divine Office - Liturgy of the Hours**

Monday to Friday 6:45am

**Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation**

The parish will hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation (communal preparation & confession) this coming Tuesday, 18th December at 7:00pm. This is a beautiful and grace-filled way of staying focused as we prepare for Christmas.

If you have not been to Confession for a long time, please come forward. The priests are here to help you.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**December 24 - 7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass**  
**December 2 - 9:15pm-10:00pm Carols and Reflections**  
**December 24 - 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass**  
**December 25 - 9:30am Christmas Day Mass**

**Break Open the Word**

The parish copies of 'Break Open the Word' for year C are now available in the Sacristy.

Readers are encouraged to utilise this very valuable resource in preparation for the proclamation of the Word.

For those people who ordered their own copy, your named copies are also available in the sacristy. The cost is \$20. Please give payment to the parish secretary.

Thank you - Sr Anne

**Sign up sheets**

With the holidays beginning and many people on the move, we will not have our normal rosters for the Sunday liturgies. There will be sign up sheets at the back of the church for readers, commentators and Communion ministers. If you are going to be available for a particular Sunday please fill in your name for that mass.

Thank you.

**Visit the sick**

If anyone knows any sick person who wants to be visited by a priest, please do not hesitate to contact us through the parish on: **8952 1049**.

**Funeral Services**

Funeral of Anne Cox on Thursday 20 December at 10:00am

Funeral of Maxine May Braun on Friday 21 December at 10:00am

**Hearing Assist**

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to remind parishioners that we have a hearing assist system for use in our church, thanks to the generosity of Michele Castagna. At the rear of the church 6 small receivers with either head phones or personal loop connections are available. If you are missing some of the spoken word, as I am, please avail yourselves of this aid. For any assistance, please contact Fred Twohig on 0437778819.



**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO THE PLENARY 2020. BE PART OF THE CHURCH YOUR WISH TO BE IN AUSTRALIA.**



**WELCOME!**

To new parishioners. Please do not be shy to introduce yourself to the priests. May this Year of Youth be a fruitful one and may you be filled with God's blessings.

The Christmas novena begins on 17 December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. *GNLYC 42*

This is the best time to hold carols services and to begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy.

**CHRISTMAS** falls next Tuesday - it is a holy day of obligation. Bishops and parish priests offer a Mass pro populo on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Priests may celebrate or concelebrate three Masses for Christmas Day.



**Gaudete Sunday** is the name given to the third Sunday of Advent, the nearly four-week season leading up to Christmas. The name "Gaudete Sunday" is taken from the words of the introit, *Gaudete in Domino semper*, "rejoice in the Lord always."

In the past, when organs and flowers were forbidden during the Advent Season, they were permitted during Gaudete Sunday. Because of the more joyful tone of Gaudete Sunday, rose colored (pink) vestments may be used instead of the normal violet ones. Also, the rose coloured Advent candle is lit.

### Exploring the Word

'What must we do?' This is a profound question. The answer does not lie in pious gestures or private devotions. The Baptist is very clear that to be saved, people need to respond to the ways of God by being in right relationship with their neighbour and by living justly. The justice of God is forged in right relationship so that those who have more share with those who have nothing; so that people are treated fairly and no extortion or violence is used against them. John is inviting his hearers to form a new society, and they begin to suspect that he may be the Messiah. But he is adamant that the one more powerful than he is still to come, bringing a baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire. At Pentecost, this baptism becomes a reality for the early church, forming its members into the new society who respond to God's love by imitating the life and the love of the Son. They must now live like the wheat and not like the chaff fit only to be burnt.

- If we were to ask today, 'what must we do?' what might John's answer be to us?

**Rejoice in the Lord always.**

**I shall say it again: REJOICE!** *Philippians 4:4*

**Cleaning:** December 22 **Group 1**  
Sammy Nobleza, Mel & Tinna Buenviaje

**Counters:** December 23, 2018  
Darryl & Leonie Smith

### **Last Week's Collections:**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1,714.15 (for the presbytery)

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$1,069.65 (for the parish)

Planned Giving: \$820.00

*Thank you for your time and kind generosity!*

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

### **Did you know?**

- Tax collectors at the time of Jesus were disliked immensely for two reasons. They collaborated with the Roman oppressors and they skimmed additional monies from the people for themselves.
- The Jewish people of this time were hopeful that a Messiah would come to overthrow the tyranny of the Roman Empire and set them free.
- The word Messiah in Hebrew means 'anointed one'; the word Christ has exactly the same meaning in Greek.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The OLSH parish office will be closed from 24 December to 04 January 2019.

### A Gentle Reminder

OLSH Parish would like to request parishioners who use the JPPII hall for approved functions, meetings or small gatherings, to please clean up the premises after use.

- Fr Alex , A/parish priest

### Planned Giving Campaign

We thank those parishioners who have opted for the planned giving programme to help the parish and Diocese. There are more planned giving cards at the back of the church. Encourage others to renew their financial commitment too.

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"*, Jesus Christ.

### Prayer for Peace

#### *Insight Meditation - Achaan Chah*

Do everything with a mind that lets go.  
Do not expect any praise or reward.

If you let go a little, you will have little peace.  
If you let go a lot, you will have a lot of peace.

If you let go completely,  
You will know complete peace and freedom.

Your struggles with the world  
will have come to an end.

### **Roster for weekend of December 22 - 23, 2018**

	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Sun 7:30am</b>	Volunteer	M McNaught Ruth Sexton	Volunteers
<b>Sun 9:30am</b>	Mel Buenviaje	Tinna Buenviaje Tony Hay	Volunteers
<b>Sun 5:30pm</b>	Myke Ociones	Aileen Batimana Volunteer	Volunteers





**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C  
15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**



**Entrance Antiphon:**

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading:**

Zephaniah 3:14-18

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Isa 12:2-6

R/ Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:**

Philippians 4:4-7

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Isa 61:1

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

Luke 3:10-18

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do, then?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same'. There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate'. Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Communion Antiphon:**

Isa 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**PASTORAL MINISTRIES & MEETINGS**

**Adult Faith & Culture Formation**

(to continue in Feb 2019)

**Prison (Correctional Centre) Ministries**

Tuesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm

Sunday: January 20, 2019

**Ministers' Ecumenical Fellowship**

1st Tuesday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

**Bread Delivery to Town Camps**

Wednesdays from 6:45pm-7:30pm

**Parish Children's Choir**

TBA

**Children's Sunday School**

Every Sunday from 9:20am except on school holidays

**Old Timers Aged-Care Ministries**

Thursdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm

**Jay Creek Aboriginal Mission (20m dr)**

3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Parish Council Meetings**

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

**Catholic Youth of Alice Springs**

(15-18s) 4th Friday, 6:30pm, JP2 Hall

**Hetti Perkins Aboriginal Ministry**

3rd Friday of the month from 10:30am-11:30am

**Harts Range Aboriginal Mission (3hrs)**

4th Friday of the month

**Finance Team Ministry**

1st Saturday from 8:00am-9:30am

**CAAAPU (Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation)**

Sundays from 3:30pm-4:30pm

**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 the main Church.

**Spirituality in the Pub (Todd Tavern)**

Every two months, please see SJAG notice board....

**Parish Soup Van Ministry**

Thursdays at 6:15pm depart from presbytery

*Is God calling you to any of the above ministries and more?*

**"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +**