

# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

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



*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, strengthened by the Word of God, is united by our Sacramental Life into a Covenant to make Jesus the Christ known and loved in Central Australia.*

## Parish Contacts:

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**Website:**  
www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au

**Bulletin: Email:**  
olsh.parish.bulletin@gmail.com  
Deadline for Bulletin submissions is  
Wednesday 5 p.m.

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 am - 12:00 noon  
Saturday and Sunday - Closed

## Parish Team

### Parish Priest:

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD

### Assistant Parish Priests:

Fr Prakash Brayan Menezes SVD  
Fr Olivier Noclam SVD

### Resident Priest:

Fr. Jim Knight SVD

### Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr. Binesh Naramattathil CST

### Liturgy Coordinator

Sr. Mary Bennett RSM

### RCIA Director

Sr. Helen Kennedy FMM

### Parish Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

### Parish Past. Council Chairman

Mr Manfred Casseeram

### Parish Treasurer

Mr Kevin Hickmott

### OLSH College Principal

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

### St. Joseph Flexible Centre

Mr. Ben Ebert

## 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

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Sundays of the month  
- 11am *Aboriginal Community Mass at South Terrace. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month— 11 am Aboriginal Community Mass at Amoonguna, Southeast of Alice Springs, off the Ross Highway.*

## Sacraments:

### Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. 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.

## Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete Sunday*)

### Year C

### 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## *Rejoice, exult with all your heart.*

Dear friends in Christ Jesus, today we enter into another dimension of our joyful waiting in this Advent season. The mood of the day is of excitement, of rejoicing, of celebration. How coincidental it is to open the Door of Mercy in our own diocese today, on this special Sunday! We, here in Central Australia, are privileged to open a designated Door of Mercy in our Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. I'm sure this is a time of grace and a time to thank God and turn back to God to receive God's abundant mercy.

The tone of the first reading of the day, from prophet Zephaniah, is of rejoicing and gladness. God has delivered Israel and has saved them from their enemies and has invited all to partake into the joy of the Lord. If God is for us, who is against us (Rom 8:31) says St Paul. So if God invites us to be joyful, if God invites us to rejoice, if God provides for us, then why should we be sad, why should we go mourning? We Catholics, quite many times, fail to appreciate joy in our heart, especially in our Eucharistic celebrations. Though we call it a 'celebration,' we hardly celebrate. We are even afraid to smile in the church, let alone applaud or show any sign of rejoicing.

St Paul, in today's second reading, is reiterating the thought from prophet Zephaniah by inviting his readers to be happy (translated as *rejoice* in some of the Bibles). We are called to be happy, because God will guard us, God will give us peace. We only need to pray and hold on to our faith, and God will look after us.

The Gospel has the story of John the Baptist, calling people to repent and be baptised and be received into the realm of God's mercy. The tone of expectancy from the people is really marvellous. People are so excited and hopeful of the Lord's coming that they mistake John as the Messiah. John realises this predicament and explains beautifully, to the people, of his role as the messenger of the good news of the Lord's coming. He stresses the difference between him and the One who is coming.

As we are excited and eager to welcome our Lord in our midst, let us examine ourselves and take away all that is misleading us. Let us push away all that is stopping us from realising the true Messiah, and let us open our hearts and minds to receive our Lord in our life. The opening of the Door of Mercy is a fitting symbol of opening ourselves to the mercy of God. Let this door of mercy be a place for us to enter into God's reign once again. Let this be a door of hope for all those who feel left alone. Let this be a door of mercy for all those, who feel, treated badly by the Church. May our entry through this door of mercy bring hope for us and for all those who seek the reign of God and finally may this *Gaudete* (rejoicing) Sunday bring joy and happiness in our lives. Amen.

-Fr Prakash Brayan Menezes SVD

## Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home

"Business is a noble vocation. Create jobs that allow for personal growth, stability, living out one's values." (Pars 124-128)

- Pope Francis

**Daily Readings: starting 14 December 2015**

**Mon:** Num 24:2-7,15-17 Mt 21:23-27  
**Tues:** Zeph 3:1-2,9-13 Mt 21:28-32  
**Wed:** Is 45:6-8,21-25 Lk 7:19-23  
**Thur:** Gen 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17  
**Fri:** Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-24  
**Sat:** Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Lk 1:5-25  
**Sun:** Micah 5:1-4  
 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-44

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



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

Eufelia Canta, Sr. Noelle Albert (OLSH Sister), Helena Rooney, Bernadette Dowd, May Lee Shah, Cathy Golotta, Gesu Golotta, Mary Dick, Colleen Matson and Rose Brand.

*May the Lord grant them healing.*

Please do not underestimate the power of communal prayer for the sick. However The "Sick List" will be updated at the end of each month. If you want a name re-instated or added, please call the office on 8952 1049 or send an email to the address listed below: [olsh.parish.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:olsh.parish.bulletin@gmail.com). - Fr Prakash

**Please take your copy of the UNITY magazine with you and share a copy with your friends. Thank you.**

**Saint of the Week**

St John of the Cross (Dec 14)



**Devotional Practices:**

**Prayers of the Holy Rosary**

Monday to Thursday 5pm

**Saint Joseph Devotion**

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

**Legion of Mary**

Mondays from 6:15pm - 7:15pm

**Weekly Bible Sharing**

Wednesdays 6:15pm—7:30pm

**Mothers' Praying for Your Children**

Fortnightly on Thursdays at 4:00pm—4:30pm

**Divine Office—Liturgy of the Hours**

Monday to Friday 6:45am

**Pope Francis' proclamation of a Jubilee Indulgence**

With the proclamation of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of mercy, Pope Francis has also included a Jubilee Indulgence. What is this indulgence? To know more about this indulgence, first we need to ask what is an Indulgence?

There is surely no better place to turn than to the **Enchiridion of Indulgences**. "Enchiridion" is a Greek word meaning "handbook," and the Enchiridion of Indulgences is the Church's official handbook on what acts and prayers confer indulgences and what indulgences actually are.

An **indulgence** is there defined as "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned."

So punishment for a sin can be separate from its being forgiven... Put more simply, this approach says that we obtain forgiveness through sacramental reconciliation, but we aren't necessarily let off the hook as far as punishment goes.

Indulgences are of two kinds: partial and plenary. A partial indulgence removes part of the temporal punishment due for sins. A plenary indulgence removes all of it. This punishment is envisaged as coming either in this life, in the form of various sufferings, or in the next life, in purgatory. What we don't get rid of here we suffer there.

"To acquire a plenary indulgence," says the Enchiridion, "it is necessary to perform the work to which the indulgence is attached and to fulfil the following three conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff. It is further required that all attachment to sin, even venial sin, be absent."

The greatest hurdle, the toughest requirement is the last. Making a good confession is not particularly difficult, and going to Communion and praying for the Pope's intentions are easier still. It's being free from all attachment to sin that's harder!

As we inaugurate the **Year of Mercy**, we hope to benefit as much as possible from **Pope Francis' proclamation of a Jubilee Indulgence**. What we need to focus on is trust in the God's boundless Mercy, endeavouring at the same time to dispose ourselves as well as we can to receive his grace and blessings mediated by participation in the life and activities of the Church. The actual impact of benefiting from the Pope's proclamation will depend largely on our spirit of faith, the depth of our devotion and our humility in seeking God's healing grace for our brokenness.

(This is an excerpt from the explanation of Indulgence by Fr. Malcolm Fyfe, Vicar general of the Diocese of Darwin. For the full text please see the notice Board or contact the parish office on 8952 1049.)

**Children's Retreat**

The Syro Malabar Community is organising a Christian Retreat for the Children, aged 5 to 16, on 17, 18, 19<sup>th</sup> of December from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at Marian Centre, OLSH Sadadeen Campus. All children of the parish are encouraged to participate. On Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, there will be the Syro Malabar Qurbana at 11.00 am in OLSH Church. Please come along and join in these celebrations.



**BAPTISM**

OLSH Parish welcomes ISHA MARAE CORTEZ daughter of Danilo Cortez and Gesheila Canete Cortez who was baptized on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2015.

**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.

### A Big Thank you



We would like to thank each and everyone who participated in the Combined Churches Carols by Candle Light event last Sunday. It was a lovely family event and was much appreciated by all in the community. Special thanks to all those who came and helped set up and pull down, especially our CYAS members and the REMAR Students and their coordinator from OLSH. Thank you and God bless you.

### Christmas Choir

We are looking for singers for our Christmas Choir. It is an opportunity for us to make use of our God-given talent to lead the community in singing the glory of God and Christmas is a time to sing and praise God. The next choir practice for the Christmas masses is **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00 pm**. Please come, join and sing in our fabulous choir.

### Christmas Mass Times

The Christmas Mass Timings are as follows:

**On the Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015:**

Family and Children's Mass at 7:00 pm.

Mass during the night: Carols at 9:30 pm followed by Mass at 10:00 pm

**On Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2015:**

**In OLSH Church:** 7:15 am and 9:30 am.

11:15 am (Syro-Malabar Holy *Qurbana*).

**In Ngkarte Mikwekhenhe (40 South Terrace):** 11:00 am

### Christmas celebrations in the Communities

Following are the places, dates and times for the Christmas Celebrations in the communities around Alice Springs. Fr Oli will be presiding over these Masses. You are all warmly invited to join Fr Oli to go out-bush and celebrate this special occasion with all people living in these remote communities. Please contact Fr Oli on 8952 1049 to find out the departure times.

DATE	PLACES	TIME
Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Harts Range	10.00 a.m.
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Jay Greek	05.00 p.m.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Yuendemu	10.00 a.m.
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Sandy Bore	05.00 p.m.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Gillen Bore	10.00 a.m.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Burt Creek	03.00 p.m.

**Cleaning:** 19 December **Group 6**

Jo Black, Colleen Thomas, Kate Kelly

**Counters:** 20 December 2015

John & Margaret Healy, Margaret McNaught

**Last Week's Collections:**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1119.75 (for the presbytery)

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$1717.50 (for the parish)

Special Collection for Vinnies: \$523.50

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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

### Advent Programme

Advent is a time of joyful waiting for the Lord and a time to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus in our own lives. Let us make use of this time to reflect on our journey of life as we have entered into the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. We have few spiritual actions for our preparation so please keep the given days marked in your diary.

#### 1. Recollection Day

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. Special Masses with the theme "Be merciful as the Father" at 7:00 am and 5:30 pm. A talk and shared reflection on the Year of Mercy from 7:00 pm. Please observe the day with a visit to the Church and an act of mercy towards a needy person.

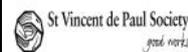
#### 2. Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, from 7:00 pm.

### The tiles in the Church

As you can see the floor tiles in our Church have got a face lift and they've become dazzlingly white. May we humbly request you to please help us maintain them as they are now and also **invite some volunteers to give a good mop to the tiles on Wednesday morning at 9:00 am?** Your help is much appreciated.

### CHRISTMAS DRIVE



The Giving Tree is set up at the back of the Church for three weeks from 28 November until 13 December. Please take a tag and return your gift donation to the Vinnies shop at 38 Railway Tce. This year we are supporting the Women's Shelter, Renal patients and outlying communities.

### Junior Volunteer Program

We have vacancies for Junior Volunteers over the Dec/Jan School Holidays. We offer a fun and friendly environment where the youth will not only be making a valuable contribution to our community but will also acquire basic skills in customer service, money handling, stock control and visual merchandising in a low stress retail setting. For more information call Melissa on 89521074

### Christmas Hampers

We are now accepting donations of pantry goods for our Christmas Hampers. This year we are hoping to make up 100 packs. Today, 13<sup>th</sup> December, at 3 pm in Vinnies shop at 38 Railway Tce, we will be putting them together, if you are free we would appreciate all the help we can get.

### Roster for weekend of 19 - 20 December 2015

	Commentator	Readers	Communion Ministers
<b>Sat 6:00 pm</b>	Brendan Heenan	Leonie Smith Binu Katherine	David Fernandes Rosalie Fernandes Leanne Dieckmann
<b>Sun 7:30 am</b>	Mike Steller	Patricia Rademaker Jo Molin	Rita Steller John Lillecrapp Fred Twohig
<b>Sun 9:30 am</b>	Joobi Mani	Alfy Mani Lillian Labastida	Margaret Lillecrapp Virginia Loy Bruce Were
<b>Sun 5:30 pm</b>	Miguel Ociones	Pat Monaghan Precy Taylor	Marieta Ives Sammy Nobleza Thampi Joseph

**Third Sunday of Advent Year C**

**12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015**



**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 4:4-18

*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.