

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.

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Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9 am - 12 noon & 4 pm - 5 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Parish Team:

Parish Priest:

Fr. Jan Szweda, SVD

Aboriginal Chaplain:

Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr. Binesh Naramattathil

cstnariman@gmail.com

(08) 8985 1238

RCIA Coordinator:

Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

Parish Past. Council Chairman

Fred Twohig

OLSH College Principal

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

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.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

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

Marriage:

By appointment only, 6 months' notice required.

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

13th–14th December 2014

WHO ARE YOU?

From: Association of Catholic Priests



In today's gospel, two big questions are put to John the Baptist by the religious authorities, 'Who are you?' and 'Why are you baptizing?' In answer to the first question, John began by declaring who he was not. He was clear that he was not the Christ, the Messiah. John did not try to be more than he was. Then John declares himself to be the voice crying in the wilderness; he is not the Word, only the voice; he is not the light, only the witness to the light. When John was asked why he was baptizing, he declared that he baptized to make known the 'one who stands among you, unknown to you.' He did what he was doing to open people's eyes to the person standing among them, to the Messiah who was in their midst without their realizing it. There was a great light shining among them that many were unaware of, and John had come to bear witness to that light.

'Who are you?' is a question we can answer at many different levels. We can simply give our name, or give our parents' names; we can answer it by giving our professional qualifications, or by naming the role or the position we have in life. Yet, the deepest level, the most fundamental level, at which we can answer that question, is the spiritual level. Who am I at that deepest, most spiritual, level of my being? Who am I before God? Who is God calling me to be? Here, John the Baptist, the great Advent saint, can be of help to us. He articulates for us who each one of us is in virtue of our baptism, who God is calling us to be. No more than John the Baptist, we are certainly not the Messiah. We are not the light. We know only too well the areas of darkness in our lives and in our hearts. However, like John the Baptist, we are a witness to the Light. Even though we are all far from perfect, we are, nonetheless, called to be a witness to Christ.

John the Baptist says in today's gospel, 'there stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.' The Lord stands among all of us, but he remains unknown to many. Our calling is to make him known, to allow him to shine forth in our world through our lives. John spoke of himself as a voice crying in the wilderness. John used his voice to make known the light. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known. It does not mean that we stand in the main street and preach. Rather we use the gift of communication that we have, the gifts of speech and writing, to proclaim the person of Christ, his world view, his values and his attitudes. In what we communicate and how we communicate it, we allow the Lord to communicate through us. Who we are as witnesses to the light, as the voice for the Word, shapes how we live and explains why we live the way we do. Advent is a good time to reclaim our fundamental identity, our Christ identity. If Jesus is to be born anywhere today, it will be in each one of us.

Daily Readings: starting 15 December

Mon: Num 24:2-7,15-17 Mt 21:23-27
Tues: Zeph 3:1-2,9-13 Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Gen 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17
Thu: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-24
Fri: Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Lk 1:5-25
Sat: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Sun: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



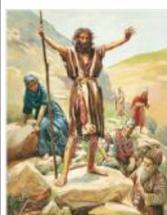
Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Mary Hessling, Colleen Matson, Benedicta Tirkey, David Woods, Sean Heenan, Mary Dick, Duncan Lynch, Isobel Laverty, Janice Loria Lazo, Margaret McNaught, Rita Knuchel (Gill Dew's mum), Graciano Mercado, Kevin Feed, Penelope Sleming, Hermon Tirkey, Tilde Cabantog, Benedicto J Chupungco, Eileen Sanvictores, Manuel Sarangay, Alice Costa, Do Quyen, Paul Rindahl, Kathleen Wil- lia, Dianne McGinn, Georgina Gilbert, Editha Baslot, Ann Vernon, Kevin Edwin, Paul Manard, Heather Cent, Jala Breanna, Singmia Fofung, Colleen Langcake, Cathy Golotta, Marissa Johnston, Allison Burgess, Rose- marie Schnell, Bill Sims, Antonio Mutia, Gill Dew, Mark McGinley, Patricia Wyatt, Peter Strachan, Gary Brenton, Glen Clarke, Imblisa, May Lee Shah, Bill Costa, Maria Lourdes Sacramento.

May the Lord grant them healing

Death Anniversary: John Sheehan and Leo Leahy

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



John guides us to a New Evangelisation

“John the Baptist is again our Advent guide, in today’s gospel reading from John. Because he has revived the ways of Israel’s prophets he has caused quite a stir, and the authorities of Jerusalem send interrogators who ask him to give an account of himself. His selfless response is disarmingly frank: he is not the messiah; he is not one of the old prophets come back to life; he is not the New Moses of Israel’s expectations. His role is that of a herald, ‘a voice crying in the wilderness’, that announces one who stands among the crowd, still ‘unknown’ to them. The description of his witness in this passage leaves his hearers hungry to know more of the one to whom this great figure shows such reverence – a prelude to a great theme of John’s gospel, ‘the true light’ that is going to transform a darkened world.

“Today’s liturgy can serve to remind us of today’s call to a ‘New Evangelisation’ – bringing the true joy of the light of Christ to a world in which there is so much darkness and pain. When the task seems beyond us, let us remember with the old prophet, that we are working for God’s future; let us understand with Paul that it is first and foremost the quality of our lives together that will bring people to share our faith; and let us learn from the Baptist that the effectiveness of our outreach will depend upon the unselfish commitment we have made to the Saviour and what he stands for.”

by Fr John Thornhill SM <http://www.theemmausseries.com/badvent03.html>

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these.



Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The entrance antiphon for Gaudete Sunday is taken from Philippians 4:4: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always").

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in colour provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all parishioners going away for the Christmas and New Year season. You will be missed in our Community. Have a wonderful time with your family and friends, and a safe journey there and back.

Devotional Practices:

Divine Office & Morning Prayer
Monday to Friday 6:45am

Prayers of the Holy Rosary
Monday to Friday 5pm

Saint Joseph Devotion
First Wednesday of the month 9am
Contact: Cathy Golotta 8952 1991

Malayalam (Indian) Fellowship
Sunday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Adoration
Adoration every second Saturday of the month at Missionaries of Charity Convent 12 Standley Crescent, from 3-4 pm

WELCOME!

Welcome to Sarah Miskimmin who is received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the 7.30 am Mass today.

Welcome also to Charlie Faria, son of Wellington Mhare and Sarudzai Gunda , Russel Takunda Munyoro, son of Takura Munyoro and Rosie Goredema, and Ayden Tawananyasha Madamombe, son of Innocent Madamombe and Caroline Hombarume, who will all be baptised this Sunday.

Special welcome to Sr. Carmel Bennette, the Leader of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Australia.

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long time residents or those newly arrived in the Parish. Welcome to all guests and tourists. We pray that you have a lovely stay!

Parish Diary

Sunday 14 December
Third Sunday of Advent
Monday 15 December
Tuesday 16 December
Wednesday 17 December
Thursday 18 December
Friday 19 December
Saturday 20 December
Sunday 21 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Seniors Christmas Lunch Thank You

The Seniors' Christmas Lunch held on Saturday, 6 December was a success, thanks to the generosity of parishioners who gave cash donations, decorated the hall, brought food, entertained the guests, cleaned up or volunteered their time to help all around. A special thank you to Andrzej Skrzypiec and the OLSH students who joyously helped at the lunch, and to Hilda Reeder and her team for organizing the event.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

The Children's Christmas Mass is on December 24 at 7:00pm. If your child would like to participate in the Nativity Play, please bring him / her for a practice on Saturday, 20 December at 9:30am in the OLSH church. All children are invited to participate.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 7.00pm Family/Children's Mass
Night: 9:30pm Carols singing, 10:00pm Mass
Christmas Day: 7:30am and 9:30am.
Ngkaret Mikwekenhe: 11:00am

ATTENTION: NO EVENING MASS

Cleaning: 20 December Group 2

Goury Nair

Counters: 21 December 2014

Mel & Tinna Buenviaje

Last Week's Collections:

1st Collection: \$1,365.75 (for the presbytery)

2nd Collection: \$2,198.90 (for the parish)

Vinnies Blue Bucket Appeal: \$1,011.55

Thank you for your generosity!

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

FROM OUR BISHOP

Recently, I received an anonymous letter, signed only as "A long time group of parishioners, OLSH Church, Alice Springs." I have concerns about the content of this letter. However I am unable to address those concerns without communicating with the person, or persons, who authored this letter.

We do seek to be open and transparent in our diocesan processes, whilst protecting privacy. It would be helpful if anyone who has knowledge of this letter, could contact my office.

- Bishop Eugene Hurley

From the Parish Social Justice Awareness Group

At Sunday Mass at various times of the year, we hear the ancient Prophets telling us what living a 'godly' life is like. Micah's message to his people and us today is: 'this then is what God asks of you, only this, *to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God*'.... Jesus preached the Reign of God characterized by justice, peace, love, wholeness and wellbeing....For the 21st Century Christian the challenges are just as great...To have a relationship with God requires that we act justly towards the vulnerable in our community, that we love those with whom we disagree or whose behavior we deplore and that we walk humbly with the outsider, the different, the other.

Taken from Social Justice: The Biblical Foundations

Volunteers Needed for Christmas and Holy Family Sunday!

There is no roster for Commentators, Readers, and Communion Ministers for Christmas Masses and for the Masses of 28/29 December (Holy Family Sunday).

We are looking for volunteers to fill these positions. If you are a minister and can help, please write your name down on the roster placed at the church entrance. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW

- In the early years, there was a rivalry between the disciples of John the Baptist and of Jesus. This gospel makes it clear that John does not see himself as a rival to Jesus but as a witness to him. It is Jesus who is the one sent from God.
- Bethany, as mentioned in the Gospel text, is not the same town that was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They lived close to Jerusalem but the Bethany mentioned here lies on the east bank of the Jordan River.

Roster for weekend of 20 / 21 December 2014

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
Sat 6:00 pm	Greg Gilbert	Binu Katherine Matthew Smith	Christine Grant Darryl Smith Mary Dick
Sun 7:30 am	Mike Steller	Jo Molin Pushpa Vida	Fred Twohig Margaret Lillecrapp John Lillecrapp
Sun 9:30 am	Beth Madden	Mike Williams Rodea Aplaon	Mark Bensted Virginia Loy Helena Casseeram
Sun 5:30 pm	Mel Buenviaje	Cristina Buenviaje Franchesca Ives	Thomas J John Thampi Joseph Marieta Ives

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

13th - 14th December 2014



Entrance Antiphon:

Phil 4:4-5

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

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord, 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Lk 1:46-50,53-54

R/ My soul rejoices in my God

Second Reading:

1 Thess 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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

John 1:6-8,19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ'. 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No'. So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord'. Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap'. This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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.