



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 Mikweken 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'



Amoris Laetitia

On Love in the Family

"The Synod process allowed for an examination of the situation of families in today's world, and thus for a broader vision and a renewed awareness of the importance of marriage and the family. The complexity of the issues that arose revealed the need for continued open discussion of a number of doctrinal, moral, and pastoral questions", Prologue #2, Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*. Question: Name two complex issues facing marriage and family today? How does it affect you and your Catholic faith? Talk to Jesus about it.

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A 10th - 11th December 2016

SLOW DOWN

At this time of the year most people become overly busy preparing for Christmas. For that reason it is probably even more important than ever to ask ourselves: *As Catholics, what are we preparing for? Who are we preparing for?*

These are questions that, in a profound way, ask us about our image of God in Jesus Christ and our expectations about the second person of the Most Blessed Trinity. The liturgy of Advent and the Parables of Mercy give us many images that tell us what God is like in Jesus. God is the one who saves his people, and does not forget them; God goes out to meet the people in their distress in order to make things easier for them; God gives the people of sense of dignity and worth; God gives them courage to have a vision and to work for its realization.

As Catholics we have to hold onto an enduring hope in the midst of human desolations and disaster as Isaiah the prophet proclaims, *"Let the wilderness and the dry-land exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom"* (Isaiah 35). St James reaffirms this invitation to hold-on until the Lord's coming, *"Be patient...like the farmer who waits patiently for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rain and the spring rains!"* (James 5). Lets continue to hope in that future – a future offered by God - where *"everlasting joy will appear on their faces and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended"* (Isaiah 35).

May we reflect concretely about our hope and listen to the Holy Spirit's invitation to the question, *'What must we do then?'* John the Baptist's message is simple. To one group he says develop a spirit of sharing; to another group he says be fair; to another simply an interior change of mindset. What might St John the Baptist asking you to change this Christmas? To us this can be so simple – and so much common sense. Perhaps this is the point!

When you allow change or conversion in your life through simple gestures than, we have a sure sign that the baby Jesus has come, and that God's Kingdom is among us. Whatever you are willing to change, may it be a real source of joy and strength. So if our Christmas preparation is sapping our energy and becoming a burden, then perhaps we are losing sight of the awesome mystery of God who became a human person.

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 12 December 2016

Mon: Num 24:2-7,15-17	Mt 21:23-27
Tues: Seph 3:1-2,9-13	Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Is 45:6-8,18,21-26	Lk 7:19-23
Thu: Is 54:1-10	Lk 7:24-30
Fri: Is 56:1-3,6-8	Jn 5:33-36
Sat: Gen 49:2,8-10	Mt 1:1-17
Sun: Is 7:10-14	
Rm 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-24

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Ellen Gunner, Latai Mailau, 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.

REST IN PEACE HELENA

Helena Monaghan passed away peacefully today, Saturday 10th Dec. Funeral Mass TBA later.

ENROL NOW. Why Choose OLSH College?

“As a Marist school, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College prides itself on being a place where people are welcomed and where hospitality is offered to all who visit our community. This “family spirit” is a characteristic of Marist schools where relationships are marked by warmth and tenderness. Inspired by the home of Nazareth we develop attitudes that make family spirit a reality: love and forgiveness, support and help, forgetfulness of self, openness to others, and joy....” *OLSH College, website.*

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 3



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 11th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Light your third candle. Read the Gospel of Mathew 11:2-11. Spend some quiet time with the Lord. Ask yourself this question and share your responses: *How is your family ‘good news’ to others, especially to those who are sick or alienated or marginalised?* Your prayer for today and week 3: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.* Action: Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the 25th of December.

Advent Monday Reflection, Songs and Prayer

As advertised in week 1 of Advent, Fr Olivier Noclam SVD will facilitate an hour of Advent reflection in the main Church on Monday 12th December from 7:00pm – 8:15pm.

Theme: *WHY IS THIS GRANTED ME, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME?* (Luke 1:43)

Parish Advent Retreat



Feeling dizzy, tired and restless from the hassle & buzzle of Christmas preparation? Are you beginning to lose the plot? Is the frustration of shopping and rushing affecting you?

Come to our parish Advent Spiritual Retreat next Saturday 17th December from 8:30am – 4:30pm at the Bath Street Campus Hall for a time of pausing, savouring, and spiritually soaking in the joy and gratitude for what God has done in your life. Allow the rich treasures within the stillness of the heart for a new rebirth.

Imagine arriving in the New Year, not exhausted, but deeply refreshed because you have made a commitment to take care of your heart. Our Parish Priest will let the themes of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany inspire and touch the heart.

End of Year Staff Thanksgiving Mass

OLSH College: Friday 16th December at 11:00am, main Church
St Joseph’s Flexible Learning Centre: Thursday 15th December at 11:00am, main Church

Parishioners are welcome to attend these Masses and to acknowledge the hard work of our teaching and non-teaching staff at the both Catholic schools.

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

Liturgy Corner

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 GNLIC 42

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

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

12:00mn Christmas Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25

9:30am Mass ONLY

Please be advised that there will be no Christmas Sunday 7:00am, 11:00am & 5:30pm Masses. Ignore what was printed in the Centralian Newspaper last week and the Unity Magazine. Parishioners working on Christmas Day, feel free to rearrange your work schedule so you can attend one of the three Masses.

Christmas Mass & Sunday Obligations

OLSH Parish is offering Christmas vigil Mass with children on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and the 9:30am Sunday Masses 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 them on Christmas day from 12:30pm onwards.

Please RSVP Fr Raass by Monday 19th December.



UNITY Magazine Dec 2016

The new edition of the Diocesan UNITY magazine is now available at the back of the Church. Please take as many as you want for your neighbours and friends.

Cleaning: 17 December 2016 **Group 3**
Fred & Lyn Twohig, Jim & Clare Lorkin

Counters: 18 December 2016
Mel & Tinna Buenviaje

Last Week's Collections:

1st Collection: \$ 1,371.60 (for the presbytery)

2nd Collection: \$ 969.55 (for the parish)

Planned Giving: \$ 1,515.00

Thank you for your time and generosity!

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

Parish Ministries Suspended Due to Christmas Break

We all need to rest and "do nothing" during this Christmas break & school holidays. So these ministries will be suspended until the 2nd week of January 2017 unless instructed.



- 10:30am Hospitality Social meeting & coffee in the courtyard. Last gathering this Sunday 11th Dec
- Wednesday Bible Sharing. Last Sharing Wednesday 14th Dec
- Christian Meditation last session Thursday 15th Dec
- Tuesday Prison Ministry. Last Visitation 20th December.
- Monday Adult Faith, Culture & Spirituality Formation. Last session next Monday 12th Dec, main church.
- Sunday Catechism will finish this Sunday 11th Dec until school opens.
- Catholic Youth of Alice Springs Friday nights closed until further notice.
- Parish Pastoral Council & Finance/Works Committee break until Feb 2017.
- RCIA will cease on the 19th Dec and back on the 16th January 2017

Welcome Sr Patricia Etoke FMM

OLSH Parish warmly welcomes Sr Patricia Etoke. She is a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) and hails from Congo, Central Africa. Welcome Sister.

CHRISTMAS DRIVE



The Giving Tree will be set up at the back of the Church for three weeks from 26 November to 16 December. If you'd like to donate, please take a tag and return your gift, wrapped with the tag attached, to the Vinnies Shop at 38 Railway Tce.

On the weekend of December 16/17 the Conference will do the **annual Christmas blue bucket appeal**. Monies raised will be converted to food vouchers for the Emergency Relief program.

Christmas Hampers: We are now accepting donations of pantry goods for our Christmas Hampers - tinned hams, canned veggies, soups, and fruits, boxed long-life milk, and Christmas desserts are great items to donate. Donations can also go to the Vinnies Shop.

On Sunday 18th Dec at 3pm we will be putting them together, if you are free we would appreciate any extra hands to help!

Roster for weekend of 17 - 18 December 2016

	Commentator	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6:00 pm	Brendan Heenan	M McNaught Ruth Sexton	Marian Maddocks Darryl Smith Thelma Bowen
Sun 7:30 am	Fred Twohig	Tony Whitelum Joanne Pulsford	John Lillecrapp Rita Steller Mike Steller
Sun 9:30 am	Kevin Hickmott	Precy Taylor Bridget Knight	Virginia Loy Mark Bensted M Lillecrapp
Sun 5:30 pm	Mel Buenviaje	Jenny Dietrich Tinna Buenviaje	Sammy Nobleza Thomas J John Thampi Joseph

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A
10th - 11th December 2016

Entrance Antiphon:

Phil 4:4-5

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

First Reading:

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 145:6-10

R/ Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading:

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon .

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 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:

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer

Communion Antiphon:

cf 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 (Mondays)
Theme & dates - refer to bulletin

Prison (Correctional Centre) Ministries
Tuesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm &
on these Sundays: 9th Oct, 27th Nov, 2016 and
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.*