



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.



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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 Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church. As the Synod Fathers noted, for all the many signs of crisis in the institution of marriage, ‘the desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant, especially among young people, and this is an inspiration to the Church’. As a response to that desire, “the Christian proclamation on the family is good news indeed”. Pope Francis, The Joy of Love, Prologue #1, Question: How do you see your family as good news?”

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A
3rd - 4th December 2016

Who is St John the Baptist?

How much do we know about St John the Baptist? As we approach the second week of Advent, I think it would be worthwhile to dwell for some time on the figure of the Precursor John.

First, he is a prophet, a mouthpiece of God speaking through him to the people, second, because he is the greatest and the last of the prophets, the messenger who came for the very purpose of preparing the way for the Lamb of God, and inviting the people to recognise Jesus as the expected Messiah.

A prophet is someone who knows that he/she has been chosen to work in the service of the One he/she represents and to speak in His name. He is also someone who knows his place and does not consider himself the center of attention. “*The one who follows me is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to carry his sandals*” (Mathew 3:12). A prophet’s vision is also not completely clear as he/she tries to discern what is true and what is false. Tradition calls him the Baptist, because he is the one who baptised with water and foretold another kind of baptism.

John’s preaching is similar to Jesus’ when he begins his ministry. Both begin with the call to change, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*”. God is about to intervene; his kingdom is very near. From this new situation flows a need, namely, conversion.

People have to face this situation, to adapt themselves to it, to change, to be converted. John repeats this in various ways: to prepare the way of the Lord, to make his paths straight, to produce the appropriate fruit, to ask for the baptism of conversion, and so on. Friends, the message of John is stern: the hour of judgement has come, so we cannot remain indifferent. Today God is questioning you to give an answer and take up your responsibilities. Do not delay.

Is the prophesy and vision of Isaiah in chapter eleven still meaningful for us today? The old world of wars, conflicts, injustices are still with us yet we are presented with a new vision to work for the coming of the new world. Advent is a season when the Church recruits new candidates for the Kingdom. Will OLSH parishioners be among them?

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 5 December 2016

Mon: Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26
Tues: Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
Thu: Gen 3:9-15,20 Eph 1:3,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Fri: Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
Sat: Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Mt 17:10-13
Sun: Is 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

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, Helena Monaghan, Clare Lorkin and Rose Almanza.

May the Lord grant them healing.

The Colour of Advent

As we begin the new Church year, Year A, with the first Sunday of Advent we notice that the colour of the season changes from green to a light purple or lilac. It is not the deep purple of Lent which is a penitential time. In the Advent season we wait in hope-filled expectation and anticipation of Jesus becoming one with us; sharing our humanity.



AMORIS LAETITIA
THE JOY OF LOVE

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 2



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 4th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent: Light your second candle. Read the Gospel of Mathew 3:1-12. Spend some quiet time with the Lord. Ask yourselves the question and share your responses: In what ways are you preparing a way for the Lord to come into your life at Christmas?

Your prayer for today and week 2: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

Action: Buy ecologically friendly Xmas gifts—plastic free – for a disadvantaged family.

Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The parish will hold a 2nd Rite of Reconciliation (communal preparation & confession) on Tuesday 20th November at 7:00pm. This is a beautiful and grace-filled way of staying focus 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.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Deliberations

- *The former Marist Brothers' Residence at 10 Hartley Street will be renovated and rented out to tenants including the Marist Flat.*
- *OLSH Parish will continue to explore the best option for installing renewable energy and help support awareness of Pope Francis' 'Care for our Common Home'*
- *OLSH Church Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Our church is turning 50 years in 2019. Planning will soon begin to present the church with a very special gift.*
- *OLSH Parish 2017 Calendar of Social, Pastoral and Spiritual Activities will be confirmed soon.*
- *OLSH Parish will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart as a major Feast Day for our parish together with a parish picnic in 2017.*

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 MASS consists in some sense of two parts, namely the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, this being so closely interconnected that they form but one single act of worship. For in the Mass is spread the table both of God's Word and of the Body of Christ, from it the faithful are to be instructed and refreshed.

GIRM 28

In the readings, the table of God's Word is spread before the faithful, and the riches of the Bible are opened to them.

GIRM 57

MONDAY ADULT FAITH, CULTURE & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A Bible Study and Sharing on the Parables of Mercy

Monday 5th December	Who is forgiven More Loves More	The Two Debtors and their Creditors (Luke 7:36-50)
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Come, Learn, Share & Celebrate from 7:00pm-8:30pm

Social Justice Awareness Planning Day

All parishioners challenged and affirmed by social justice issues are invited to attend a planning day next Sunday 4th December from 3-5pm at the JP2 Hall. *“There are sinful social and economic inequalities which affect millions of human beings. These inequalities are in open contradiction to the Gospel and are contrary to justice, to the dignity of persons, and to peace”*, Catechism 412.

Ecumenical Christmas Carols by Candlelight

All Catholics are invited to attend our annual ecumenical Christmas Carols by Candlelight at the ANZAC Oval next Saturday 4th December. The gates will open at 5:00pm. Bring your bottled water, mat etc. Come and meet your fellow Christians and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

Annual OLSH Parish Seniors Lunch – THANK YOU

The parish hospitality team would like to thank everyone who supported the Senior Christmas lunch - your time, food and talent was gratefully appreciated. Additionally, thank you to everyone who supported our Michele Angel gift appeal. Christmas came early and brought joy to our seniors.

REMINDER: Mother's prayers this 1st Wednesday at the presbytery, 5.30pm - come join us prayer for our children.

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered or donated time to Michele's Angel gifts for our parish seniors Christmas lunch. Additionally, I'd like to thank REMAR, CYAS carollers and Fr Vincent for his magic and holiday music. Your generosity provided a wonderful event that was enjoyed by all. Merry Christmas to all from the Parish Hospitality team.

P.S. Forgot to get your Angel gift to the church on time? No worries, we can pass along to Vinnies Christmas appeal.

Thank you, Ruth Sexton

Cleaning: 10 December 2016 **Group 2**
Goury Nair, Biji, Sibi Thampi, Sanila Thomas
Counters: 11 December 2016
Margaret McNaught
Last Week's Collections:
1st Collection: \$ 1,1,285.15 (for the presbytery)
2nd Collection: \$ 859.20 (for the parish)
Planned Giving: \$ 1,375.00

Thank you for your time and generosity!

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

FINAL PARISH ACTIVITIES (NOV-DEC) DATE & VENUE

Social Justice Awareness Group Future Planning	Sunday 4 th December, 3-5pm @ the JP2 Hall
Ecumenical Xmas Carols for all Churches	Sunday 4 th December, 5-11:00pm @ ANZAC Oval

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE ABOVE PARISH ACTIVITIES & PLEASE LEND A HAND



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!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Luke's Gospel suggests that John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins but there is no hint of this in Matthew.
- John the Baptist was not alone in his criticism and rejection of the soft religious life in the cities of Palestine. There were others, too, who withdrew from what they saw as the corruption of the Temple cult and retreated to the desert to live a life of prayer and asceticism. The best known of these groups were the Essenes of the Dead Sea region. It was this community which left the wonderful legacy of the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in the 19400's. It is likely that John was in some way associated with them.
- Advent is a time in which we too are invited to withdraw a little in prayer and contemplation.

Roster for weekend of 10 - 11 December 2016

	Commentator	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6:00	Greg Gilbert	Sue Bain Alf Goody	David Fernandes R Fernandes H Casseeram
Sun 7:30	Mike Steller	M McNaught Ruth Sexton	Greg Gilbert Rita Steller Fred Twohig
Sun 9:30 am	Jooby Mani	Elfy Jooby Jenny Dietrich	Cristy Gennetti Mark Bensted M Lillecrapp
Sun 5:30	Mel Buenviaje	Debbie Cook Denise Simon	Sammy Nobleza Tomas J John Marieta Ives

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A
3rd - 4th December 2016

Entrance Antiphon:

cf Isa 30:19, 30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart .

First Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord
Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Responsorial Psalm:

R/ Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heavens is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer

Communion Antiphon:

Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Telephone Tree Ministry TBA
Thursdays from 10:30am-11:45am

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.*