

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.

Second Sunday of Advent Year B

06th–07th December 2014

PREPARE THE WAY

From: Sunday Reflections by Fr. Eugene Lobo, SJ



The central figure in today's Word of God is John the Baptist and he is presented as one who is preparing the way for the Lord. He does so by speaking to the people of the coming of Jesus, inviting them to prepare themselves to welcome Jesus.

The story proper begins with the appearance of John the Baptist at the river Jordan in his role as a preacher and baptizer. He comes as a prophet who is proclaiming the word of God and gives a new message to the people. He is presented as a person who had already become famous in his own right. That is clear from the number of people who came out to see him and that he attracted the attention of King Herod and of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. He led a very austere life starting from the desert, dressed in rough clothes made of camel skin and had a poor man's diet. John clearly presented himself as a man of God and the people admired and trusted him as a person of holiness and integrity. This may have caused people to think that he might be the messiah. His appearance among them was befitting the sign of messiah who would come from nowhere, his mighty voice that shook them from their slumber and listless attitude. At the same time he lived a totally self-sacrificing life combined with humility. He gave them the message of the kingdom of God and baptized them.

John's message was present not only in his words but also in his whole life. The man was the message. The time of Jesus would be the time of elegance and the messenger was present to make the paths straight, to fill the valleys and cutting into hills. He was like the herald who would precede the king on a journey, to announce to the inhabitants of the arrival of the King and make smooth the ill-kept roads. He was indeed different from the other preachers of their time. He taught them with courage and bluntly made them aware of their sinfulness. His essential message was one of repentance. The word 'repent' here does not mean just being sorry for the past or the performance of penance. It is a call for them to do much more than that, to change their ways, to have a change of heart. To repent in the Gospel involves a radical transformation in our way of living. It means a conversion, a real turning around, a re-directing of one's whole life. The outward sign of his preaching and ministry was baptism in the river Jordan. It was just an external sign and the Jews were fully aware of such symbolism of ritual washing.

There is a further reflection we might make today concerning the role of John the Baptist. For he should help us to reflect that there have been many John the Baptists in our own lives, many people who have helped us to find Jesus, to know, love and serve him better. A second point is that John the Baptist reminds us that we, too, have the responsibility to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and to help people to know him and love him and experience his love in their lives, just as other people have brought us to where we are. It is not easy in our society to find Jesus and to accept his values and vision of life.

Daily Readings: starting 8 December

Mon: Gen 3:9-15,20
 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Tues: Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14

Wed: Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30

Thu: Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15

Fri: Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Mt 17:10-13

Sun: Is 61:1-10-11
 1 Thess 5:16-24 Jn1:6-8,19-28

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



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Benedicta Tirkey, David Woods, Sean Heenan, Mary Dick, Duncan Lynch, Isobel Laverty, Janice Loria Lazo, Margaret McNaught, Rita Knchel, Graciano Mercado, Kevin Feed, Penelope Sleming, Hermon Tirkey, Tilde Cabantog, Benedicto J Chupungco, Eileen Sanvictores, Manuel Sarangay, Alice Costa, Do Quyen, Paul Rindahl, Kathleen Willia, 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, Rosemarie Schnell, Bill Sims, Antonio Mutia, Gill Dew, Mark McGinley, Patricia Wyatt, Lorraine Gore, Peter Strachan, Gary Brenton, Glen Clarke, Imblisa, May Lee Shah, Bill Costa, Maria Lourdes Sacramento.

May the Lord grant them healing

“Can You see that as soon as the day breaks I think of You? As evening comes, I am near You. I am near You at every moment. I love You, Jesus!” - St. Gemma Galgani

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

For some, it will be all locusts and honey; for others, judgement

“In today’s gospel, the evangelist presents John the Baptist, who, by reprising the message of Isaiah, indicates that his ancestor’s prophetic vision is now being fulfilled. The desert has again become a highway for homecoming, not to Israel, but to God. Sinners are being challenged by John to leave behind their former ways of sin in order to come home to God’s forgiveness. John also points out that now the way home go God has become a person, one more powerful than he, one who will bring the Holy Spirit.

John’s wardrobe and food choices also reveal something of his purpose. Clothed in camel’s hair and a leather belt John recalled the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8) whom, it was probably believed, would be precursor of the Messiah. John’s unusual diet may have been attributed to his asceticism. Or, as some scholars suggest, since locusts and wild honey were the traditional symbols of judgment (Exodus 10:4; Psalm 105:34; Isaiah 33:4) and comfort (Exodus 3:8; Deuteronomy 6:3), they may have been mentioned in order to announce the dual nature of the good news of Jesus. Still today the locusts and wild honey teach us: for those who would come home to find God in Jesus, there will be comfort; those who refuse the invitation will bring judgment on themselves.”

From <http://www.nationalcatholicreporter.org/sanchez/locked/cycleb/adventb/advent296b.htm>

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY (8 December)



What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.” The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace”. In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary

that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

“The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”

Does this mean Mary never sinned?

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin. The Catechism explains:

493 The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God “the All-Holy” (Panagia), and celebrate her as “free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature”. By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long. “Let it be done to me according to your word. . .”

(continued on page 3)

WELCOME!

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 07 December
Second Sunday of Advent

Monday 08 December
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 09 December

Wednesday 10 December

Thursday 11 December

Friday 12 December

Saturday 13 December

Sunday 14 December
Third Sunday of Advent

CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT 2014

Carols by Candle Light, organized by Churches of Alice Springs, will be held on Sunday night, 7 December, starting at 7.00pm at the ANZAC Oval.

In case of rain, it will be held at the Marian Hall., OLSH Sadadeen Campus.

Today again we say **Good Bye** and **Thank You** to **Raul Daet** who for 17 years played the organ in our church. Raul is moving to Darwin and will be missed dearly, especially at the 5:30 pm Sunday Masses and on special celebrations. It takes a strong commitment and a generous service to always be available when needed. Raul never refused to come even twice on many Sunday or Feast days to share his talents with our Community. May God continue to bless you, Raul, in your future years. Salamat Po!

WORKERS WANTED

Next Saturday, the 13th of December there will be a working bee to give the Church a Christmas clean. We will kick off at 8.00 am and be finished by 11.00 am.

Please bring some window cleaning material and a long extension ladder if you have one. We will also be giving the terrazzo under the Wills Tce. veranda a good scrub.

Thank you.

Cleaning: 13 December Group 1
 Sammy Nobleza, Mel & Tinna Buenviaje

Counters: 14 December 2014
 Scott Lonard, Margaret –Ann McNaught

Last Week's Collections:
 1st Collection: \$1,457.30 (for the presbytery)
 2nd Collection: \$2,237.00 (for the parish)

Thank you for your generosity!

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

(cont'n from page 2)

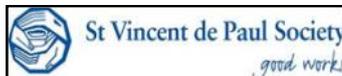
Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her?

No. What we've already quoted states that Mary was immaculately conceived as part of her being "full of grace" and thus "redeemed from the moment of her conception" by "a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race."

The Catechism goes on to state:

492 The "splendour of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son". The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".

Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/jimmy-akin/the-immaculate-conception-8-things-to-know-and-share-.#ixzz3L0KygGUE>



CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The Giving Tree will be set up at the back of the Church for three weeks from 29 November until 14 December. Please take a tag and return your unwrapped gift donation to the Vinnies shop at 38 Railway Tce. This year we are supporting the Women's Shelter, Renal patients and outlying communities.

On the weekend of December 6/7 there will be the annual Christmas blue bucket appeal. Monies raised will be converted to food vouchers for the Emergency Relief program.

Christmas cards and 2015 Columban calendars are now available from the Vinnies shop on 38 Railway Tce.

Thank you for your generosity.

DID YOU KNOW

- John's clothing of homespun camel hair tied with a leather thong around the waist is the explicit garb of a prophet.
- God had called the people of Israel out of Egypt and led them across the River Jordan to be a new people. God, through John, is now calling for a new people by passing them through the waters of baptism in the same river.

Roster for weekend of 13 / 14 December 2014

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
Sat 6:00 pm	John Appleby	Walter Litvensky Patricia Litvensky	Rose Sabadin Leanne Dieckmann Anne Chivers
Sun 7:30 am	Fred Twohig	Patricia Rademaker Mike Steller	Carmel Leonard Rita Steller Kath McGargill
Sun 9:30 am	Pauline Otieno	Bridget Knight Precy Taylor	Mark Bensted Virginia Loy Helena C asseeram
Sun 5:30 pm	Miguel Ociones	Andrzej Skrzypiec Denise Simon	Thomas J John Marieta Ives Thampi Joseph

Second Sunday of Advent Year B

06th - 07th December 2014



Entrance Antiphon:

Isaiah 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 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way of the Lord

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God'. Here is the Lord the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 84:9-14

R/ Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Lk 3:4-6

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

Gospel:

Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

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.