



# 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:

**Phone:** (08) 8952 1049  
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**Website:** www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au  
**Bulletin: Email:** olsh.parity\_bulletin@gmail.com  
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 Alejandro de la Sotta SVD  
Fr Olivier Noclam SVD  
**Syro-Malabar Chaplain**  
Fr Binesh Joseph CST  
**Parish Council Chairman**  
Mr Manfred Casseeram  
Contact: chairpersonppc@gmail.com  
**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 Tony Caddy FMS  
**St. Joseph's Flexible Centre**  
Mrs Sitinder Bahia  
**Sunday School Catechists**  
Genetti, Holroyd-Decosta, Knight  
**Hospitality Coordinators**  
Losana Hay and Ruth Sexton  
**Safeguarding Officers:**  
Mr George Tetteh, Ms Pane Komene & Mr Manfred Casseeram  
Contact: olshsafeguard@gmail.com  
**Smart-Loving Ministry**  
Mr & Mrs Emil Tabadda

## Parish Mass Schedule

Monday to Friday: 7am & 5:30pm; Saturday 11am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am & 5:30 pm;  
**Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community**  
11am Indigenous Community Mass  
**Syro-Malabar Rite Mass**  
Every 3rd Sunday of the month

## Year of Youth in the Diocese of Darwin



“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.” “Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.” “Besides, we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor.” “We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.” (Quotes from Laudato Si’ )

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018



Today's Gospel brings us to the major players in the story of Jesus' birth. It describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this "Visitation" story, the two women share their remarkable experience. As their two stories come together, *faith* overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith and obedience to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the "sign" to be seen in the pregnancy, at an advanced age, of her cousin Elizabeth. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given: it acts, goes on its journey, and *then* discovers signs that confirm what has been believed. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. This lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit replacing the role of male parent, she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

The account makes much of Mary's greeting, which in the language of the time, would have been "Peace" (*Shalom*). Mary brings the "peace" that is to characterise the messianic age. As soon as she utters this messianic greeting (*shalom*), Elizabeth experiences the infant John within her womb leaping with "messianic" joy.

It is important to note Elizabeth's insistence that Mary is "blessed", not simply because she is "the mother of my Lord", but because of her faith: "Blessed is she who *believed* that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled". Her faith was the essential channel through which salvation would flow into the world. All the scriptural promises heard through Advent come to their point of focus in the faith of Mary, the beginning and the model of all subsequent Christian believing.

May this Peace be with you all this Christmas.

Fr. Nick 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.*

+ PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +

**Daily Readings: starting 24 December 2018**

**Mon:** 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16      Lk 1:67-79  
**Tues:** Is 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6      Jn 1:1-18  
**Wed:** Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59      Mt 10:17-22  
**Thu:** 1 Jn 1:1-4      Jn 20:2-8  
**Fri:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2      Mt 2:13-18  
**Sat:** 1 Jn 2:3-11      Lk 2:22-35  
**Sun:** 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24      Lk 2:41-52  
+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



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

Maria McDonald, Kathy Golotta Kwerralya Quall, Virgie Gomugda Golfo, Tom Wyatt, Tricia Wormald, Eric Robinson, Marie Liedwinger, James Harvey, Grace Boog, Coleen Langcake, Carapiet Shafraz, Felisa Sara, Garry Smith, Rob Dominquez, Betty Rawson, Ellen Gunner, Latai Mailau, Penelope Fleming, Joan Brenton, Pauline Cardoz, Shiroma Bulner, Anne Tobin, Eric Rooke, Margaret McNaught, Thomas Andrew Jackson, Joyce & Duncan Komene, Bernadette Dowd, Georgina Gilbert, Clare Lorkin, Luigia Sabadin

*May the Lord grant them healing*

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:15 pm

**Baptism:** By appointment, one month's notice required. 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 for divorced requiring annulment, otherwise 6 months for free-to-marry Catholics.

**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 Friday from 6-7pm; 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 -7:00pm

**Children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word**

Every Sunday from 9:20am

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

Every Thursdays 6:15pm - 7:15pm

**Divine Office - Liturgy of the Hours**

Monday to Friday 6:45am

**OLSH PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2018**

**MONDAY 24th December**

No 7:00am Mass

No 5:30pm Mass

7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass

9:15pm Carols & Reflection

10:00pm Christmas 'Midnight' Mass

**TUESDAY 25th December**

9:30am Christmas Day Mass (one Mass only)

**WEDNESDAY 26th December**

No 7:00am Mass

5:30pm Mass

**TUESDAY 1st January 2019**

No 7:00am and 5:30pm Masses

9:00am Mass, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Solemnity

**7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass**

*All children are requested to dress-up according to his/her favourite character in the Christmas story or the entire Bible.*

*The children will be leading the music during the Mass.*

**The Parish Office Closing & Suspension of Ministries**

The Parish Office will be closed from December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019.

Due to the Christmas holidays, there is a shortage of priests & volunteers for the various ministries of the parish, hence they will be temporarily suspended from next week until the beginning of the school year 2019.

- Wednesday Bible Sharing
- Sunday Children School
- Thursday midday Christian Meditation
- Friday Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Youth of Alice Springs
- Hospitality Team EXCEPT the following:
  - ◆ Bread run
  - ◆ Thursday Old Timers & Hetti Perkins Hostels
  - ◆ Hospital visits
  - ◆ Camp & Aboriginal Community Visits
  - ◆ Tea/Coffee will still be available after the 9:30am & 11:00am Masses (volunteers needed to manage).

**Sign up sheets**

With the holidays beginning and many people on the move, we will not have our normal rosters for the Sunday liturgies. There will be sign up sheets at the back of the church for readers, commentators and Communion ministers. If you are going to be available for a particular Sunday please fill in your name for that mass. Thank you, Sr Anne

**Visit the sick**

If anyone knows any sick person who wants to be visited by a priest, please do not hesitate to contact us through the parish on: **8952 1049**.

**WELCOME!**



To new parishioners. Please do not be shy to introduce yourself to the priests. May this Year of Youth be a fruitful one and may you be filled with God's blessings.

**CHRISTMAS** falls next Tuesday - it is a holy day of obligation. Bishops and parish priests offer a Mass pro populo on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Priests may celebrate or concelebrate three Masses for Christmas Day.

**Home Alone on Christmas Day?**

For most people, Christmas is a time for family. Whether you're catching up with your long-lost cousin, friend or avoiding annoying jokes from others, chances are you'll be enjoying a good tucker or a Christmas ham on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December.

But if you're one of those people whose families might not be so close this festive season, like the priests and religious of the parish, Christmas day can be a lonely affair. For the separated, divorced or widowed, the ex-pats, students, tourists, volunteers, backpackers, prisoners and refugees, the travellers or the ones left all alone at home, this time of year can be more than lonely -- it can be heartbreaking.

Luckily, there is an option for the 'orphans' of Christmas to help them feel a little more connected. Our Parish Priest invites you to join with him & other priests and seminarians on Christmas day at the JP II Hall from 12:00pm onwards. Feel free to bring a plate to share in the spirit of Christmas. Indeed, there is always a spare seat at our Christmas table.

**Exploring the Word**

Elizabeth's response to the visit of her young kinswoman is quite remarkable. She can have had no way of knowing what had happened to Mary but she receives a sudden intuition from God and is 'filled with the Holy Spirit'. Elizabeth and the child she carries both recognise and respond to an in-breaking of God's action in human history. The revelation to Elizabeth is even more profound when we realise that she rejoices not only because Mary is carrying the long awaited saviour, but also because she sees that Mary's blessedness is a direct result of her faith. 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' It is Mary's willing acceptance of the role God chose for her that has resulted in her being blessed among women.

- Can you think of a time when you 'knew' something without being told? What was the source of your intuition?
- What promises has God made to you? Do you believe the promises that have been made?

**Cleaning:** December 29 **Group 2**  
Goury Nair, Biji, Sibi Thampi, Sanila Thomas  
**Counters:** December 30, 2018  
Eric & Kath McGargill

**Last Week's Collections:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1,254.95 (for the presbytery)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$1,786.35 (for the parish)  
Planned Giving: \$926.00

*Thank you for your time and kind generosity!*

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

**Did you know?**

- In Luke's gospel, the conception and birth of Jesus are described in parallel with the conception and birth of John the Baptist. One important difference is that the announcement of the miraculous conception of John to elderly parents comes to his father Zechariah, while the announcement of the conception of Jesus comes to his mother, Mary
- In Matthew's gospel, it is Joseph who is the main protagonist, while Luke concentrates on Mary's role in cooperating in God's plan for the world.
- Luke's gospel pays a great deal of attention to the role that women play in the story of salvation.
- Mary undertakes a journey from Nazareth in Galilee, in the north of Israel, to the hill country of Judah in the south. This is an extraordinary journey for a young pregnant woman of her time to undertake alone!

**Feasts This Week**

**Wednesday 26 December - St Stephen**  
**Thursday 27 December - St John, apostle**  
**Friday 28 December - The Holy Innocents**  
**Saturday 29 December - 5th day in the Octave of the nativity**

**A Gentle Reminder**

OLSH Parish would like to request parishioners who use the JP II hall for approved functions, meetings or small gatherings, to please clean up the premises after use.

- Fr Alex , A/parish priest

**Prayer of Mary**

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.  
For he has looked upon my lowliness;  
behold, from now on, all ages will call me blessed.  
The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.*

**Roster for weekend of Dec 29-30, 2018**

	Commentator	Readers	Communion Ministers
<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Sun 7:30am</b>	Kath McGargill	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Sun 9:30am</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer Tony Hay	Volunteers
<b>Sun 5:30pm</b>	Mel Buenviaje	Volunteer Tinna Buenviaje	Volunteers



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Isa 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**First Reading:**

Micah 5:1-4

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

R/ Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:**

Hebrews 10:5-10

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Lk 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

Luke 1:39-44

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Communion Antiphon:**

Isa 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**PASTORAL MINISTRIES & MEETINGS**

**Adult Faith & Culture Formation**

(to continue in Feb 2019)

**Prison (Correctional Centre) Ministries**

Tuesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm

Sunday: January 20, 2019

**Ministers' Ecumenical Fellowship**

1st Tuesday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

**Bread Delivery to Town Camps**

Wednesdays from 6:45pm-7:30pm

**Parish Children's Choir**

TBA

**Children's Sunday School**

Every Sunday from 9:20am except on school holidays

**Old Timers Aged-Care Ministries**

Thursdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm

**Jay Creek Aboriginal Mission (20m dr)**

3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Parish Council Meetings**

1st Thursday of the month from 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Catholic Youth of Alice Springs**

(15-18s) 4th Friday, 6:30pm, JP2 Hall

**Hetti Perkins Aboriginal Ministry**

3rd Friday of the month from 10:30am-11:30am

**Harts Range Aboriginal Mission (3hrs)**

4th Friday of the month

**Finance Team Ministry**

1st Saturday from 8:00am-9:30am

**CAAAPU (Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation)**

Sundays from 4:30pm-5:30pm

**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 the main Church.

**Spirituality in the Pub (Todd Tavern)**

Every two months, please see SJAG notice board....

**Parish Soup Van Ministry**

Thursdays at 6:15pm depart from presbytery

*Is God calling you to any of the above ministries and more?*

**"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8**