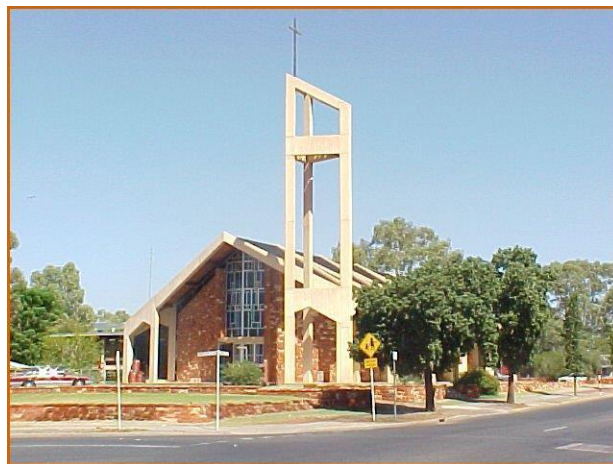


# **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) Parish Alice Springs**

## **Information Booklet**



*Established 1929*

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## **Our Mission**

OLSH Parish participates in the Mission of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

1. By doing all we possibly can to make Jesus Christ known and loved by all in Central Australia.
2. By our Parish commitment to Justice for all citizens of Central Australia, especially for the Arrernte people.
3. By striving with our brothers and sisters of other Christian traditions and other religions in Central Australia for a unity of purpose and action.

## **Our Vision**

The different and varied communities of OLSH Parish form a deep bond or covenant of love. This bond originates in the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The bond is further strengthened through the mutual support and ongoing formation in our Catholic faith offered to each community and each parishioner. Finally this deep bond gives the Parish the courage and energy required to carry out its mission.

## **Message from the Parish Priest**

Dear Parishioners

The Mission and Vision Statements, worked out in the Parish Assembly in 2008, draw us together from various national and cultural backgrounds into one family, guide all our activities and inspire us to participate in the mission of the Church.

We have a wonderful Parish with the true spirit of community, compassion, and care for each other. We are fortunate to have many groups in the Parish who fulfill different ministries and services.

I welcome you to OLSH Parish and invite you all to join us and become active and supportive partners with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

I share the hopes of my predecessor, Fr. Jan Szweda SVD, that we continue the work of the Lord in this area of the world, and extend the vision that Jesus left us into Central Australia in the years to come. We are members of one family, baptized in the same faith and united in the same loving God.

In the name of Jesus I welcome you. May our Lady of the Sacred Heart pray for us all.

Father Asaeli Raass SVD  
Parish Priest

## **Parish Contact Details**

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish (Diocese of Darwin)  
4 Hartley Street Alice Springs NT 0870  
PO Box 9 Alice Springs NT 0871

**Phone:** (08)8952 1049

**Fax** : (08)8952 9823

**Website:** [www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au](http://www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au)

**Email:** [olsh\\_parish\\_asp@bigpond.com](mailto:olsh_parish_asp@bigpond.com)

**Parish Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am-12:00midday  
Saturday-Sunday Closed

### **Parish Mass Schedule**

Mon to Fri 7:00am & 5:30pm

Saturday 11:00am & 6:00pm Sunday vigil mass

Sunday 7:30am & 9:30am & 5.30pm

### **Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community**

40 South Terrace Sunday 11.00am *excluding 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month*  
when mass is celebrated at Amoonguna

### **Reconciliation**

Every Saturday 11:30am & 5:30pm

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Preparation meetings by appointment. One month notice required.  
Please contact the Parish Office.

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

By appointment. Six months notice required.  
Please contact the Parish Office.

## **Parish Team**

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD.....Parish Priest

Fr Prakash Menezes .....Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Oliver Noclam .....Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Binesh Naramattathil.....Chaplain for Syro-Malabar Community

Mr Mel Buenviaje.....Parish Secretary

Mr Manfred Casseeram.....Parish Pastoral Council Chairman

Br Matthew Green FMS..... OLSH Catholic College Principal

## **Religious Orders within OLSH Parish**

Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) Ph (08)8952 1049

Marist Brothers (FMS) Ph (08)8952 1435

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
(FMM) Ph (08)8952 4151

Little Sisters of Jesus (LSJ)  
(Yuendumu) Ph (08)8956 4269

Sisters of Mercy (RSM) Ph (08)8953 8726

Missionaries of Charity (MC) Ph (08)8953 3156

OLSH Sisters (FDNSC) Ph (08)8952 1082

Missionary Sisters Servants of the  
Holy Spirit Sisters (SSpS) Ph 0455856680

## **Catholic Schools**

### **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College Transition to Year12**

**Principal:** Br Matthew Green FMS  
**Administration & Principal's Office** Sadadeen Road  
Alice Springs NT 0870

**Postal:** PO Box 2508  
Alice Springs NT 0871

**Phone:** (08)8950 6400  
**Fax:** (08)8952 4607  
**Email:** principal@olshalice.nt.catholic.edu.au  
**Website:** www.olshalice.catholic.edu.au

**Bath Street Campus** Transition-Year 4  
Phone (08)8950 8666  
Fax (08)8953 2624

**Traeger Campus** Years 5 - 8  
Phone (08)8950 8555  
Fax (08)8952 2581

**Sadadeen Campus** Years 9 - 12  
Phone (08)8950 7399  
Fax (08)8953 2571

### **St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre**

Located at 'Alice Springs Youth Hub' (below Anzac Hill) Wills Terrace  
Phone 0427 987 062

## **Devotional Practices**

### **Divine Office Morning Prayer**

Monday to Friday 6.45am

OLSH Church

### **Marian Movement for Priests**

Monday & Friday 6.00-7.00pm

OLSH Church

### **Holy Rosary Prayer**

Monday to Friday 5.00pm

Saturday 10:30am

OLSH Church

### **Devotion to St Joseph**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

25 Erumba Street. (Phone 8952 1991)

### **Stations of the Cross during time of Lent**

Every Friday 5.00pm

OLSH Church



## **PARISH SERVICE GROUPS**

### ***ADMINISTRATION***

#### **PARISH SECRETARY**

The Parish Secretary provides secretarial support to the Parish Priest, Parish rolls and registers, and carries out Parish administrative tasks. The Parish Secretary also supports the Finance Committee through bookkeeping and banking. The Parish Secretary is at the Parish office from Monday to Friday 8.30am to 12 midday & 4.00 to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.30am to 10.30am. The Parish Secretary is available for parishioner's enquiries at these times.

### ***GOVERNANCE***

#### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The Parish Pastoral Council is a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community that come together with their Parish Priest to share the responsibility for the development of our Community of Faith and the Mission of the Church in our area. The Council meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, February through to December. Parishioners are able to contact Council members at any time with their concerns or issues, and raise matters for deliberation by the Council.

#### **THE PARISH FINANCE/WORKS COMMITTEE**

The Parish Finance/Works committee recommends procedures to carry out the financial affairs of the Parish and assists the Parish Priest in the administration of the Parish finances. The committee provides advice to the Priest on the Parish budget, reviews the budget throughout the year, and prepares the Parish financial report at the end of the fiscal year. The committee also carries out reviews of collections, security, and distribution of money, and negotiates contracts and insurance policies. The committee is also responsible for the Parish's property and assists the Parish Priest in meeting his financial and administrative responsibilities. The members of the committee are appointed by the Parish Priest. The committee usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 8:30am for 1½ hours.

## **PLANNED GIVING**

The Parish relies heavily on regular contributions from members of the OLSH community to pay for the monthly expenses and upkeep associated with the Church and Presbytery. By committing to giving an amount regularly each week, by using the planned giving envelopes, parishioners can provide invaluable support to OLSH. If you would like to consider joining planned giving programme, **contact the Parish Office** to be provided with a box of envelopes.

## **COLLECTION COUNTERS**

Each week donations collected during the weekend masses have to be counted and recorded. This important ministry is carried out each Sunday after the 5.30pm mass. If you are interested in participating in this Ministry, please **contact the Parish Office**.

## **ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY**

Fosters the spiritual, cultural and social development of indigenous Australians especially the eastern and central Arrernte Catholics in Central Australia.

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry strives to:

- Assist the Aboriginal community to share their faith and to care for one another
- Create an awareness, understanding and respect of Aboriginal perspectives within the OLSH Catholic community
- Create an awareness among indigenous and non-indigenous Australians that Aboriginal people are a significant part of the body of Christ in this land.
- Encourage indigenous Australians to participate actively in decision making in the Catholic community.

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry provides sacramental and pastoral initiatives to 16 camps and remote communities in Central Australia and helps support Ngkarte Mikwekenhne Incorporated at 40 South Terrace, the present worship space for Aboriginal Catholics. If you want to get involved please do not hesitate to make yourself known.

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Altar Servers assist the Priest during the Mass. Children from Year 3 upwards, who have made their First Holy Communion may volunteer to be trained and be included in the roster. Interested parents or children please **contact a Priest or the Parish Office**.

### **AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

The African group occasionally meets after the 9.30am mass on Sunday. Every new African to this Catholic Community is welcome to join the group. Please contact George Tetteh on **0457 835 522**.

### **OLSH MALAYALAM (INDIAN) FELLOWSHIP**

Meets every Sunday at 7.00pm in different homes. All Welcome Please **contact the Parish Office** for details.

### **OLSH ASSOCIATES**

OLSH Associates belong to a world-wide family of religious and laity, sharing in the spirituality and mission of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, founded by Jules Chevalier. Their mission is to reflect and spread the love and compassion of the Heart of Jesus in our own situation, particularly in our families, parish and daily contacts- to love and serve Him as Mary did. Meetings throughout the year provide opportunities for continuing spiritual growth and mutual support, in a warm, friendly environment. New members are very welcome. For further information **contact OLSH Convent 8952 1082**.

### **LITURGY GROUP**

A committee oversees and promotes faith education in the Parish. At the Parish level there are special Lenten discussion groups, occasional speakers and special activities throughout the year. The OLSH Liturgy Group is involved in the preparation of liturgies for Easter, Christmas and other special liturgical events. They meet every third Wednesday of the month at 5.30pm in the Presbytery. If you are interested in participating, please **contact the Parish Office**.

### **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

The preparation is led by a Priest after the family has spoken to the Parish Secretary. They attend Baptism preparation meetings. Information booklets are also available at the back of the Church. Please direct all **enquiries to the Parish Office**.

### **BIBLE SHARING GROUP**

Meets every Wednesday from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. If you wish to participate in this group please **contact the Parish Office**.

### **OFFERING OF HOLY MASS**

Masses may be offered for various intentions. Names are not published in the Parish bulletin without the permission of the people or family concerned.

### **CATHOLIC CARE NT**

Catholic Care NT is a social services agency of the Catholic Diocese of Darwin and a member of Catholic Social Services Australia. Working with families is the heart of the work they do as an agency of the Catholic Church. All of their services strive to strengthen individuals, families and communities in ways that respect their dignity and value the diversity of people. In Alice Springs they offer a range of services for individuals and families and assist with employment of people. CatholicCare NT also has a number of services operating on an outreach basis from Alice Springs. For more information please call (08)8958 2400.

### **CATHOLIC YOUTH ALICE SPRINGS (CYAS)**

Our Youth Group aims to gather together and support the young people of our community. Various activities are organised throughout the year. Taize meditation is held on the first Sunday of every month at 6.45pm, followed by a social. A Youth mass is held at 5.30pm every third Sunday of the month. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm. Year 12 and young adults may **contact the Parish Office** for further information.

## **CHURCH CLEANERS**

Volunteer parishioners in groups of 3 or 4 are rostered to clean the church and parish centre each weekend. This task consists of vacuuming, cleaning of windows, and dusting. There are 8 groups at present. There is also a group of volunteers who clean the church every Wednesday at 8.30am. New members are always welcome to join the roster. Please **contact the Parish Office** for details.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This is for primary school aged children and is held every Sunday throughout the school term during the 9:30am Mass. Children gather at the Presbytery to pray, listen to Gospel readings for the Sunday and may use a worksheet relating to the reading. They join the congregation in Church for the Offertory Procession and rejoin their families.

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Eucharistic Ministers share in the visible expression of the full Church, by assisting the Celebrant with the distribution of Communion to the community during Mass. Training sessions are available: to help people appreciate the Sacraments, to learn the routine of the service that they provide, to nourish and deepen the Ministers' appreciation of this Sacrament, and to enable them to carry out this special Ministry with devotion. If you would like to be a Eucharistic Minister, please **contact the Parish Office**.

## **HOSPITALITY GROUP**

The Hospitality group meets regularly and supports the endeavours of the Parish Pastoral Council. New members are most welcome. Please **contact the Parish Office**.

## **HOME COMMUNION**

Eucharistic Ministers visit the sick and aged in their homes. They unite these people with the faith community by sharing with them the Word of God and by giving them the body of Christ in Holy Communion. Please **contact the Parish Office** if you would like to receive Communion at home.

## **MUSIC LITURGY GROUPS**

These are informal group of people who love music and want to be involved in playing an instrument or singing in a group at Masses. They meet for singing practice once a week. Please **contact the Parish Office** if you wish to join one of the music groups.

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

The Parish welcomes, prepares, and initiates new adult members into the life and faith of the Catholic Church through a *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. After an introduction to the beliefs and practices of the community, should the inquirer wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, then that person is accepted for the Sacraments of Initiation and commences a journey of discovery and growth within the community. The process is facilitated by a small team of parishioners. This team ensures that the candidate is supported by a sponsor, given a good introduction to the Church's faith and practices, and has opportunities to participate in the Worship, Mission and Life of the Community. Please **contact the Parish Office** if you would like to know more about the RCIA.

## **COMMENTATORS**

Commentators help weekend church participants to understand the liturgy better by introducing them to the theme of the mass and by providing them with brief explanations about the scriptural passages. Regular opportunities for training are available to help the commentators in this important role. Please **contact the Parish Office** if you would like to assist in this way.

## **READERS**

Readers proclaim the Word of God to those assembled at Mass. If you would like to be a Reader, please contact the Parish Office. Regular opportunities for in-service are available to deepen the Readers' grasp of the Word of God and further their skills in proclaiming this Word.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS**

A team of volunteers teach religious education to Catholic children attending State primary schools in our community. A Sacramental Program at Saint Francis Centre in Adamson Avenue operates every Wednesday at 3.30pm for children from all schools (February to September). Please **contact the Parish Office** for further details.

## **Volunteers**

If you would like to assist in this ministry, volunteers are always welcome and needed. Maybe you can be a catechist for one year, or longer? You may like to be a helper first, to gain confidence. Men and women, young or old – everyone is welcome!

## **ROSARY GROUP**

This group meets in the Church to pray the Rosary on Monday to Friday at 5.00pm - and prior to Saturday morning mass at 10.30am. There is always a warm welcome for anyone who would like to join the Rosary Group.

## **SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

Secular Franciscans are members of the Third Order founded by St Francis of Assisi. Their mission is to link *the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel*. They take the teachings of Jesus and apply them to everyday situations. The Secular Franciscan Order meets at the Franciscan Convent on the last Sunday of the month at 4.p.m. Please **contact FMM Sisters 8952 4151** if you are interested in joining this group.

## **WELCOMING GROUP**

This group endeavors to contact new members of our parish, to welcome them to our Church and community. An Information Booklet is available to new parishioners so that they have details regarding organisations, groups and activities within the parish.

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## **ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE**

The Mission of the members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Australia is to deepen their own Catholic Faith, and to reach out to others in the community. Vincentians are not professionally trained social workers, but they form an organization of Catholic people of all ages, who want to serve people in their time of need.

In Alice Springs, the members' main work involves home visitation and the serving of an evening meal from a food van. They visit people at home (during the day), and administer Holy Communion to the housebound. By their acts of kindness and goodwill, they aim to show the love of Jesus Christ in a practical way, especially to the poor.

Members meet monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 3.00pm for one and a half hours at St Vincent de Paul Railway Terrace to review activities undertaken and for personal spiritual development. Anyone who is willing to lend a hand is most welcome to join the Conference. Further information may be obtained through the Parish Office or by phoning the President on **0447414992**

## **VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH. HOW YOU CAN HELP?**

If you would like to volunteer your services to help our Parish in some way but are unsure how to best contribute, please contact the **Parish Office** and we will be able to talk you about possible options and what best suits your talents and time. **Contact our Parish Secretary on 8952 1049** or email **olsh\_parity\_asp@bigpond.com**.