

# COMPACT



## St John the Apostle Parish

*A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish*

### 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

20 August 2017

#39.17

**“To be on earth the Heart of God”**

#### Parish Administration:

**Pastor** Fr. Gerard McCormick msc  
Email: [gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:gerard@stjohnkippax.org.au)

**Pastoral Associate /Parish Manager**  
Marian England  
Email: [marian@stjohnkippax.org.au](mailto:marian@stjohnkippax.org.au)

**Parish Secretary** Sharon Greaves  
Email: [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

#### Parish Office:

25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT  
Office Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm Mon-Fri  
Telephone: 6254 3236  
Fax: 6254 4819  
Web [www.stjohnkippax.org.au](http://www.stjohnkippax.org.au)

#### MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm  
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am

#### LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am  
Baptisms: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun during  
10:00am Mass  
Reconciliation: Sat 4:00pm – 4:30pm or by  
appointment with the priest

#### ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Acting Principal: Matthew Garton**

Pawsey Circuit Florey

Phone: 6258 3592

Email: [office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au)

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## From the Pastor's Desk.....

After its long, painful and arduous task of investigating the nature and extent of sexual abuse of children in institutions the royal commission is now in the process of making recommendations. One such recommendation that has caught the attention of the media is that of mandatory reporting of someone who confesses to child sexual abuse in the sacrament of confession; thus in effect breaking the seal of confession.

In a rather provocative heading to his article published in last Wednesday's Canberra Times – “I'd rather break the law” – eminent lawyer and high profile Jesuit Fr. Frank Brennan puts forward a defence of the inviolability of the seal of confession. I cannot do justice to this illuminating article. But in brief terms Fr Brennan argues that despite the well intentioned recommendation of the royal commission those “who advocate the abolition of the seal of the confessional have a mistaken understanding of how confession is actually practised in the Catholic Church.”

Fr Brennan argues that such a change to the law would not make it any safer for children, “common sense tells me that a sex abuser would be even less likely to present for confession if he knew that the confessional seal did not apply”. Fr. Brennan observes that “I have been a priest for almost 32 years. No one has ever confessed the sin of child sexual abuse to me.” This has certainly been my experience too, and I would hazard a guess that this would be the case of other confessors as well. As Fr. Brennan points out, “[The] royal commission has told us time and again that these offenders tend to be devious and deceptive.” Contrary to the current public perception, there is no such evidence of widespread practice of sex abusers making regular use of the confession.

There are sure to be many worthwhile recommendations by the royal commission of which the Catholic Church will no doubt accept and implement. Child safety has to be given the utmost priority. I feel that any media attention around the question of the confessional seal will only be a distraction and ultimately unhelpful to the real task of addressing sexual abuse in all areas of society.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has released a pastoral statement on the seal of confession and also on same sex marriage.

***Peace & blessings,  
Gerard***

**☞ Let us pray for those who are sick.  
We remember them in our Masses. ☞**

**Recently Deceased: Delma Cowley, Mick Ford,  
Bob Cruickshank [father of Robert]**

**Anniversary:** *Emily Jacob, William Smith,  
John Ray, Joseph Zuk, Ronald Ryan, Alfred Niquet,  
Dorothy Hornick, Marjorie Carew, Edmund Kennedy,  
Alexander Aikman, Hedwig Von Straaten, Anna Yoo,  
Winifred Bridges, Joseph Weinheber, Andres Munoz,  
Tere Fearon, Bill Fearon, Sheila Dignam,  
Josephine Weinheber, Armando Cavuoto,  
Patrick Sheehan, Gladys Anderson, Virginia Mater,  
Melinda Davis, Annette Polak, William Wiegold,  
Philip Smith, Mary Telford, Gaye Walmsley,  
Susan O'Dwyer, Josephine Smith, Ralph Dunn,  
William Schofield, Dorothy Hush, Andre Domjan,  
Ivan Jones.*

## **The Seal of Confession**

*An article on the seal of confession  
written by Fr. Frank Brennan SJ was in  
the 15 August Canberra Times. There  
are a few copies of the article in the  
church foyer.*

*You can access the article at.....*

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/comment/-gxw7it.html>

## **Agape - Youth Group**

High school students in years 7 to 12

**First and Third Sundays  
after the 6:00pm Mass**

## **Next gathering 20 August**

*We gather for a meal, play games and share our  
stories. A group where young people can explore  
their faith in a safe environment, share  
experiences, and encourage each other in their  
faith journey.*

Contact the Parish Office  
for more information

## **Concerned Catholics Meeting**

**Day & Date:** Thursday 31 August

**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm

**Where:** Australian Centre for Christianity  
& Culture, Blackall Street, Barton.

**Presenters:** Dr John Falzon *CEO of SVdP NCA;*  
Sr Ruth Durick OSU

*President, Catholic Religious Aus.*

Fr Peter Day

*founder of 'HOME' in Queanbeyan.*

*This second meeting of concerned Catholics will  
focus on how the laity of the Archdiocese might  
increase their participation in the Church. Some  
background and content can be found at:*

<https://concernedcatholicscanberra.org/>

## **Invitation**

St John the Apostle parishioners  
are invited to celebrate

## **Migrant & Refugee Sunday**

***Please bring a dish of your  
cultural or traditional food  
for a shared lunch***

in the Parish Centre

27 August 2017

11:30am for 12 noon

## **St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 29 August 2017 – 7:00pm**

***Please come along to hear about what  
we do and please consider  
volunteering a little of your time and  
become a member of the Committee.***

## **ST MARY'S TOWERS RETREAT CENTRE**

### **Douglas Park NSW**

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have issued a new schedule of fees for spending time at the Retreat Centre. For people who may not be able to do a weekend or 6 day retreat the centre is offering a varied amount of options for spending time at the Park. See options and schedule of fees below. The 2017/2018 program is available at:  
[towersretreat.abundance.org.au/](http://towersretreat.abundance.org.au/)

Option 1: \$20	Use of facilities morning and afternoon tea
Option 2: \$35	as above plus 2 course lunch
Option 3: \$80	as above plus spiritual accompaniment
Option 4: \$60	Spiritual accompaniment
Option 5: \$102	overnight stay and spiritual accompaniment

Costs are negotiable with the Director.

Email: [towersretreat@bigpond.com](mailto:towersretreat@bigpond.com)

## REFLECTION

### Insiders and Outsiders

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

For centuries, Christians have presented God as a Supreme Being who showers blessings upon insiders who share certain beliefs and proper institutional affiliation, but who punishes outsiders with eternal conscious torment. Yet Jesus revealed God as one who "eats with sinners," welcomes outsiders in, and forgives even while being rejected, tortured, and killed. He preached that God was to be found in self-giving service rather than self-asserting domination. What would it mean for Christians to understand, experience, and embody God as the loving, healing, reconciling Spirit in whom all creatures live, move, and have their being?

For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an "organized religion"—a change-averse institution . . . that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity's actual history is a story of change and adaptation. What might happen if we understood the core Christian ethos as creative, constructive, and forward-leaning—as an "organizing religion" that challenges all institutions (including its own) to learn, grow, and mature toward a deepening, enduring vision of reconciliation with God, self, neighbour, enemy, and creation?

*Many people today are leaving the belief systems of their parents and grandparents. This is a mass exodus from institutional faith that demographers are calling "the rise of the Nones."*

**Resources used:** *Reflection*, by Dianne Bergant CSS  
*A System of Beliefs or a Way of Life?*, by Richard Rohr

## PARISH NEWS

**Saving Energy:** We are asking parishioners to be conscious of the unnecessary use of energy this winter:

- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Ensure air conditioners in the library and parish centre are turned off when leaving. Do not turn air conditioners to higher than 24°. [above that temperature they are not effective.]
- The church foyer is heated so to retain its heat please close the church door.

We recently paid our April to July electricity bill which totalled  
**\$6,815.18.**

Thank you for your consideration.

### [RCIA]

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Perhaps you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic?

### Enquiry Night

*Come and See* John 1:39

**Wednesday 11 October 2017**

*It is an inalienable right for each person, whatever one's religion or lack of religion, to be able to know Jesus Christ and the Gospel. In Australia the parish is the principal instrument of proclaiming the gospel. The whole parish community including the parish school, has the responsibility proclaiming the message of salvation of the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ in such a manner that there are many opportunities for repentance of sin, conversion of hearts and a decision of faith.*

*It is the responsibility of all the baptised to evangelise.*

**ST JOHN THE APOSTLE  
WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB**

The next breakfast is:



**Tuesday 22 August - 7:30 am**

Little Chef Café

Nettlefold Street Belconnen

# ROSTERS

## 27 Aug Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Marie McKie, John Drury, Barbara Witzens, Terry O'Brien, Margaret McMahon
8:30am	Ted Kell, Clare Kell, Violet Duve, Janet Almond, VACANT
10:00am	Rachel Blackwell, Marissa Blackwell, John Blackwell, Robin Williams, Libby Costello
6:00pm	Judith Deklin, Agnes Pham, VACANT, VACANT, VACANT

## 27 Aug Reading Roster

5:00pm	Marie Murphy, Elaine Laycock
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Louise Honan, Joe Ots
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

## 27 Aug Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Barbara Witzens, Marie McKie
8:30am	Margaret Ohlin
10:00am	John Blackwell, Louise Bulfin
6:00pm	Judith Deklin

## Weekly Rosters

<b>Altar Society:</b>	21 Aug	Mary Cruickshank
<b>Grounds:</b>	26 Aug	Group 4
<b>Counting:</b>	27 Aug	Group 6

<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	21 Aug – John & Jenny Maher
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# PARISH ACTIVITIES

## PRAYER LIFE

Charismatic Prayer: Maida: 0423 658 326	Thursday 7:30pm Rosary 7:00pm
Meditation [Library]	Friday 7.30-8.15 pm
Morning Prayer:	Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am
Stations of the Cross	First Friday Monthly After 9:30am Mass
Children's Mass	Second Sunday monthly 10:00am

## SOCIAL LIFE

Coffee Club	Second & Fourth Sunday after 10:00am Mass
Over 45's	Last Wednesday of the Month 9:30am Mass and morning tea
Pins & Needles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month 7:15pm Parish Library
Book club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month 3:00pm Parish Library
Women's Breakfast	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month 7:30am Little Chef Café Belconnen

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Mt 15:21-28

*Woman, you have great faith.*

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised.

*Resources used: Greg Sunter at Liturgy Help.*

**LIBRARY NEWS:** "Home coming: reclaiming and championing your inner child", "Let me sow love: living the peace prayer of St Francis", and "Simplicity: the freedom of letting go" are three of the current display of books.

**School of Religion:** – 9.15am-10.00am  
Sundays Parish Centre (School Term Only)  
For children not attending a Catholic School



**Hearing Loop:** - We have a hearing loop in the body of the church. Adjust your hearing aids according to audiologist's advice.