



**TO BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD**



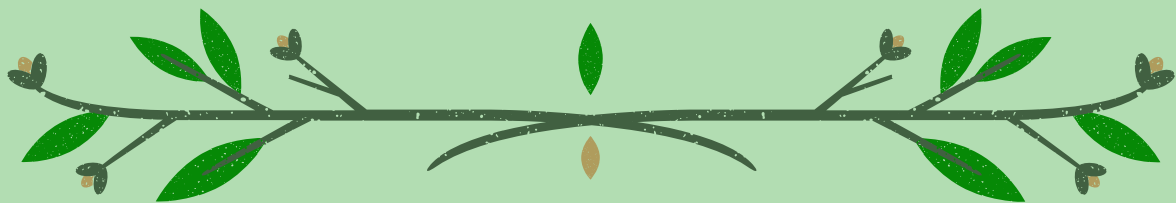
**KIT @ KIPPAX**

# Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

## May 2024

### **For the formation of religious and seminarians**

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.



### **KIT @ Kippax**

KIT is produced for the St John the Apostle Catholic Community from contributions submitted by parishioners. Send submissions to [kippax@cg.org.au](mailto:kippax@cg.org.au)

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# Time Out for Reflection

## Where there is despair, hope!

There is much cause for despair at the moment. There seems no end to the conflict in Gaza and peace with justice seems remote. The war in the Ukraine continues and other conflicts are ongoing. Closer to home here in Australia, 26 women have died as a result of domestic violence in the first 114 days of 2024. This is equivalent to one every 4.38 days.

With all the violence in the world it is easy to descend into despair. However, our hope is in God; the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a symbol of that hope.

Despair occurs when we put too much stock in our own abilities rather than in God's plan for our eternal happiness. Over time, we become disillusioned from consistent disappointments when life fails to meet our expectations.

Easter is a powerful story of hope. God's final word is life! Death and suffering do not have the final say, and Jesus' continuing living presence is the foundation of our hope. The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ symbolises redemption, transformation, and the triumph of light over darkness.

The Cross represents sacrifice, forgiveness, and ultimate love. It reminds us that even in the face of suffering and cruelty, there can be meaning and redemption. The Resurrection, on the other hand, signifies new life, hope beyond death, and the promise of renewal.

God is love. The opposite of love is fear, and God's love dispels our fears and helps us live lives of hope. In a world often plagued by violence, despair can easily take hold. However, when we turn to God who is our source of hope and love we find our strength to dispel the darkness.

*So let despair's shadows fade away,  
As hope's gentle breeze begins to sway.  
For in the dance of life's ebb and flow,  
Hope's melody will forever glow.*

# EDITOR'S NOTE



This month's front cover is a picture of poppy flowers. The poppy flower is a symbol that has been used to represent everything from peace to death and even sleep. However, more commonly recognised as a symbol of remembrance for fallen soldiers, often worn on ANZAC and Remembrance Day. This connection between the poppy and remembrance of fallen soldiers was fostered by John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" -

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
between the crosses, row on row.*

Poppies are significant because of cultural interpretation that these flowers promise resurrection. This month's reflection speaks of how the death and resurrection of Jesus offers us the hope that light will triumph over darkness. I feel that we should sow some poppy seeds in the Church's front garden beds. What do you think?

Fr Chung left for Rome on 18 April to undertake a two-week intensive of the facilitators course that he is currently undertaking. He is not a lone MSC in Rome as Fr. Kimi and Fr. Peter Hendriks are also participating in the same course.



Fr. Tru had a small number of parishioners assist him plant shrubs in the front gardens on Friday 26 April (p10). We look forward to watching them grow.

The children of the parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 17 May. We pray for all the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. May the Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love and may they come to know God as the one true God who loves them without limit.

On Monday 27 May Canberra will celebrate Reconciliation Day, this day is a public holiday. National Reconciliation week commences on 27 May and concludes on 3 June (Mabo Day) every year. The 26 May is National Sorry Day which is an annual event that remembers and acknowledges the Stolen Generations.



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus open our hearts and minds to recognise the face of God in everyone.

*Blessings*

*Marian*

# BAPTISMS



We welcome into the SJA Community Body of Christ  
The following children who were baptised during the  
month of April.

Arlo and Bowie - children of Steve and Ali Waite

Arlen - child of Kellee and Aaron Bondarenko

Safiya - child of Yasmine Schalkwyk

Grace - child of Alison and Trent Wilson

Zak - child of Melissa Soares and Matthew Allen



## NEWS FROM COWRA ~ MARG CURRY

Just wanted to say g'day & to let you know that I've been in Cowra for two years (already!). I'm sure time does go by faster as we get older.

This Easter was my 28th anniversary & my 3rd In Cowra. The Gloria has always been a highlight for me at the Saturday Vigil. Over here at St Raphael's, we don't get to ring our own bells (like you do at Kippax at Easter) but, the church has a steeple with a bell and, that is rung during the Gloria. So, along with two sets of altar bells & everyone singing enthusiastically, it was a wonderful sound. The steeple bell was also rung during the Gloria at Christmas. Good that.

I was pretty miserable this Easter as my darling cat Dara died on 9th February. She was in her 21st year, had lived with me since Easter 2010 but had been ill for a year. She had the best care with her devoted nurse doing everything to make her last days very special & comfortable. Two of the attached photos show her on my knee on top of a heated rug last winter. (Yep. Spoiled & adored)

Actually, Dara has just arrived back in Cowra from Pets at Peace Orange & I have to take a deep breath & collect her ashes from the vets tomorrow. One of the reasons I chose this house was the vet is only 800mtrs away.

It's been a tough 2 months really as Dara was purrfect & good company, but next door's tabby visits me every day & sits with me on the front step, on the back deck & "helps" me in the backyard. I do love cats.



## NEWS FROM COWRA ~ MARG CURRY

I'm part of a parish family group & join in activities sometimes. I only left the house briefly while Dara was ill, mostly to go to Mass & to buy cat food & kitty litter! So, I do have a lot more spare time now. Although, I have spent a lot of time working in the backyard. It was all grass which is a bit ok while I'm still able to push the mower (just, somedays) but it's a pretty big backyard. That's the bush I guess. And there's the front too! Phew!

So I've been working on it. I've done a lot of work, just me, putting down weed mat & tan bark & digging & planting a bit of a garden. I've started digging again as we've had some rain & the high 30° days have cooled considerably.

I'm very slow as my knees don't work but, I sit on a chair & with a small hoe dig up the grass, add dirt & mulch I get from Bunnings which is just down the road, (everything is down the road or up the town in Cowra) then I plant a few things & I'm fairly pleased with my efforts. Most things grow "like nuts" over here although I lost some Lilly pillies in last winter's frost & that made me sad as they were going so well. Yes, we do get frosts & I have found winters very cold really. A photo's attached of some of the garden so far.

I still get a copy of St John's compact emailed & it's good to "keep connected". I've only been back to Canberra once in the last two years. The floods made bad roads worse & as it's about a 2 klm round trip to anywhere in Cowra, my car's mileage is very low. I might get to Young, Bathurst or Orange now I can leave the house.

And, that's it really. A big day today as I had a haircut!

I do hope you are very well & the Kippax & Charnwood parishes are thriving. Sending you Easter Allelulia's & warm wishes,

Marg Curry



# St. John Henry Newman

“This text [*Apologia Pro Vita Sua*] written by John Henry Newman rightly occupies a high place among spiritual classics. Its magnificent clarity, as well as its beautiful prose, won the hearts and minds of his countrymen and gives the entire history of his spiritual progress over many years. Newman was a prolific writer, and besides this, the demand that his sermons and lectures should be printed had resulted in numerous publications. Between 1860 and 1881 a uniform edition of his works was produced, which ran to 36 volumes. Newman had a unique capacity for work. As an undergraduate he is reputed to have habitually read for twelve hours a day. When writing the *Apologia*, which he did standing at a desk, he worked daily from fifteen to twenty-two hours.”

## My Reflection


I often allocate a small amount of time during my day to spiritual reading (far less than I devote to ‘reading the news’) and think to myself “I’m doing ok”. However in learning about Newman’s dedicated work ethic I am duly convinced that my efforts could do with some improvement. Nevertheless, it is something. A grain of mustard seed...

Contributed by Pam Connor

## Did you know?

*Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (Latin: A defence of one's own life) is John Henry Newman's defence of his religious opinions, published in 1864 in response to Charles Kingsley of the Church of England after Newman quit his position as the Anglican vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford.

Extract from wikipedia.com



Are you interested in adding to your own spiritual reading? St John the Apostle Parish Library has a huge variety of books, DVDs, magazines and reference material (including Newman’s *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*) to help you on your journey.

Open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm and after mass on the weekend. General browsing or borrowing available.

Everyone is welcome to use the Library!



### One Foot In Heaven

As the tree sheds its yellow leaves,  
I let go of thoughts and feelings  
that cause me unease.

For why hold onto things  
that lead to distress,  
especially in the midst  
of autumn?

Surely it's time  
to streamline the self,  
to revitalise my sap  
so that I can survive  
the winds and creeping cold  
that characterise  
the season.

Some say that the elderly  
have one foot in the grave,  
but regardless of age  
I'd like to let my colours change.  
Then when others see me as I am,  
they'll be in no doubt that I have  
one foot in heaven.

Shane Murtagh

### Bird Lines

The swallow skims the air in flight  
and weaves a pattern in the sky;  
he carries dreams from everywhere

to make of life a pleasant trip  
from south to north and back again  
with loving partner all the while

to build a home and make it  
right to raise a family of four  
and soon return whence he came . . .

'We have a carefree life you see  
to flit about with every breeze  
and make each day the perfect gift

to live all our fanciful delights  
and reap where we have never sown,  
so glad in truth that we were born!

Eamonn Murtagh



HAPPY

Earth Day

APRIL 22



The garden project at St John the Apostle church is intended to put *Laudato Si* into action. “Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life...

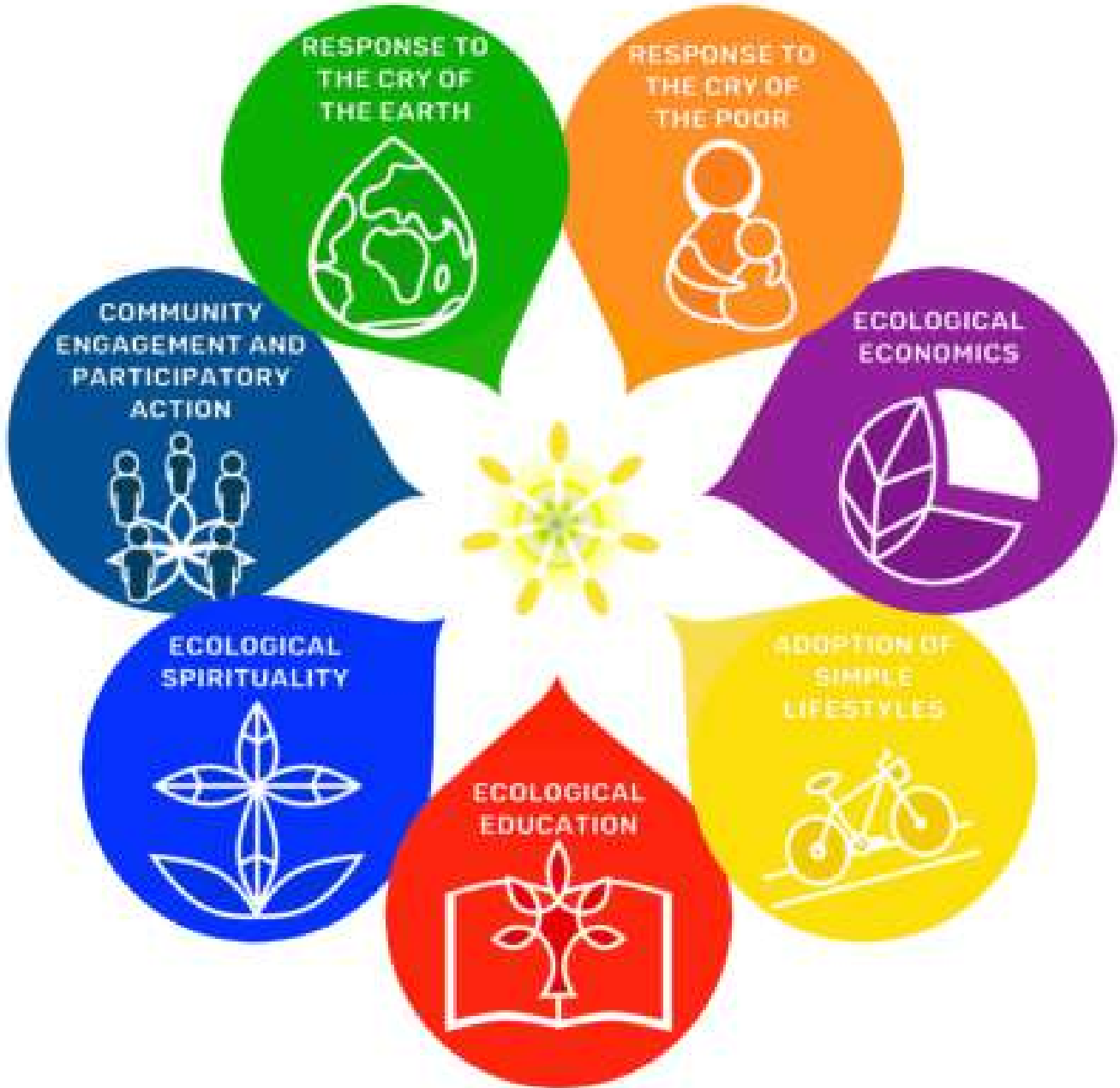
An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us.”

*From Laudato Si ~ Pope Francis*

# Earth Day

APRIL 22

## Laudato Si' Goals



For more information visit: <https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/>

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*connecting people who live alone*

Community Connections had their inaugural movie outing in April. They saw *Freud's Last Session*, starring Anthony Hopkins as Sigmund Freud and Matthew Goode as C.S. Lewis. It was considered an interesting take on two figures - Freud and Lewis - and their relationship, not only with themselves but with other people in their lives. The movie brought out their life struggles and touched on a range of issues (perhaps with a touch of poetic license!) but it was interesting from their view of the existence of God - or not - and the discussions that ensued over such a topic.

It was a good movie that appealed to the group because of the issues that it touched on. The group looks forward to similar movie outings in the future.

For anyone interested in joining the Community Connections group, please contact Marian at the Parish Office.



## Walk for PARKINSONS

I have been a member of the church since we moved here in 1970. I have been living with Parkinson's for at least four years and have decided to join with a group of dedicated volunteers. This May I'm Walking To Fight Parkinson's and raising funds to support life-changing research and improve services for people living with Parkinson's.

Sadly, 1 Australian is diagnosed with Parkinson's every 40 minutes and there is currently no cure. I'm doing my part to change this by getting active and fundraising for people impacted by Parkinson's.

Please sponsor me today and make a real difference to progress life-changing research and improve services to maximise choice, independence and wellbeing for people living with Parkinsons. Head to my fundraising page >



<https://www.walktofightparkinsons.com.au/fundraisers/tedhkell>

Thank you , Ted

# Youth

# WEEK



Youth Week ACT was celebrated from April 11 - 21 this year. With this in mind, we thought you might like to know a bit about the youth in the St John the Apostle Parish.

The Parish offers School of Religion every Sunday morning to children in the parish who do not attend a Catholic school. In 2023 8 children were registered for this program.

Once a month the Youth Group meet at the Parish on Sunday evening to participate in the YCS program based on the theological model of "See, Judge, Act." Currently there are between 11 and 15 young people attending.

In 2023, St John the Apostle Primary School had 154 Catholic children registered.

## SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS AT ST JOHN THE APOSTLE KIPPAX

2023

- **40** children were baptised in the parish
- **44** children were confirmed
- **32** children made their First Holy Communion

*"For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord."*

Colossians 1:9-12



SUNDAY  
19TH MAY



# RENEWED

## PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION

YOUTH MASS AT 6PM  
SUPPER AT 7PM  
ADORATION FROM 8PM



*All welcome*

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH CHURCH  
BLACKHAM STREET, HOLT

**MAY 2024**



1	Wednesday	
2	Thursday	Gethsemane – Prayer 7:30pm – 8:30pm
3	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library
4	Saturday	
5	Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter
6	Monday	
7	Tuesday	
8	Wednesday	
9	Thursday	SFX year 7 attending 9.30am mass SJA Finance Council meeting 11:00am Parish Pastoral Council meeting 7:30pm Fr. Chung returns from Rome
10	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library
11	Saturday	Fr. Chung returns from Rome
12	Sunday	The Ascension of the Lord Mother’s Day
13	Monday	
14	Tuesday	
15	Wednesday	SFX year 7 attending 9.30am mass
16	Thursday	Liturgy Team meeting 7:30pm
17	Friday	SJACare meeting 10:00am <b>Sacrament of Confirmation – 5:00pm</b> Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Men’s Group – parish Centre – 6:30pm – 8:00pm
18	Saturday	
19	Sunday	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>Community Connections – Parish Centre 4:00 – 5:30pm</b>
20	Monday	SFX year 8 attending 9.30am mass Pins & Needles 7:15pm – Parish Library
21	Tuesday	
22	Wednesday	
23	Thursday	SFX year 7 attending 9.30am mass Liturgy Team meeting 7:30pm
24	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Film Night
25	Saturday	1:30pm Wedding Laura D’Amico & Nikolas Tuionetoa
26	Sunday	The Most Holy Trinity
27	Monday	Public Holiday - Reconciliation Day
28	Tuesday	Women’s Breakfast - Bean Origin Cafe 7:30am
29	Wednesday	SFX year 7 attending 9.30am mass SJA Friendship group 9:30am mass followed by morning tea
30	Thursday	
31	Friday	Anointing after 9:30am mass