

TO BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD



**KIT
@ KIPPAX**

**ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH - KIPPAX ACT
FEBRUARY 2025**

Time for Reflection

In January the parish office team went to the movies and saw *Conclave*. There is a scene where the main character, Cardinal Lawrence is addressing his fellow Cardinals and this is what he says.....

“My brothers and sisters, in the course of a long life in the service of our Mother the Church, let me tell you that the one sin I have come to fear more than any other is certainty. Certainty is the great enemy of unity. Certainty is the deadly enemy of tolerance. Even Christ was not certain at the end. 'Eli Eli, lama sabachtani?' He cried out in His agony at the ninth hour on the cross. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Our faith is a living thing precisely because it walks hand in hand with doubt. If there was only certainty, and if there was no doubt, there would be no mystery, and therefore no need for faith.” — Robert Harris, *Conclave*

Faith and Doubt Walk Hand In Hand

“Our faith is a living thing precisely because it walks hand in hand with doubt. If there was only certainty, and if there was no doubt, there would be no mystery, and therefore no need for faith.” (Robert Harris, *Conclave*).

Faith thrives in the tension between what we know and what we cannot fully grasp. It is in the presence of doubt that faith becomes active and alive, urging us to trust in the mystery of God rather than the certainties we construct for ourselves. Certainty, though comforting, can become rigid and lifeless—a barrier to growth, dialogue, and the openness needed to encounter the living God.



Time for Reflection

Even Christ, in His humanity, entered into the depth of uncertainty and doubt on the cross. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” was not a cry of resignation but a raw, vulnerable plea, embracing the mystery of divine purpose even in the face of abandonment. This moment reveals that doubt is not the opposite of faith but rather its companion, pulling us deeper into the mystery of God's love and grace.

Today, we live in a world that feels steeped in uncertainty—whether it's economic instability, environmental crises, or personal struggles. However, the world has always been uncertain. What changes is how we respond. Do we demand answers, cling to certainties, and close ourselves off from the possibilities of transformation? Or do we step into the mystery, trusting that God walks with us even when the path is unclear?

The only certainties in life are death and God's unconditional love. Death reminds us of our finite nature, calling us to humility and the recognition that we do not hold all the answers. God's unconditional love, on the other hand, is the one constant that can anchor us in the storms of life. It invites us to risk letting go of the need for control and instead embrace trust—trust in the God who is bigger than our understanding and whose love surpasses our doubt.

Certainty, as Harris warns, is the enemy of unity and tolerance. When we become too certain, we lose the ability to listen, to learn, and to grow. Faith, however, invites us into a posture of humility, allowing space for the mystery of others' experiences and the possibility that God's truth may be revealed in ways we cannot predict or control.

Let us then embrace a faith that walks hand in hand with doubt. Let us not fear the questions that arise but see them as an opportunity to deepen our trust in the One who holds all mysteries. In our uncertainty, may we find a living faith that draws us closer to God and to one another—a faith that dares to love boldly, listen deeply, and trust completely in the enduring mystery of grace.

EDITOR'S NOTE

February has been a month of new beginnings and meaningful sacraments in our parish community. The school year started on 4 February, and we came together in prayer and celebration at the opening school Mass on 14 February—a wonderful way to bless the year ahead.

Our combined Sacramental Program with St John the Apostle and St Thomas Aquinas parishes began on 10 February with a formation and registration evening. It was heartening to see 71 parents gather on 24 February for the Sacrament of Penance evening, supporting their children on this journey of faith.



The Parish Pastoral Councils of St John's and St Thomas' took time for prayer and reflection with a formation morning on 8 February, followed by a combined meeting on 13 February. Moments like these strengthen our shared mission and deepen our sense of community.

Amid all these gatherings, our parish finances were audited and finalized on 12 February—a necessary task that helps us steward our resources well.



We ended the month on a beautiful note with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick Mass on 28 February, followed by a shared lunch. It was a grace-filled time of prayer, support, and friendship. You can find a glimpse of this special gathering on pages 10 & 11.

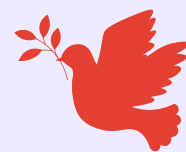
As we enter March, we step into the sacred season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on 5 March. Lent invites us to pray, reflect, and discern how we are being called to serve God and one another. To assist with this, brochures and Time and Talent forms are available, outlining the different ministries and ways to get involved. We encourage you to take some time in prayerful consideration and return your forms by 6 April—Commitment Sunday.



May this season of Lent be a time of renewal and grace for us all.

Blessings
Marian

Baptisms



We welcome into the SJA Community

Body of Christ.

The following children were baptised during the month of :

Hugo Hakes - Son of Sarah and Andrew

Charlotte Bawden - Daughter of Andrew and Ashlea

Jonah Murphy - Son of Danielle and Glenn

Funerals

Teresa Bond

18.9.1943 - 22.01.2025

John Stefek

21.03.1996 - 01.02.2025

The Ministry of Lector

So much changed with Vatican II, as churches turned altars around so that the priest faced the people, altar rails were dismantled, and the laity began the journey from respectful observer to “participating knowingly, devotedly and ACTIVELY” in the Mass (Vatican II, Liturgy 48). We gained a much better understanding of our role as “laity” in sharing “in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ” (Vatican II, Laity 10). Could I, or any of the other children who made their First Communion with me in the 1950s, have imagined that one day women would proclaim the Word of God, reading at Mass?

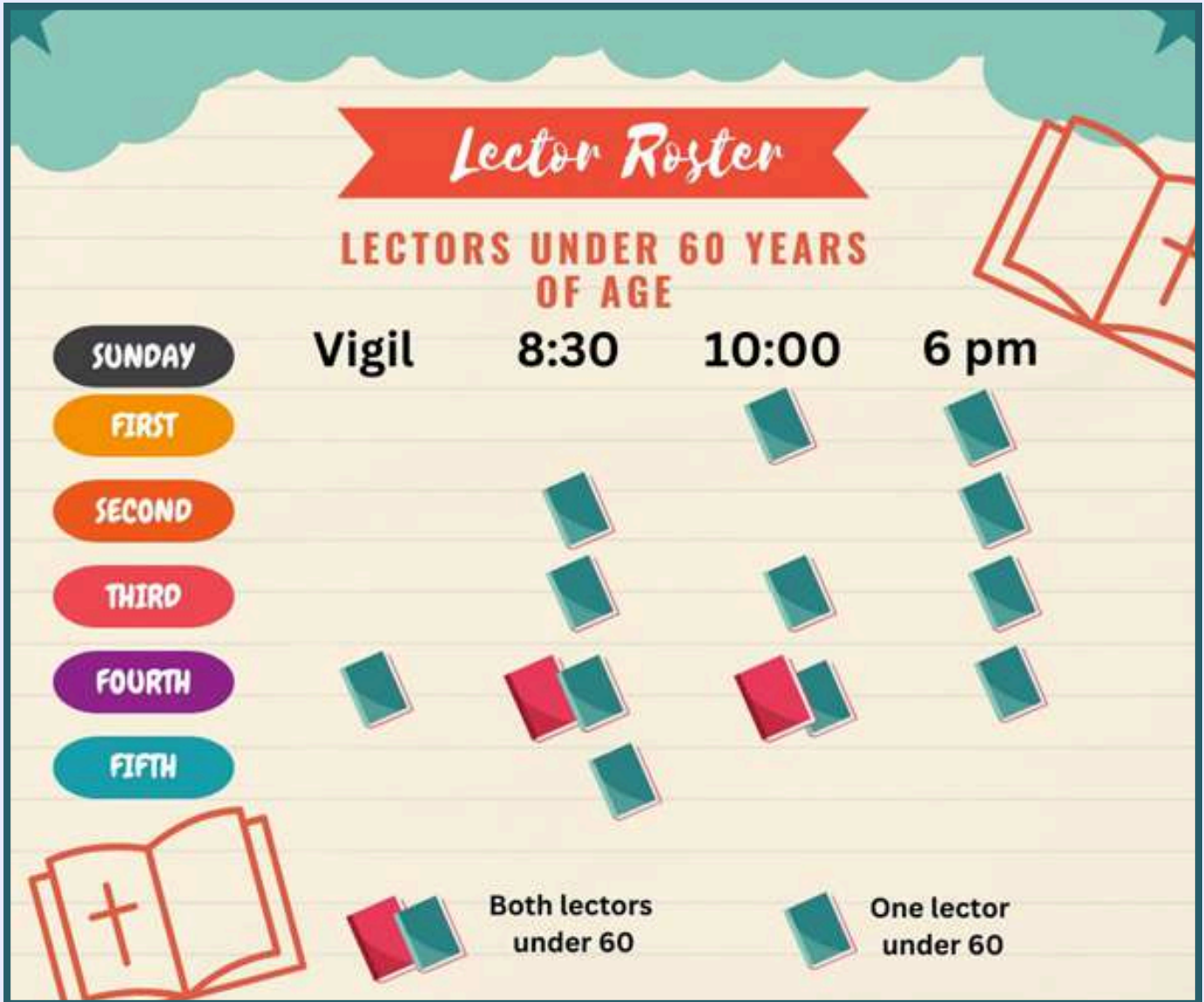
If I ask myself where in the Gospels I find a model for the lector, the answer that comes to mind is the Samaritan woman at the well. We gain our sharing in the ministry of Christ at our baptism. The evangelist, in John 4:5-41, sets the scene at Jacob’s well, with Jesus discussing living water. Surely that is what the water at baptism symbolises? Who is this woman of Samaria who Jesus indirectly commissions to bring the people of her town to him? We know she has had a difficult life, is intelligent, has an open heart, has a voice to proclaim and the ability to be persuasive, gifts Jesus recognised. Ultimately though, her neighbours believed “not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him”.

Her story reminds me of a lesson I learnt as a young teacher. I was asked to find some Year 7 girls to supplement the Year 10s who’d volunteered to go to the main street at lunch time to collect for a charity. The description of the type of girls needed (this was a girls’ school) reminded me of what I was like at that age, pristine uniform, polite and trying very hard not to be noticed. It was hardly the description of the type of girl who would be successful at collecting money from the public. So, I chose girls who were often close to crossing the line, challenged uniform rules and who now remind me of the Samaritan woman. The deputy-principal later told me that the Year 7 girls collected more money than the Year 10s, and were the subject of a phone call complementing the school.

The “Holy Spirit who sanctifies the People of God through the ministry and the sacraments, gives to the faithful special gifts” (Vatican Council II, Laity 3). Some like the Samaritan woman, have a voice, an open heart and intelligent searching. It takes courage to put aside self-doubt, the “I’m not good enough”, the “what if I stumble”. For those who have a voice to share the Word of God, one loud enough to reach parishioners at the back of the church, are at ease with reading, and open to learning, you might find you have a gift to offer to the congregation as a lector. If you are unsure, we would love to provide an opportunity to meet and explore the role of lector. Please contact the office so we know that you are interested. Don’t wait to be asked! There is nothing in the story of the woman of Samaria that suggest that Jesus asked her to carry the message to her town, or to bring her neighbours to him. It does look like he believed she would, as Jesus waited around.

Elizabeth McDonald

The Ministry of Lector



"The graphic represents the lectors who are under 60 years of age on each Sunday of the roster. It highlights the challenge of the Vigil Mass, in particular, and the relatively few Sundays where both lectors are under 60 years of age. We are now calling on lectors who are 75 years plus to read on two Sundays a month in order to fill the roster. That arrangement is not sustainable."



The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a sacred season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As we receive the ashes on our foreheads, we hear the words: “Repent and believe in the Gospel”. (Mark 1:15)

Last century the words were “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). These words are not meant to instil fear, but rather to remind us of our dependence on God—the One who first breathed life into us (Genesis 2:7) and who continually calls us to renewal.

Lent invites us to pause, reflect, and realign our hearts with God. It is a time to acknowledge our human frailty, yet also to embrace the mercy and grace that sustain us. Through prayer, acts of love, and a spirit of repentance, we journey toward Easter, where the promise of new life awaits.

Lenten resource available on Whatsapp

Lent25 by Michael Hansen SJ

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb7un9VCnA7lMaGA0U1k>

recommended by Pam Connor

TIME & TALENT

Discover the Joy of Serving!

Each of us has been given unique gifts, and when we share them, our parish family grows stronger and more vibrant. This Lent you are invited to explore the many ways you can get involved—whether through liturgy, outreach care, hospitality, music, general maintenance, or social events.

Lent is a season of reflection and renewal, a perfect time to pray and discern where God is calling you to serve. There are brochures in the parish foyer, that have descriptions of the ministries available, along with the time commitment involved. No matter your experience or availability, there is a place for you!

We encourage you to take some time in prayerful consideration and return your completed Time and Talent form by 6 April – Commitment Sunday.

Together, let's build a parish community where everyone's gifts are valued and given freely in the service of God!

St John the Apostle Catholic Community

Time • Talent • Treasure.

Please return on 6 April 2025

Commitment Weekend

All ROSTERS will commence on
1st June 2025 and finish on 31 May 2026.

TIME THE GREATEST GIFT,
THE MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY

- Acolytes
- Altar Servers
- Hospitality/Greeter at Mass
- Lector (Minister of the Word)
- Ministers of Communion
- PowerPoint operator
- Music Ministry/Choir
- Prayer Group
- Meditation Group

PASTORAL CARE & OUTREACH

- SJACare**
- Home Visitation
- Communion to the sick
- St Vincent de Paul
- Refugee Resettlement Committee
- Social Justice Group

EDUCATION & MISSION

- Baptism Preparation
- RCIA
- School of Religion/Catechists
- Education - Life Long Learners

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Community Connections
- Film Night
- SJA Friendship Group
- Pins & Needles Craft group
- SJA Men's Group
- SJAYouth Group
- Women's Breakfast

GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE

- Altar Society [washing]
- Sewing & Embroidery
- SJA Shop
- Building Maintenance Committee
- Church Cleaning
- Flower Arranging
-



Anointing Mass Lunch



28 February 2025





The LORD is my strength
and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him,
and I am helped;
Therefore my heart
exults, And with my song I
shall thank Him.
The LORD is their
strength,
And He is a saving defense
to His anointed.
Psalm 28:7-8



Leunig's Thoughts - as shared by Brian Mahony

In his book, 'When I Talk To You' (2024), Michael Leunig completed his introduction with the following paragraph (p.13):

And eventually for me, it is a lyrical word, a poetic word. In fact it is a one-word poem; a peaceful mysterious poem which I might also call the deep-self. This 'God' I have been talking to and wondering about seems to lie within and around the lost self; the innocent true self that is not of this time stricken, divided, material world. This is my sense of God that in quietness and stillness confirms the wholeness of self and connects it to the wholeness of life. Something like that. Dear God.

I have found in this introduction and his book, the expression of his experience over his lifetime so intimately described, as a poem in itself. I feel that so many searchers in life could relate with his picture, one that puts words on their own development or can assist them to respond honestly to his journeys, as their own, expressed here and throughout his book of prayerful attempts.

Leunig's lifetime journey, whether being one of ageing or maturing, penned so openly and honestly, strikes home as being so true and relevant so that I am convinced that it puts words on the growths of so many who are, or would be, grateful for his life-emerging wisdom.

Where he found God is so real....'within'...'stillness'...'quietness'...'self'...

(see Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9-14)

It does take time.

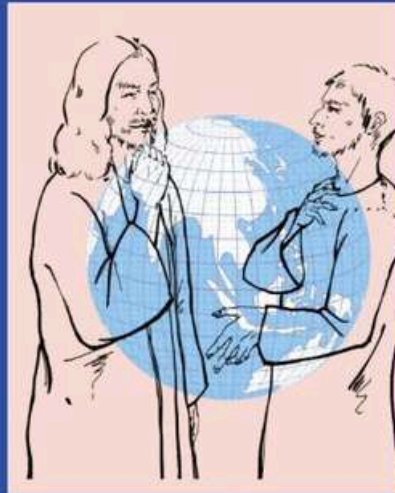
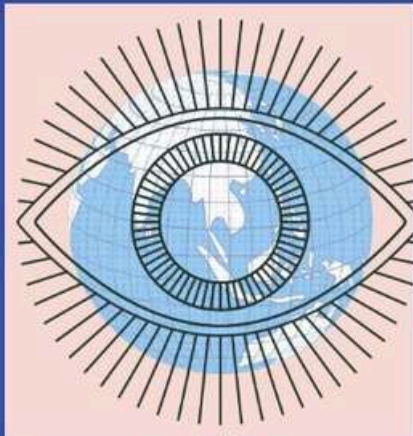
Sebastian Moore osb defines prayer as:

Prayer is taking yourself very seriously as a mystery.

(drop the 'e' in mystery and put an 'o' in)

YES Belconnen

SEE. JUDGE. ACT.



Year groups 7-12 are welcome
After Sunday Mass
at 7:00-9:00
Saint John the Apostle Church
in Kippax

Our instagram
@sjayouthcanberra

DATES FOR 2025!!

- March 9th
- April 6th
- May 11th
- June 1st
- June 29th
- July 27th
- August 17th
- September 14th
- October 19th
- November 16th
- December 14th

Have your voice heard

Join us for games,
praise, prayer, food and
social justice

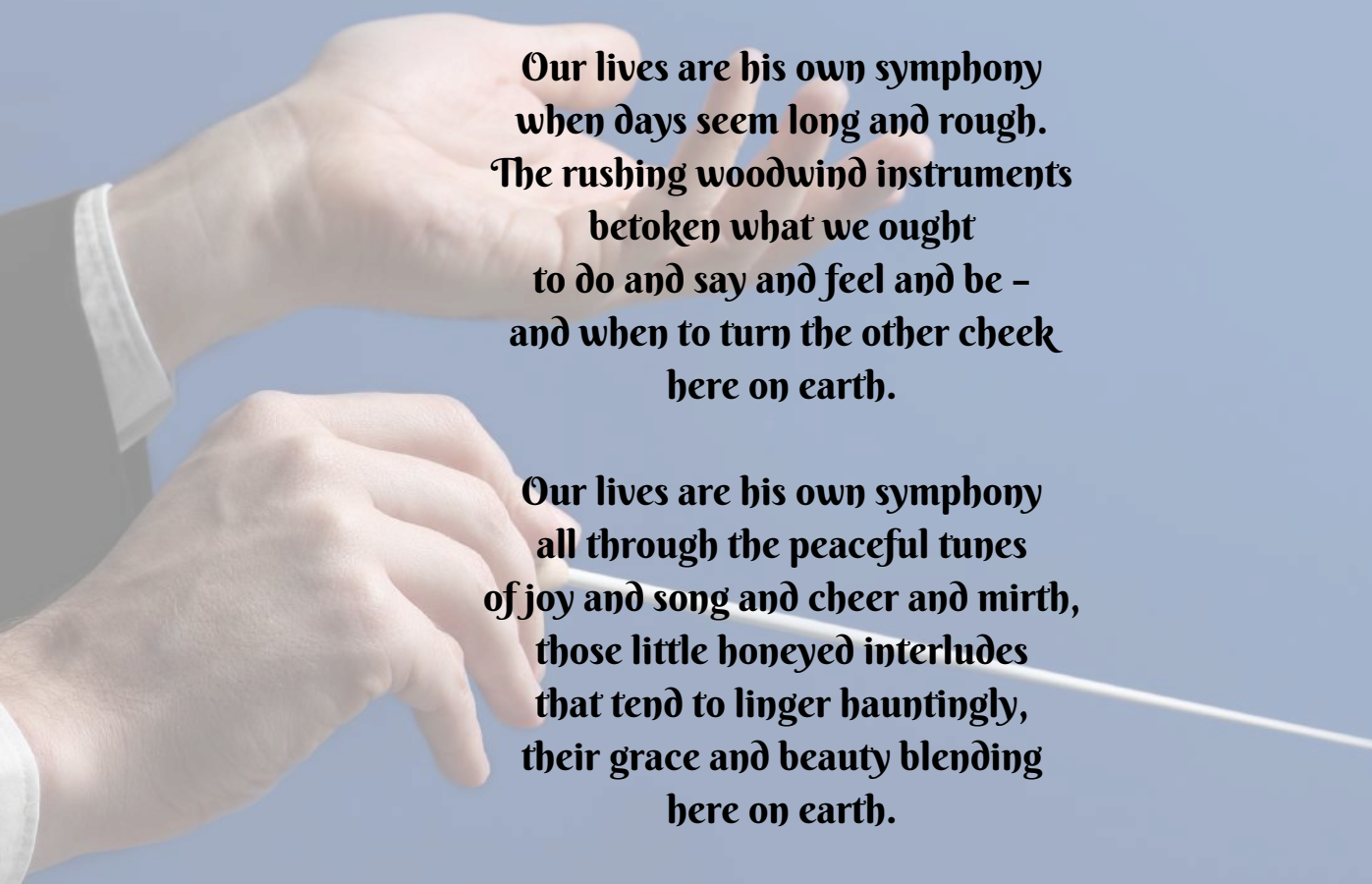
Dinner is provided, however
it is funded by attendee
donations

Scan to see more



His own

Our lives are his own symphony,
conducted by the Lord,
the violin and piccolo
embracing our every word
and sigh and thought and deed
with sweet and heavenly music
here on earth.



Our lives are his own symphony
when days seem long and rough.
The rushing woodwind instruments
betoken what we ought
to do and say and feel and be -
and when to turn the other cheek
here on earth.

Our lives are his own symphony
all through the peaceful tunes
of joy and song and cheer and mirth,
those little honeyed interludes
that tend to linger hauntingly,
their grace and beauty blending
here on earth.

Our lives are his own symphony
right through the final note,
his ever-present guiding hand
in gracious measure wrought
enfolds us in eternal love
when our short tune is finished
here on earth.

Eamonn Murtagh



An invitation

'Twas an invitation
naïve as a child's,
one made by a young man:
a carpenter, a preacher, and a healer.

'Set out into the deep
and let down your nets for a catch.'

Simon looked at him quizzically, thinking:
What does he know about fishing?

But having heard the impenetrable
depth and power of his parables,
Simon knew there was more than met the eye
when it came to Jesus.

'Master, we have worked all night
to no avail.
Yet if you say so,
I will let down the nets.'

And like his old certainties,
they soon began to break.
So plentiful were the fish
that he needed all his partners
and both boats to haul in the catch.

Open-mouthed, Simon turned
and fell at the knees
of He who is holy.

'Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'

Jesus placed the saving grace of a hand
on the fisherman's shoulder.
'Be not afraid, for from now on
you shall catch people, Simon.'

Shane Murtagh

**Behold The Pierced One: An
Approach to a Spiritual Christology
- Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict
XVI)**

It's always an exciting event for me to buy or receive a new book. I selected this book because I perceived the challenge, and joy, I would encounter. Written by the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in 1983 the Preface begins with these humble words "This little collection of christological meditations and reflections has two points of origin."

These points of origin were two Congresses, firstly on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and secondly a Eucharistic Congress, both attended by Cardinal Ratzinger in 1981. I wondered about my ability (and suitability) to comprehend fully the depths of this fine theologian's work. However, having selected the book I was now determined to discover it and give it my best.

I chose as my reading for Lent (amongst other material) one of three meditations in the book i.e.

The Passover of Jesus and the Church: A Meditation for Holy Thursday.

The front cover of the book shows a relief from a column at the Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos in Northern Spain titled "The Incredulity of Saint Thomas". Most illuminating.

Pam Connor



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

March 2025

For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



*Lent is a time of
grace, a time to
convert and live out
our baptism fully.
~Pope Francis*

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en.html>

Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully.

*Heavenly Father,
we pray for Pope Francis.
We ask for Your healing hand to be on him.
Give him strength in his body, mind, and spirit
as he recovers from his illness.
May Your grace surround him,
bringing comfort, peace, and restoration.
Protect him with Your love,
and may the light of Your wisdom
continue to guide him in his mission.
We trust in Your mercy and know You are with him.
Amen.*

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

St John the Apostle Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people.

We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING VOLUNTEERS

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer is to be an additional point of contact in the Parish on matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people, complementing the roles of the Parish Priest and Parish Secretary. They can provide advice on how complaints can be made, and forward concerns, relating to the protection safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people within the Parish to the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding Manager.



Jenny McGee and Carl Madsen – safeguarding.kippax@cg.org.au

*We love to celebrate mass with the children and
vulnerable people of our parish.
Safeguarding and care is everyone's responsibility.*

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

Editor Marian England * **Graphic Design:** Kirsty Vera

St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT * 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

JOIN US AT ST JOHN'S!

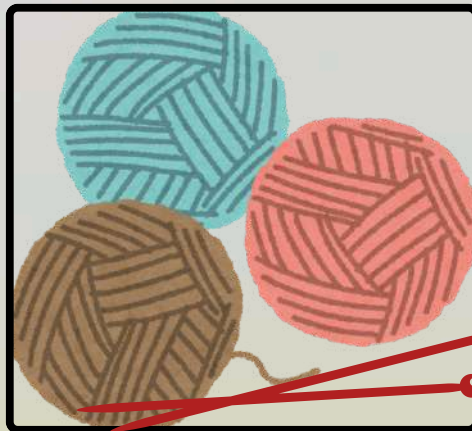


Women's Breakfast
4th Tuesday of the month

Friendship Group
Last Wednesday of the
month



Movie Night
4th Friday of the month



Pins & Needles
3rd Monday of the month



Men's Group
3rd Friday of the month



Community Connections
3rd Sunday of the month

MARCH 2024



1	Saturday	
2	Sunday	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
3	Monday	
4	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday
5	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Lent begins
6	Thursday	Gethsemane - Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
7	Friday	1st Friday of the month - Mass of the Sacred Heart Meditation - 5:15pm - Parish Library Film Night - 7:00pm Parish Library - Red Dog
8	Saturday	
9	Sunday	First Sunday of Lent - Year C
10	Monday	Life is a Journey Retreat with Fr. Chris McPhee 10 -15 March
11	Tuesday	Community Connections Coffee @ Ichi - 2pm
12	Wednesday	
13	Thursday	Parish Pastoral Council - 7:00pm - Parish Library
14	Friday	Meditation - 5:15pm - Parish Library
15	Saturday	
16	Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent - Year C Community Connection - 3:30pm - Parish Centre
17	Monday	Pins & Needles - 7:15pm - Parish Library
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	
20	Thursday	
21	Friday	Harmony Day Meditation - 5:15pm - Parish Library Men's Group - 6:30pm - Parish Centre
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent - Year C Cuppa after 10:00am mass
24	Monday	
25	Tuesday	
26	Wednesday	SJA Friendship Group - 10:15am - Parish Centre
27	Thursday	
28	Friday	Meditation - 5:15pm - Parish Library Film Night - 7:00pm - Parish Library
29	Saturday	
30	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C
31	Monday	

Fr. Tru
on
leave