

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH - KIPPAX ACT JANUARY - 2025

Time for Reflection

#### 2025 JUBILEE: "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared 2025 a year of Jubilee, an event celebrated every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope," offering a message of renewal for a world grappling with the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the escalating climate crisis.

Jubilee 2025 began on Christmas Eve, 24 December, at 7:00pm, with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. This sacred moment preceded Pope Francis' celebration of Midnight Mass. Holy Doors were subsequently opened at Rome's three other major basilicas:

St. John Lateran on 29 December, St. Mary Major on 1 January, and

St. Paul's Outside the Walls on 5 January. Additionally, on 26 December, a Holy Door was opened at Rebibbia Prison in Rome, a location Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and wash inmates' feet on Holy Thursday.

#### The Hope We Do Not See

St. Paul reminds the Romans, "It is in hope that we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" (Romans 8:24-25).

What is the hope we do not see? It is the promise of eternal life and the fulfillment of God's kingdom—realities unseen yet deeply rooted in faith. This hope embodies the assurance of God's love, the redemption of all creation, and our ultimate union with God, which surpasses human understanding and experience.

This hope calls us to trust in God's faithfulness and His promises, even amid struggles, uncertainty, and darkness. It sustains us in the present while pointing us toward a future filled with divine justice, peace, and joy. Paul's words challenge us to embrace a hope that transcends immediate or tangible outcomes, inviting us to patiently and faithfully await God's transformative work in us and the world. It is an active hope, requiring trust, endurance, and perseverance, even when God's promises feel distant.

#### Signs of Hope in Action

Pope Francis invites Christians to be active in generating "signs of hope" during this Jubilee Year. These signs include a renewed commitment to peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and solidarity with prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly,2 migrants, and those in difficult situations.

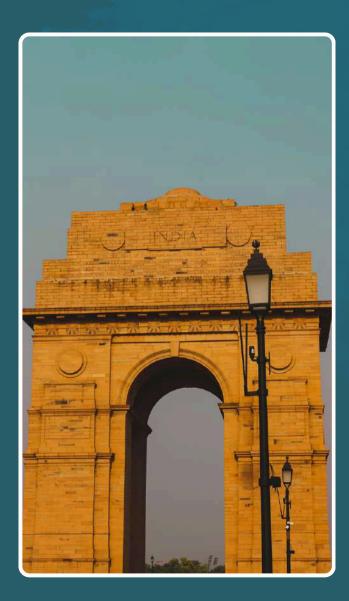
Time for Reflection



The Holy Father has also emphasized the importance of structural changes, urging affluent nations to forgive the debts of countries unable to repay them and to address "ecological debt." He describes this debt as "connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time."

#### A Personal Reflection

What does this hope look like for you in your journey of faith? How can you embody and extend the hope of the Jubilee Year in your daily life? Perhaps it involves small acts of kindness, standing in solidarity with those who suffer, or making choices that promote justice and care for creation. Each of us is called to be a "pilgrim of hope," trusting in God's promises and living in a way that reflects His love and mercy to the world.



#### Gates of hope

Retracing steps once taken long ago when life was blooming with the flowers of spring

> and everything a challenge to be won with travel and the thrill of other climes . . .

The world now a smaller place to be as galaxies are conquered one by one

and love's brave bond is strengthened over time with distance shrinking in its grasp

as welcomes lace the tuggings of the heart – enfolding love again with fond embrace.

'Tis but a step along the road of life in search of entry through the gates of hope.

Eamonn Murtagh

# KIT (a) KIPPAX ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH, KIPPAX ACT \* JANUARY 2025

# **EDITOR'S NOTE**

January is traditionally a quiet month in the parish office, and this year was no exception. However, a few noteworthy events marked the beginning of 2025. From the 2nd of January, the celebration of morning Mass began to be shared between St. John the Apostle and St. Thomas Aquinas parishes: Monday and Friday at St. John's, and Wednesday and Thursday at St. Thomas'.

The Meditation Prayer Group continued to meet every Friday night, while Community Connections hosted two gatherings: an afternoon tea at Ichi's Café on Tuesday, 14 January, and their Sunday Afternoon gathering on 19 January. The Liturgy Team also met on Thursday, 23 January, and is now well into preparations for Lent and the Easter seasons.

This month, we said farewell to Margaret Richardson whose Requiem Mass was held on Monday, 20 January. We also mourned the passing of Fr. Chris Murphy MSC, whose funeral took place on Wednesday, 22 January, at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kensington. A memorial Mass in his honour was celebrated at St. John's on Friday, 24 January. Fr. Chris served at St. John's as an assistant priest from 1986 to 1990 and as parish priest in 2000 and 2001. He was deeply loved and embodied what it means to be "God's Heart on earth." May Margaret and Fr. Chris rest in eternal peace.

We've received enquiries from two young women and a family of five who are interested in becoming Catholic. I have begun journeying with them, and I ask that you keep all of us in your prayers as we walk this path together.

Fr. Chung departed on 22 January for his annual leave, travelling home to Vietnam. He will celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Snake, with his family on 29 January and officiate at his niece's

wedding while there. Fr. Chung will return to the parish on 2 March. In his absence, Fr. Tru will be assisted by Fr. Gerard and Fr. Chris McPhee for weekend Masses.

Once a month, the parish office team gathers for a reflection afternoon. To begin the year, we watched the movie Conclave. The themes of the film have already sparked meaningful discussions and will likely continue to do so in the coming months.

#### Looking Ahead to February

February promises to be a busy month. Our Sacramental Program kicks off with a Formation and Registration Evening for parents on Monday, 10 February, followed by a Formation Evening for the Sacrament of Penance on Monday, 24 February. This year's Sacramental Program will combine St John the Apostle, Florey and St Thomas Aquinas students.

Masses to mark the beginning of the school year will take place at St. Thomas' Charnwood on Thursday, 6 February, and at St. John the Apostle Florey on Friday, 14 February.

The first Mass of Anointing for the year will be celebrated on Friday, 28 February, at 11:00 AM, followed by a community lunch.

#### A Jubilee Year of Hope

In this Jubilee Year, we pray for the gift of hope. May all our actions and prayers reflect in hope our call to be the Heart of God on earth.



# SACRAMENTS BAPTISM

We welcome into the SJA Community Body of Christ.

The following children were baptised during the month of January:

Aliya Paterson Son of Connor and Diana

# PENANCE, EUCHARIST, CONFIRMATION

Max and Jack Younger Sons of Nicole and Phillip



# **FUNERALS**

Fr. Chris Murphy, msc





Margaret Richardson



## <u>In Memory of Fr Chris Murphy msc</u>

There are many St John the Apostle parishioners who knew Chris well and have fond memories of him.

Chris Murphy had two stints at St John the Apostle Parish The first as assistant priest for 5 years from 1986 to 1990. The second as Parish Priest for 2 years in 2000 and 2001.

Chris' gift was that he loved people and could journey with them through life especially anyone who was going through a difficult time. The Gospel reading at his Requiem mass the Emmaus story was very fitting for Chris. He would often walk



with people who sought his guidance and help and as they walked he would let them talk. He accepted people where they were with love and without judgement

During his time here in the 80's he was chaplain to the Antioch Youth Group. Antioch thrived under Chris' care. He forged life-long friendships with the youth and with the parent couples who supported him in the ministry. He often returned to officiate at the weddings of the youth and later baptisms of their children.

Chris could sing and he would sometimes commence a homily with a couple lines of a song which would be pertinent to the focus he was making in the homily. One I remember is the song "Two little boys". He also sang at school masses and one day sang tie a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree when he was giving a homily to the children on forgiveness.

Chris Murphy responded to any situation in life with love. Chris lived being on earth the Heart of God. He was a kind person and a wonderful priest who left his mark where ever he had been. Our parish is the better for having had Chris as our pastor. He is much loved and he will be sadly missed.

#### May be rest eternally in the loving arms of God.

## The Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Guidebook That Falls Short

When English journalist Tanya Gold set out to write about the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, she encountered more than a few challenges. This iconic site, revered as the location of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, is overseen by not one but three Patriarchates: Latin, Armenian, and Greek Orthodox. After managing to secure an audience with the Greek Patriarchate, Gold found herself on Greek Patriarchate Street, stepping into the palace to meet Theophilos III. Respectfully bowing before him, she was assigned a guide to this extraordinary church, which she describes as "the most arresting building in the world."



Image Source: Gallery Byzantium

Yet, as Gold recounts, no guidebook can truly capture the essence of this sacred place. Reflecting on her visit, she writes, "By all means hold your guidebook; you will not divine this place. You can only feel, and my notes are scribbles."

Gold's historical reflections highlight the church's turbulent past. "When the Crusaders came in 1099, they expelled the Orthodox Patriarch and installed a Latin Patriarch, who fled in turn with the Crusaders in 1187. They are still fighting it out, and I understand that there is a similar fight between Muslims and Jews on the Temple Mount, though with fewer architects." The complex dynamics of the church's custodianship persist, occasionally spilling over into open conflict. On Palm Sunday in 2008, for example, a brawl erupted between Armenian and Greek clergy—a vivid reminder of the centuries-old tensions.

Remarkably, the keyholders to the church have been Muslim families since 1187, a tradition that endures as a means of maintaining neutrality amidst the competing Christian factions. Negotiations surrounding even minor changes to the church's structure or rituals are notoriously protracted, often taking decades to resolve.

Gold also reminds us of the near-miraculous survival of the church in the face of external threats. Mussolini, during his Fascist reign, had plans to demolish the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and part of Jerusalem's Christian Quarter to construct a grand Fascist cathedral. The threat was averted in part by the British victory at the Second Battle of El Alamein in World War II. Reflecting on this, Gold shares a whimsical moment from her own life: passing the statue of British General Bernard "Monty" Montgomery on Whitehall, she blew him a kiss in gratitude.

In her evocative narrative, Gold captures the mystery, history, and humanity bound up in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is a place that defies simple explanations, where centuries of faith, conflict, and reverence converge. And for visitors like Gold, it remains a site that must be felt to be truly understood.

Pam Connor (\*Excerpt from the Christmas edition of The Spectator.)

#### An update from the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

For those of you who are interested in keeping abreast of what is happening between St John the Apostle (Kippax) and St Thomas Acquinas (Charnwood) I would urge you to read the minutes of the last Steering Group meeting (held Jan 22nd) which have been put on the website. If anyone has problems accessing the site, or doesn't use the internet, the front office will have printed copies available. It makes for important, but also very sobering reading.

The Vicar General of the Archdiocese (Fr Richard Thompson) was invited to the meeting in an effort to gain some insight into the current push for Kippax and Charnwood to come together, and what was said during discussions between the MSC and Archdiocesan hierarchy. Basically, it boils down to a lack of available priests in the Archdiocese to serve all the parish communities within its domain. Since 2015 there have been moves to encourage neighbouring Parishes to come together. We have seen it locally with St Monica's (Evatt) and St Michael's (Kaleen) and again with the parishes at Aranda and Page. Currently the Archdiocese is involved in eight other scenarios similar in many ways to what is happening with Kippax and Charnwood.

The MSCs have been involved with Kippax from its inception and the current Provincial has given the Archdiocese a commitment that the MSCs will remain a presence at St John's for the next 5 years. We are fortunate we have always had at least two MSC's ministering in our parish but this may not always be the case in the future.

No-one wants to be reading this anymore than I want to be writing it. But it is the unfortunate truth and we all deserve to know what is really behind the changes that are currently being discussed.

There will undoubtedly be some pain along the road ahead, and some difficult and hard decisions will need to be made. We have to plan for a time when there may only be one priest for our two parish communities, which is likely to occur within one or two years. We currently have six masses between Kippax and Charnwood, when technically a single priest is only supposed to say three masses over the weekend. Clearly, we need to think long and hard about what we need to do.

While Kippax and Charnwood each have their own identity and dynamics, we need to find a way to work together for the sake of both communities. We need to respect where each other has come from but learn to walk the same road as one. When all is said and done, I believe there is far more that unifies our communities than separates us. From time to time there will probably be some hiccups, but by focusing on what we have to gain by coming together a bigger, more vibrant community; a greater diversity of parish activities and opportunities and so on) we might be able to start seeing the situation in a more positive light.

We are also very fortunate in that an experienced external facilitator has agreed to work with the Steering Group on helping bring the two parishes together.

Over the coming weeks (and possibly months) the Steering Group, as well as members of your PPC, will be seeking your input into a range of issues that will need to be addressed. We will be asking your views on topics ranging from changes to Mass times, a collective name for the combined Kippax and Charnwood catholic communities (but with no change to the name of the individual Churches) and suggestions on how parishioners from both entities can get to know each other, celebrate together and come together as one. Please be as involved in this process as much as you can so your voice is heard. Feel free to contact me directly by email, or chat to me in person if you see me after Mass.

The Steering Group was talking about holding a joint Parish Assembly for parishioners from both St John the Apostle and St Thomas Acquinas to come together to discuss some of the changes taking place, and some of the decisions that need to be made. While some people wanted this Assembly held early in the year, others felt their parishioners would want more time to think about things, and/or would want to make decisions gradually over time rather than all at once. I am keen to know your views on this.

Finally, while recognising that many Kippax parishioners may be feeling worried and uneasy by what is occurring, please bear in mind that many of our neighbours at Charnwood are feeling equally unsettled and disturbed by the changes taking place. We need to support each other through these difficult times.

In the midst of these challenges one thing is clear. It will be up to us, as individual parishioners, to carry on the legacy of the MSC charism into the future. Let us rise to that challenge and the opportunity it presents us with.

If you are anxious or troubled by anything that is taking place or would like to ask further questions, please feel free to reach out to me and I will address your concerns as best I can. If you, or someone you know, have any ideas on how we can help anyone who may be struggling with this process, please let me know.

Jenny McGee Parish Pastoral Chair

#### St John the Apostle Parish & St Thomas Aquinas (SJA & STA) Steering Committee Minutes 22 January 2025

http://www.stjohnkippax.org.au/uploads/SJA-

STA%20Steering%20Committee/SJA%20and%20STA%20Steering%20Group%20Meeting%2022%20Jan%

202025.pdf

# 6 DAY RETREAT WITH FR. CHRIS MCPHEE MSC

10–15 March 2025 St John the Apostle Catholic Church KIPPAX ACT

e is a Courner

Cost: \$80.00 Time: 9:30am mass Morning session: 10:30am - 11:30am Repeated in the evening: 7:00pm - 8:00pm



# QUOTABLE QUOTES

Pain is the price that the heart has to pay. But opinion cannot replace the truth. The ego thrives in muddy water while the mind needs clarity and transparency. *RUMI,Sufi mystic, 14th C.* 

\* I am a hole in the flute that the Christ's breath moves through - listen to the music. HAFIZ,Sufi mystic.

Our Lord says to every soul, became human for you If you don't become God for me, you do me wrong.

> ECKHART op, 14th C. German Mystic

A man's reach should be beyond his grasp Or what is heaven for? Robert Browning

We are not human beings struggling to become spiritual. We are spiritual beings in pursuit of authentic humanity. PIERRE TEILHARD de CHARDIN, d.1955

#### Serendipity – "unless you leave room for serendipity, how can the divine enter?" (Joseph Campbell)

In my youth, when I came across the title "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", I had little conception of the relationship that is captured in the title. I had no knowledge of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart or the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at that time.

My life path took a number of deviations from my early years of teaching at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Kensington. As the years moved on, I gave little thought to the relationship with Mary, the Mother of God, that had been so important in my youth.

During the last 20 years or so, however, I have once again heard the call to take note, to understand what it means to be a daughter, to walk with this mother who keeps somehow beckoning towards her son. The word Serendipity captures the disparate, unexpected events and meetings that keep bringing me back to "remember", to better understand the extraordinary mystery of the love of God.

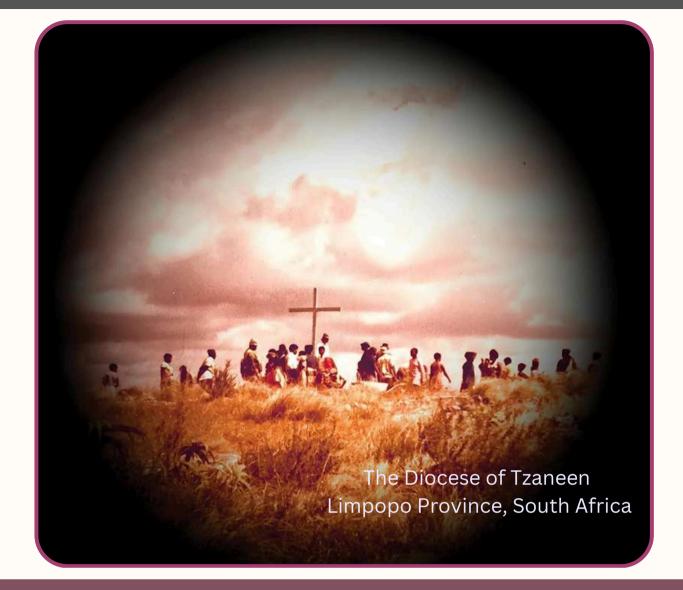
On my first visit in over 40 years to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Kensington, I met a sister who I had known briefly in Adelaide and in Kensington, Sydney. She told me she had never forgotten the nativity tableau I had presented with my Year 7 students accompanied by a certain hymn to Our Lady. I don't recall the hymn she named, in fact, I have no recollection of the event itself. I didn't ask her why she remembered the tableau but the fact she recalled that event after so many years as a teacher herself, amazed me. The conversation brought an echo of the past and the important place that Mary had had for me. In the Catholic Church we have many titles for Our Lady; many of them honour her personally. The title "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart" is different in that it is about a relationship. Over the Christmas liturgical season, the Scriptures constantly remind us of the relationship of Mother and Son. When the Magi arrived, "they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him".

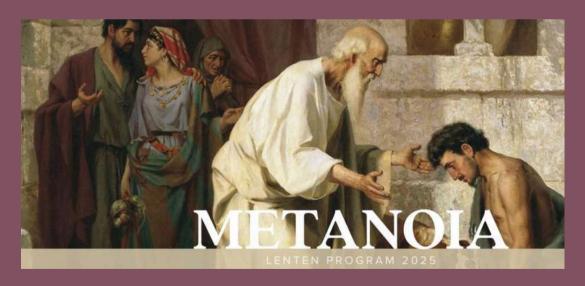
One of the readings from the Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God that opens the New Year, asks for a more wonderful illumination than that of the star that led the Magi, one that Mary has played her part in bringing into the lives of us all. We are familiar with the blessing from the book of Numbers 6: 24-26 as we often sing it at St John the Apostle.

"The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." I find this beautiful prayer remarkable for its intimacy as it asks our God - Yahweh, "I am who I am", to smile on us, to see each one of us as a person, to bring his light to us in our uncertainty. This prayer is like the morning light that scatters on the landscape of our lives. It is gentle and full of the promise of new life, despite the unknowns of each day. Mary in her acceptance of God's Will, made it possible for us to recognise her son, Emmanuel, God is with us. One version of the statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has Mary presenting her Son to us as a child in her arms. In turn, Jesus points to her. So many of the readings around Christmas show Mary presenting her Son: to Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, in the temple, at the wedding feast of Cana and to each of us.

Elizabeth McDonald

KIT (a) KIPPAX ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH, KIPPAX ACT \* JANUARY 2025





Lenten Program - available from the Piety Shop at the end of February

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention February 2025

# For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

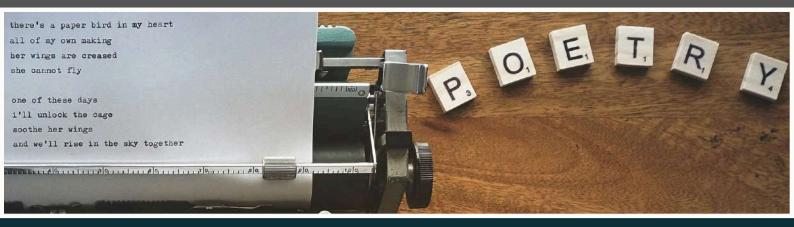
Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



https://www.popesprayer.va/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ENG-HOLY-FATHERS-PRAYER-INTENTIONS-2025-DEF-1.pdf



#### ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH, KIPPAX ACT \* JANUARY 2025



#### The Beloved

On the heels of the sinners John had baptised in the Jordan was a man pure as water.

As soon as he saw him, the Baptist knew he needed not submersion, yet the man insisted.

And so John yielded, taking him gently by the hand and leading him into the midst of the river.

Like one placed in a tomb, Jesus disappeared from view. Moments later, he emerged, his face radiant as the sun.

As he stood praying, the Dove of God came to him from heaven.

Then John heard the voice of the Father.

'With you I am well pleased, for you are the Beloved; you are my Son.'

Shane Murtagh



#### Let's Wait and See

So still, with a clear blue sky and tiny, flocculent white clouds smiling down, gilded by the early morning sun.

No wind. It is different in America. A cyclone called 'Trump", has blown in at the people's invitation. Will he fill the wind and storm role? Seeking our weaknesses, blowing them down, blowing them away,

or.....? Only time will tell.

> Kathy Teys 25 January 2025

# EVERYONE HAS Mental Health

# MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Pope Francis' monthly day of prayer for mental health. Every second Monday of the month. Next prayer day is 10 February 2025.

https://catholicmhm.org/click-to-pray

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MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY IS A MINISTRY OF ACCOMPANIMENT

This means being involved in a spiritual relationship with someone so that we reciprocally reflect the love of Jesus to each other.

If you are interested in joining a small group to develop this ministry please contact Marian at the parish office.

marian@stjohnkippax.org.au

BE ON EARTH THE HEART OF GOD

# 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 \* Front Cover: Photo was taken in the church carpark - Sulphur-crested cockatoo in a conifer tree St John the Apostle Parish Kippax ACT \* 25 Blackham Street, HOLT ACT 2615

#### NOT FOR RESALE OR REPRODUCTION

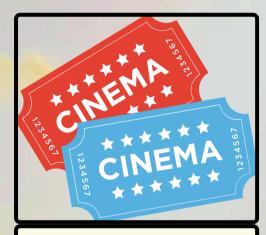
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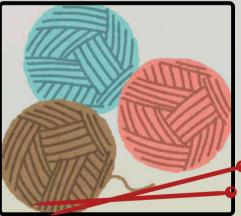


Women's Breakfast 4th Tuesday of the month





Movie Night 4th Friday of the month



Pins & Needles 3rd Monday of the month



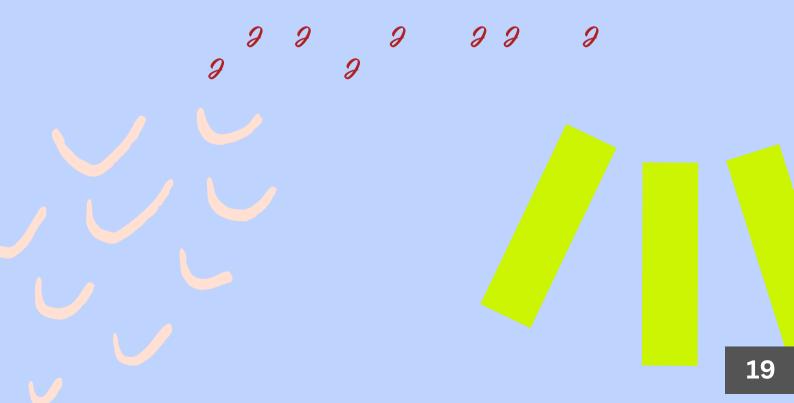


Men's Group 3rd Friday of the month

KIT is the parishioner's magazine. Its purpose is to provide communication and a record of monthly events along with advertising upcoming events.

We welcome and appreciate your contributions. If you have a memory of the parish, an article, or a photo that you would like to appear in KIT we would love to hear from you.

Please send your contributions to marian@stjohnkippax.org.au



# FEBRUARY 2024



1	Saturday			
2	Sunday	Presentation of the Lord - Blessing of the Candles		
3	Monday			
4	Tuesday	SCHOOL RETURNS		
5	Wednesday			
6	Thursday	Gethsemane - Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament		
7	Friday	1st Friday of the month - Mass of the Sacred Heart SJA Care Meeting - 11am - Parish Llbrary Meditation - 5:30pm - Parish Library	Fr. -Chung	
8	Saturday	PPC Formation morning 8am-12pm	on	
9	Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year c	leave	
10	Monday	Sacramental Registration and Formation Session - 7pm - Church	icave	
11	Tuesday	Community Connections Coffee @ Ichi - 2pm		
12	Wednesday			
13	Thursday	PPC Meeting - 7pm - Parish LIbrary		
14	Friday	SJA School Opening Mass - 12pm Meditation - 5:30pm - Parish Library	_	
15	Saturday			
	Constant and	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C		
16	Sunday	Community Connections - 4pm - Parish Centre		
16 17	Sunday Monday	Community Connections - 4pm - Parish Centre Pins & Needles - 7:15pm - Parish Library		
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17	Monday		-	
17 18	Monday Tuesday	Pins & Needles - 7:15pm - Parish Library		
17 18 19	Monday Tuesday Wednesday	Pins & Needles - 7:15pm - Parish Library		
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