



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT and 220 Victoria St, Hall ACT
Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd,
Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College

3-4 December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent | Year A



Holy Spirit Amaroo

Monday

Office closed

Tuesday

9:15am Mass

Wednesday

7:00am Mass

Thursday

9:15am Mass

Friday

7:00am Mass

Saturday

4:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:00am Mass

9:30am Mass

The Wolf and the Lamb

If Jesus is the Lamb of God, John the Baptist is the wolf. He stands alone as an inter-testamental figure, more like the prophets of the Hebrew scriptures than the evangelists of Christianity. There is no evidence that he ever became a disciple of Jesus. In fact, the evidence points to his retaining his own following up to the time of his execution. He is the finger of God, pointing to the new revelation, but he stands apart from it, howling out warnings about the scourge to come.

John was no prophet of gentle messages, of love and forgiveness. He came to drown the devil in the flesh, and raise up a nation of spirit prepared to meet its Maker. He lived in the wild, dressed and ate like a wild man. He hurled untamed words at the powerful people of his day, and they trembled. He was raw authority, and many people walked into the Jordan, convinced by his charisma or afraid of his warnings. In the end, the wolf of God would decrease, as the Lamb would increase. For only a brief hour, they browsed together, sharing the message, "The reign of God is at hand".

Name figures in Christianity today like John the Baptist. Do you find them appealing?

Be a wolf in faith: live your convictions unflinchingly and publicly. Be a lamb: bring peace, patience, and the willingness to dialogue with those who see the vision of church differently than you do. - www.gpbs.com.au

Weekday Masses | Temporary Change of Location

Due to roof repairs starting in the church from Monday 5 December, all weekday Masses next week will be celebrated in the Parish Office Room.

Can you help?

Urgent call for help to water the parish gardens (flowers) during the month of December. Please contact fionawilk62@gmail.com



St Francis Xavier Hall

Sunday Mass

8:30am

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month



Pray the Rosary

Saturday 10 December 2022 after 5:00pm Mass—Rosary with Legion of Mary In 2023 we will pray the Rosary on the first Saturday of each month.

This Weekend's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12



Week 4: Chassa Chatanearoff

"It's Fr Des Pritt!, Remember me?" "Of course! Chassa Chatanearoff, You were in St Mario Maria's Parish, Queanbeyan before it closed. "That's right, I took the broken tiles off the church roof to fix. Then I found out that the roof frames were rotting, so I took on to patch these. Then we discovered the ceiling had water stains, so I said I would paint them. As well I noted the guttering was rusted. I had a mate who had some old guttering so I said I could fix all that too! Yes, I remember that time so well! I am now offering my services and all-round skills to Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin."

Fr Des Pritt didn't really give permission to Chassa Chatanearoff to take up the offer of his services. (St Mario Maria Church had to be sold because it was condemned by the local Council. After none of his promises to do the repairs were done, the whole Church became a safety hazard! Now in his good will he has taken it on himself to do repairs at Holy Spirit. Chatanearoff quickly decided a strength test was needed on the chairs in the Holy Spirit Church. He upended the five hundred chairs and quickly tagged any chair that needed welding to ensure stability. He took home one, then four, then six, then ten. In total he has taken out sixty-seven chairs. Unfortunately, he has returned none!

Fr Des Pritt's hairline has receded measurably with the reappearance of Chassa Chatanearoff. However, Fr Des Pritt's tolerance has been tested; he knows how important Chassa Chatanearoff is even if there are now fifty people sitting on the floor!

While the chairs are one issue, it's time to reveal why Fr Des Pritt has been suffering other health issues. Blood pressure, heart palpitations, an ingrown toenail, an incurable skin condition aggravated further with stress as well as at least one other condition not fit for printing! All caused by ongoing stresses that have coincided with the good will of Chassa Chatanearoff.

There isn't time or room to tell all, but here's a touch of why Fr Des Pritt has ongoing health issues. Note this: Fr Des Pritt made his way into his office one morning knowing it was a national holiday for this wonderful country we are blessed to live in. Fr Des Pritt took time to do his breathing exercises. In for the count of fifteen, then let it out slowly. The pre-school children included Fr Des Pritt in this program which helped enormously in containing the fuse of explosion!

Now as Fr Des Pritt grieved the Queen's passing, Chassa Chatanearoff bangs on the office door. On and on and on he bangs. Fr Des Pritt's breathing exercises went to the wall. The thud of his heart could be seen knocking through his shirt. His face was lit up to the point of where he wouldn't have been out of place in a Red Bull add!. Chassa Chatanearoff should surely realise no one was around, but he wouldn't let up. Fr Des Pritt hid in the broom cupboard for twenty minutes!. "He's gone", he said to himself with a sigh of relief. But, as he turned to go into his office he got a terrible fright. Chassa Chatanearoff had his face glued to the window. That was the end of another good pair of underpants that Fr Des Pritt had received as a birthday present.

Now Chassa Chatanearoff is never ruffled what the mood Fr Des Pritt meets him with. In his usual way, he spent 30 minutes telling Fr Des Pritt a couple had arrived for Baptism preparation. "It's a National holiday - get it? "God save the Queen and God save Fr Des Pritt! Chatanearoff proceeded to then give Fr Des Pritt the long list of the family tree and how the Chatanearoff's came to Australia. Fr Des Pritt finished the conversation by inquiring: "Did the Chatanearoffs all turn up on a National Holiday for Baptism preparation?" "No" he said continuing "They....". End of subject Fr Des Pritt interrupted "Chassa, no more! It's a National Holiday".

Chassa Chatanearoff is most devoted to his parish. He spends countless hours in so many areas of the Church buildings changing bulbs, cleaning toilets, setting the heaters to come on and off automatically and fixing so many bits and pieces few would realise. One day he found himself perched on a roof and couldn't get help. Three hours later he was sitting up there. "Why didn't you ring someone?" Fr Des Pritt inquired. Chassa Chatanearoff asked: "I would have, but I rang a mate who had some roofing screws suitable for what we need here. What I didn't realise was how long I had been talking to him. Of course, my phone went flat!"

The Parish would not be the same without Chassa Chatanearoff. Such a unique and devoted member of the Holy Spirit Parish family, always on hand to help. Chassa, I thank you for all you do.

Fr Des Pritt.

International Day of Persons with a Disability

3 December 2022

This week we celebrate the annual United Nations International Day of Persons with a Disability. The observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Pope Francis in his recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* reminds us that 'every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally, even if they are unproductive or were born with limitations...this does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being' (para. 107).

This year let us think about the Pope's words and what they mean, and let us feel them in our hearts. Let us pray that we shall look for opportunities to assist our brothers and sisters with disabilities to achieve their full potential, while respecting their inherent dignity, and without taking away their right to participate in any decisions concerning them. Don't let what the Pope is saying just be empty words.

A wonderful example of the rich contribution to our faith of persons with disabilities is shown in the attached photo, taken at the Faith and Light Canberra community's Christmas Party last Saturday. Faith and Light is a Christian community made up of persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends who meet together to share faith, friendship and celebrate life. During the joyful performance of the annual Nativity Play, Mary didn't feel inclined to nurse baby Jesus, so Joseph lovingly held him and smiled on him. We were shown Joseph as the loving father he no doubt was, and we were reminded of God our loving parent.

Let's really celebrate this day and recognise the gift of each other!

Leanne Johns



God of all people,
You have made us in your image, delighting in your creation. Help us to see and receive each person as a beloved and unique part of your body.
We are all part of the Body of Christ.
You desire all people to use their gifts to enrich the world around them. Help us to celebrate and support the participation and leadership of people with disability in our communities.

We are all part of the Body of Christ.
You give and sustain life, opening ways of thinking and doing that allow all to grow. Help us to be inclusive in welcoming people with disability as a vital part of "us".
We are all part of the Body of Christ.
We ask this through Christ, who lives within us and calls us all to fullness of life. **Amen.** <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>



Ring in the Holidays by Waiting

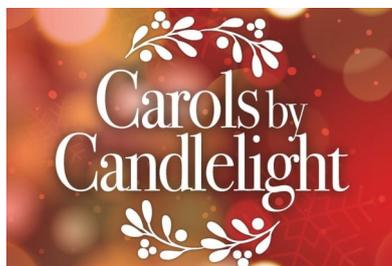
A commercial on all four radio stations on our black-and-white RCA television convinced me I wanted a set of handbells, with lyrics to songs in colours that matched similarly coloured bells, guaranteeing I would produce beautiful music. I asked Mum and, despite being told by my older brother that he didn't exist, I also asked Santa, surreptitiously, when he was on the corner ringing a Salvation Army bell. My bases were covered. All I had to do was wait for the payoff Christmas morning after Mass.

I couldn't wait. I searched and found my gift under the stairs by the never-used front door. I grabbed my box, shook it, and heard bells. I knew it!

Christmas morning came. Everyone was excited – except me. I tried to fake my surprise and subsequent elation. I wasn't a good actor. Later in the day Mum told me she could tell I knew. I did like those bells. But if I had waited, there would have been a lot more joy. Our Advent readings this week invite us to wait and, importantly, to actively prepare for all that the Saviour's birth will bring us. For me, the first note at Midnight Mass, especially if struck by a handbell, will fill me beyond what I could possibly anticipate. - www.gpbs.com.au

Delivery of Christmas Hampers!

Parishioners are invited to help with delivering Christmas Hampers to Gungahlin families. Hampers will be ready to be delivered after the 5 pm Mass on the 17/12/22 and after 8am and 9:30 am Mass on the 18/12/22. Our Vinnies team have been working very hard to collect goodies and will coordinate all the Hampers over that weekend. Please mark the date in your diaries and come along and help us spread some Christmas cheer!



Canberra Carols by Candlelight

The Woden Valley Youth Choir would like to invite members of our parish to attend the Carols, which will be held at Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, on December 10, from 7pm.

It will be the first free, live-audience performance of the Carols since the pandemic began, and our

Choir is very much looking forward to leading the audience in a selection of carols old and new. Those attending are invited to bring a picnic.

The Carols booklet will be made available in coming weeks in The Canberra Times newspaper, and online.

Join Zumba with Frances to get your weekend started on the right foot!

Frances Dinn has grown up in Gungahlin and supports the parish in a variety of roles including music, youth ministry, sacramental programs and the Parish Pastoral Council. She has been a Zumba instructor for over 3 years and is excited to continue sharing her talents with her local community.

9:00AM Saturday, Mother Teresa School Hall, 40 Wimmera Street Harrison ACT
Cost = \$12/class or \$100/10 class pass

Bring your drink bottle, a towel, and your best sense of humour as we groove and shake through a variety of high and low intensity rhythms.

Contact frances_1406@hotmail.com or head to <https://www.facebook.com/zumbafitnesswithfrances> for details & updates

Please keep the following individuals in prayer.....



For those who are sick

Jim Banks
Diego Castaneda
Dorrell Hogan
Rhonda Lipton
Grant
Alan Demascus
Gowri Shivasabesan
Kathy Morris
Susan Metcalfe
Carmen Degabriele
Juana Iris Gvevara
Sandra Cortez
Priscila Adriano
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell
Walter Schranz
Alex Yap
Caitlin Wigglesworth

Recently Deceased

Gabrielle Froome
David Croke
All deceased Legion of Mary Members

Anniversaries

We include those who are members of our Parish or relatives. Please email contact the parish office or click here to request prayers.

[Prayer Requests](#)



Advent and Christmas

Advent and Christmas is the time for giving. Here are some ways you can contribute this year:

✳️ **St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree**

Please support our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers by taking a tag and returning your item to the specially marked baskets in the Church foyer. Please donate ONLY non-perishable food donations, vouchers or money as specified on the tags you take. This is a very rewarding experience and a great way to give to people in our community who need our support this Advent and Christmas season.

✳️ **Donating to St Vincent de Paul** Christmas Appeal envelopes are available in the foyer.

✳️ **Parish Advent Giving - Fr Mark's Special Appeal**

Similar to last year, we would like to run this appeal again to help a few people and families in our own community – here, in Holy Spirit – who are really “doing it tough”. We want to help them. It is more a gesture than ‘life support.’ Christmas season can be lonely for many, but showing our concern comes in giving. This little appeal which we call ‘Fr Mark's Special Appeal,’ is not in conflict with St Vincent de Paul's efforts. Each year we pick a cause that we can support. More than sometimes we have more in need at ‘our back-door.’ Anything we do in the right spirit will give hope and belief that better times are coming. This will aid only a very few, letting them know from us all, ‘it's the thought that counts.’

Donate online <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/holyspirit> or BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Reference: Parish Advent Giving or use envelopes available in the foyer and place it in the Wooden Box or collection baskets.

What's happening this Advent and Christmas

Saturday 3 December 2022

- ◆ 8:30am Decorate church with lights
- ◆ 5:00pm Mass of thanksgiving for Fr Mark's followed by Carols Event

Sunday 11 December 2022

- ◆ 3:00pm—5:00pm Atlar Servers and Youth Group Christmas Party

Tuesday 20 December 2022

- ◆ 7:00pm Reconciliation Service

Saturday 24 December 2022 | Christmas Eve

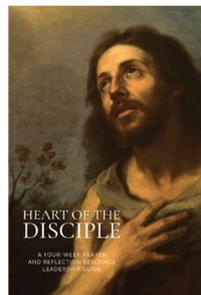
- ◆ 6:00pm Children's Nativity Mass
- ◆ 8:30pm Carols
- ◆ 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday 25 December 2022 | Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:00am Christmas Day Mass

St Francis Xavier Hall

- ◆ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass



2022 Advent and Christmas Reflection Book - Heart of the Disciple

Grab your copy this weekend \$7.00 only! See foyer cabinet for details.

Children's Christmas Nativity at 6:00pm Christmas Eve

Children in Years 3-9 who would like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity on Saturday 24 December are asked to **complete the form** in the foyer, online <https://forms.gle/iAbkVX5kMWk7BoSJA> or using the QR code by **Friday 16 December 2022**

Practice times as follows:

- * Friday 23 December 9:00am-11am
- * Saturday 24 December 9:00am-11am



YOUNGER CHILDREN

are welcome to come dressed as a shepherd or angel and join the procession to Bethlehem – no practice is required.





Please join us to celebrate
Fr Mark's 14 years at
Holy Spirit Parish

*Mass of Thanksgiving
&
Picnic Carols by Candlelight*

Saturday 3 December

Mass at 5:00pm followed by BBQ
and Carols event

Picnic Carols | Heritage tales and family sharing
Saugage sizzle | Multicultural Foods

**Please bring a plate representing your
culture and wear your traditional dress.**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
93 Burdekin Avenue, Amaroo
theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Holy Spirit Parish
invites you to our

Youth & Altar Server
CHRISTMAS
Party

Sunday 11 December

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Holy Spirit Parish Office

Youth (years 6-12) are invited to stay after the party
(5:00pm - 7:00pm) to watch a Christmas movie

**All youth, altar servers, and
their families are welcome**

Please RSVP and send any dietaries to
youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Farewell Messages for Fr Mark

We would like to create a farewell book for Fr Mark with all your stories, memories and well wishes. There will be a papers and pens in the foyer for you to write your messages for us to include in the book. If you wish, you may take the papers home, write messages and decorate as you wish (feel free to include photos if you have them!). Please return them to the folder in the foyer or to the parish office. The book will be given to Fr Mark at his last Mass on Christmas Eve.



Shane and Patrick were playing golf one day at their local course. Patrick was about to chip on the green when he saw a long funeral procession on the road running alongside the golf

course. He immediately stopped in mid-swing, removed his cap, closed his eyes and bowed his head in prayer. "That was a very sensitive thing to do," Shane said afterwards. "You really are a very considerate man." "Well, I was married to her for thirty-seven years."

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Online Mass Contribution (First and Second Collections combined)

We encourage you to continue to support our parish by making contributions to our First and Second Collections online. Follow the steps below to make a secure online donation.

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Select Biller Code 1002872 – Mass Contribution
3. Enter your payment details.



Parish Bank Account Details

BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish

CONNECT WITH US

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Croker

Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony (Fr Thonn) Riosa, SSS.

Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622
Website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Assistant: Theivani Evers

E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
P: 0472 921 518

Parish Secretary: Magda Baraniecki

E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Office Support: Anne Smart

E: officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Finance Officer/ Planned Giving: Tony Rose

E: gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Katrina Battilana

E: sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Minister: Paris Morris

E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Steve Seesink

E: stephen.seesink@gmail.com

Parish Groups

Craft Group | Beth Forshaw
Mondays 1:30pm Parish Office

St Vincent de Paul | Maria Stark—Regional President
P: 0468 992 034
E: maria.stark@vinnies.org.au

Call to Connect | Anne Smart
M: 0415 175 802

Reflecting on Scripture | Fortnightly on Tuesdays
Alison Weeks alisonmweeks@bigpond.com or
Jim Corrigan: mjet@grapevine.com.au

Social Justice Group | Peter Petersen
E: socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com

Legion of Mary | Grace Magbutay
E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Ministry | Paris Morris
E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Young Adult Ministry | Frances Dinn
E: frances_1406@hotmail.com

Care Group | Sonja Vocisano
P: 0438 699 591

Community Garden Group | Parish Office
E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Download our parish app: [Pocket Parish from App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).