



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

10-11 December 2022

Third 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



St Francis Xavier Hall

Sunday Mass

8:30am

2nd and 4th Sunday of
each month

Must We Wait for Another?

No one ever born was greater than John the Baptist, by Jesus' own admission. And yet even John found it hard to keep patient while Jesus wandered through the first season of his ministry. From prison, John heard the reports of Jesus teaching, healing, gathering crowds to hear the word of God. He didn't hear what he had expected: Jesus proclaiming his kingship, claiming Jerusalem as his capital, denouncing the Romans or the Temple leaders, and "laying the axe to the root of the tree," once and for all. John had preached the coming destruction, and Jesus seemed, well, more *lamb* than *God*. It was hard for John not to be disappointed, and to wonder for a moment if he had misread Jesus altogether.

Jesus doesn't chide John for lacking faith. Instead, he quotes prophecy to reassure John that God's time of favour has arrived. Then Jesus reminds the crowds that John's greatness in history is surpassed by anyone who arrives at an understanding of the kingdom through faith. If we wait for no other, if we cast our lot with Jesus, we find that we do not have to get to the kingdom at all. The kingdom arrives in us. What circumstances make you impatient? How far might you be willing to follow Jesus and wait for his kingdom?

What desert-like experiences in your life turned out to be hidden fields of flowers?

Name the deserts, the blindnesses and crippled areas of your life where new life is needed. Pray for the seed of that life to be planted in you, and resolve to encourage that life in every way. - www.gpbs.com.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.

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.

This Weekend's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

A Question of Faith

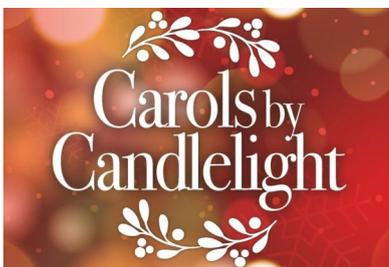
"Are you the one who is to come?" is among the most fascinating questions in the New Testament. First, it is the question on the minds of anyone who encounters Jesus (then and now). A simple yes or no would suffice, but in typical Jesus fashion the answer is rich, layered, and challenging. We all are looking for a Messiah, but is one who cures and comforts outcasts the person we had in mind? Basically, Jesus' message to John is: "Here are the facts. It is for you to decide".

Second, what is so amazing about John's question is the level of trust it implies. John was confident Jesus would tell him the truth. In fact, John already knew the truth. If he hadn't been convinced Jesus was the Messiah, he would not have posed the question.

When you find yourself in doubt who Jesus is, first think about Jesus' answer to John: Is the one who brings good news to the poor, helps the blind see, and deaf hear the saviour you had in mind? If not, then perhaps you're on the wrong path – or more probably unaware of your own needs. Second think about John's question. If you are asking Jesus whether or not he is your saviour, chances are you already know the answer. - 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 Guevara
Sandra Cortez
Priscila Adriano
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell
Alex Yap
Caitlin Wigglesworth

Recently Deceased

Gabrielle Froome
David Croke
Walter Schranz
Bernadette Quines

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

Sunday 11 December 2022

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

Tuesday 20 December 2022

- ◆ 7:00pm Reconciliation Service

Saturday 24 December 2022 | Christmas Eve

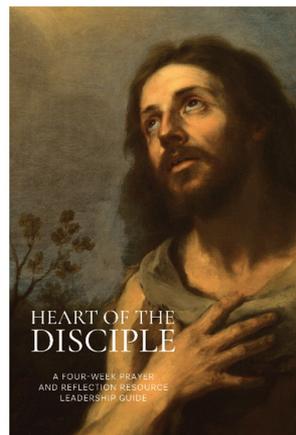
- ◆ 6:00pm Children's Nativity Mass
- ◆ 8:30pm Carols
- ◆ 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday 25 December 2022 | Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:00am Christmas Day Mass

St Francis Xavier Hall

- ◆ 7:00pm Carols and Christmas Eve Mass



2022 Advent and Christmas Reflection Book - Heart of the Disciple

Grab your copy for only \$7.00 only!
A great pocket sized book suitable for any time of the year.

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.



Advent

Waiting for the King



Advent is meant to be a fairly subdued liturgical season to aid us in 'reflection' as we wait for the coming of Christ, which comes to its climax at Christmas when we celebrate the long-awaited birth of the Messiah. The commercialism of modern society makes it difficult to keep Advent as a stripped down and simplified liturgical season. Christmas carols are already playing on the radio, and Christmas decorations are up everywhere you look, so it's hard to escape it. It is quite easy to bypass Advent and skip straight to Christmas.

Christmastide technically lasts until the evening of January 5th, the night before the Feast of the Epiphany, but by then, people are spent from holiday festivities. There is an argument to be made that many of the things associated with Christmas which cut into the Advent season, like putting up lights have less to do with Christ and more to do with cultural customs meant to maintain our spirits. However, I think there is still significant symbolism in these customs, and there is value in keeping Advent as a time of waiting for the coming light.

It is not an accident that the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Lord around the time of the northern hemisphere's winter solstice. Apart from being exactly nine months after the Feast of the Annunciation, in which an angel comes to Our Lady and she conceives by the Holy Spirit. In the northern hemisphere the solstice is the time after which the days begin to get longer again. The image of Christ's coming as the rising sun in the east after the darkness of night has long been an important symbol in the Church, and the imagery of the coming of the light of God after the darkness of sin is very evident this time of year.

It is important to acknowledge the Advent season as a time of waiting. And we might miss it if we bypass the expectation of the Advent season and jump right into Christmas. The liturgy of the four weeks of Advent shows that this is a departure from ordinary, with the most obvious change being the omission of the "Gloria" at Mass on Sunday which returns on Christmas Eve, as it comes from the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke when the angels declare to the shepherds that the Messiah is born.



Advent advice from Pope Francis - Choose prayer and charity over consumerism

Resist the dazzling lights of consumption, which will shine everywhere this month, and believe that prayer and charity are not lost time, but the greatest treasures. Consumerism is a virus that affects the faith at its root because it makes you believe that life depends only on what you have, and so you forget about God," he warned. When you live for things, things are never enough, greed grows and others become obstacles in the race and so you end up feeling threatened and, always dissatisfied and angry...he said.

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



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.

Each of us is called to be "more than a prophet," "more than a precursor," more than someone who points to Jesus. We are called to be greater than a prophet, greater than John the Baptist, in our mission. We're supposed to become Jesus' voice, Jesus' hands, Jesus' feet, Jesus' heart. As St. Teresa of Avila would say, "Christ has no body on earth now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now."

A Politically Correct Christmas Greeting?

Best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral, winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most joyous traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, but with respect for the religious persuasions of others who choose to practice their own religion as well as for those who choose not to practice a religion at all.

(Disclaimer: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It implies no responsibility for any unintended emotional stress these greetings may bring to those not caught up in the holiday spirit.)

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](#).