



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

16-17 December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent | Year B



Holy Spirit Amaroo

Monday 18 December

No Mass
Office closed

Tuesday 19 December

9:15am Mass
7:00pm Reconciliation
Service

Wednesday 20 December

9:15am Mass
6pm Holy Hour and
Reconciliation

Thursday 21 December

9:15am Mass

Friday 22 December

7:00am Mass

Saturday 23 December

4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass

Sunday 24 December

9:30am Mass
6:00pm Mass
8:30pm Carols
9:00pm Mass

Monday 25 December

9:00am Mass

Desert Voices

The people around John are odd. What seems to attract them is who he is not: not the ancient saviour of Israel, not Elijah come to announce the end of the world, not the great prophet the Samaritans were expecting. But the evangelist John also tells us who the Baptist is: the testimony to the great light to follow.

What is your life's testimony? Does it proclaim fidelity, honesty, generosity? If you had to name ten things you stand for, would any of them be holy? These are hard questions. If I pose them to myself, my answer is wishy-washy: depends on when you ask. Some days are less exemplary than others. Sometimes I'm a shining example of Christian virtue, and I wish my Mum were here to see me. Other times I'm grateful she isn't and wish no one was. John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus and the fruit of a miracle birth, may have had a head start on his testimony. Or maybe he had to work out all the bugs like the rest of us in the years before he turned up at the Jordan.

But the truth is: whatever our origins, they can't be an excuse for who we are or are not, "what we've done, or failed to do". John's desert voice summons me to train mine, to learn to present another clear testimony to the light.

Describe one element of your Christian witness that is particularly strong. What element of your witness needs work?

Pray

Spirit of the living God, speak your word to us in this time and place. Fill us with true joy- the joy that comes from knowing you; the joy that comes from feeling your justice come to life in our midst; the joy that comes as we truly prepare our hearts as a dwelling place for the Messiah. Amen.

Ponder

How do you refine your "desert voice" your independence from the temptations of a secular worldview? Consider a time of retreat, an afternoon of recollection, or a regular practice of prayer and meditation to keep you "in the desert".

Kids' Corner

Rejoice always. (1 Thessalonians 5: 16)

There are so many reasons to rejoice this time of year! We get to spend time with people we love, and we can enjoy special surprises and gifts. But sometimes we're disappointed. Maybe someone you love can't be with you at Christmas. Maybe you can't have the gift you most wish for. Before you go to bed tonight, can you find three things to thank God for? One thing might be having someone who loves you. Or having enough food to eat or a safe place to sleep. What else will you think of tonight? There is always a reason to rejoice!

Lord Jesus, thank you for all that is good in my life! Amen.

www.gpbs.com.au



St Francis Xavier Hall

Sunday 24 December

8:30am Mass
7:00pm Carols
7:30pm Mass

This Weekend's Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Parish News and Events

- * **The Chosen Discussion Group | Wednesday 20 December at 10:00am.**
All are invited to join Fr Troy to watch a few episodes of Season 2 of The Chosen followed by a discussion group.
- * **Advent Holy Hour—Preparation for Christmas | Wednesday 20 December 6:00pm**
Topic—Discerning the Will of God.



Holiday Mass Schedule



- * **Weekday Masses** - All weekday Masses (including New Year's Day) from 26 December 2023 to 4 January will be at 9:15am at the Amaroo church.



The Parish Office is looking for receptionist volunteers to help during holiday and busy times. Volunteers would work a 3-4 hour shift on given days. Some duties include greeting visitors, answering calls, taking messages, basic filing and tidying. Computer skills would be advantageous however not necessary. A Working with Vulnerable People card is required.

Contact theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au to register your interest.

Community Messages

- * **7-14 January 2024 | Summer School of Evangelisation - Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW**
Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st October. More info: contact@summerschool.org.au.
Bookings: summerschool.org.au

A Time for Deepening



The period before Christmas has that remarkable quality of joy that seems to touch not only Christians but all who live in our society....

But Advent is not only a period of joy. It is also a time when those who are lonely feel lonelier than during other periods of the year. During this time many people try to die by suicide or are hospitalised with severe depression. Those who have hope feel much joy and desire to give. Those who have no hope feel more depressed than ever and are often

thrown back on their lonely selves in despair.

When a person is surrounded by a loving, supportive community, Advent and Christmas seem pure joy. But let me not forget my lonely moments because it does not take much to make that loneliness reappear. . . . When Jesus was loneliest, he gave most. That realisation should help to deepen my commitment to service and let my desire to give become independent of my actual experience of joy. Only a deepening of my life in Christ will make that possible. – Henri Nouwen

"Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

LUKE 1:78,79 (NIV)

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



For those who are sick

Kathy Morris
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell
Caitlin Wigglesworth
Kwang Hui Lim
Grant
Maria Therese Cummins
Gail
Elizabeth
Adriano Cesar Junior
Maria Teresa Meireles
Theresa and Joseph Tan
Cyril Jolicoeur
Bill Honess
Tony Johnston
Jaya Raghwan
Julie Mirfan
Paul Johnston
Edwin Joseph Dsouza
Alan Kay
John Sweeny
Sharron Davis
Michelle
Mark Bush
Maria Stark
Julie Morgan
Tim Watson
Jim Banks
Barbara Kirk

Anniversaries

Angela Brown
Luke Donohue

Recently Deceased

Dorrell Hogan

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

[Prayer Requests](#)



Advent and Christmas

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



It is not too late!

We still need you!
Please **complete the form** in the foyer,
online <https://forms.gle/iAbkVX5kMWk7BoSJA>

Practice times to be held at St John Paul II College:

- * Saturday 23 December 11:00am-1:00pm
- * Sunday 24 December 11:00am-1:00pm



Advent Giving

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

Vinnies Gift Wrapping Volunteer Needed



Vinnies are looking for gift wrapping volunteers to help at Gungahlin Marketplace. There are two shifts available Monday to Friday:

- * 10:45am-12:30pm
- * 12:30pm-2:30pm

If you can help, please contact Elushka on 6242 7347 or 0400 342 816.

Christmas Hamper Deliveries!

Come along to Mass this weekend ready to collect a couple of hampers to deliver to Gungahlin families.



What's happening this Advent and Christmas

Tuesday 19 December 2023

- ◆ 7:00pm Reconciliation Service

Saturday 23 December 2023

- ◆ 11:00am Children's Nativity Practice**

Sunday 24 December 2023 | Christmas Eve

- ◆ 11:00am Children's Nativity Practice**
- ◆ 6:00pm Children's Nativity Mass**
- ◆ 8:30pm Carols**
- ◆ 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass**

Monday 25 December 2023 | Christmas Day

- ◆ 9:00am Christmas Day Mass**

St Francis Xavier Hall

- ◆ 7:00pm Carols
- ◆ 7:30pm Christmas Eve Mass

**Events to be held at St John Paul II College Nicholls.



As the year concludes, let us look back at the highs and lows with a heart open to learning. Trust that whatever happened is part of a bigger plan, guided by a force beyond our control. Let go of worries, find strength in surrender and step into the future with hope.

Life's journey is a mix of joy and challenges, shaping us into who we are meant to be. Embrace the simplicity of letting go, placing ourselves in God's hands to guide us on our path, in all situations.

“Dear God, guide us on this journey of life. Illuminate our path with Your wisdom, fill our hearts with love and grant us strength in challenges. May we find purpose in each step and may Your grace lead us to joy and fulfillment. Amen.” - Majellan Media

Thank you to our Parish Catholic Schools from St Vincent de Paul

Our Parish Catholic Schools, at Good Shepherd, Holy Spirit, Mother Teresa and St John Paul College have a great tradition of helping out the St Vincent de Paul Society, especially at Christmas time.

This year the very generous support of our schools has enabled us to make up over 100 food hampers which will be delivered to needy people in Gungahlin this weekend.

In addition to this help, members of the Society visited St John Paul College last Friday and were presented with a donation of \$3,000 towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

We want to thank the children at our schools, their families and their teachers for making these things possible.

We wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.



Thanks to our parishioners

We are also very grateful for the support we receive from our parishioners all year round. As I said recently at Sunday Masses, our parish conference is dealing with increased number of calls for assistance, more than any other conference in Canberra.

Your donations of food keep our larder well stocked and your donations of money help us to provide assistance to hundreds of needy people in Gungahlin over the year.

Thank you to those of you who have taken tags from our Christmas giving tree, which helps us with our Christmas time activities.

A happy and holy Christmas to all of you as well.

Mark Carter

On behalf of the Holy Spirit Conference of St Vincent de Paul



Appearance Isn't Everything

There once was a man, his name was John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. (John 1: 6 - 8)

Anyone who has ever gone on a job interview knows that two elements can be the determining factors to getting hired or not. The first is the resume. It needs to follow certain clear guidelines that include length (no more than two pages), appearance (perfect), and content (highlights, not an autobiography). Of course, it has to be honest and accurate or it may come back to haunt you. Done right, it will get you in the door where the second factor comes into play, the interview.

In the interview everything needs to fall into place from appearance (conservative suits, no dangling jewellery), to eye contact, to modulated responses. After that all you can do is wait and hope you did a good job of selling yourself.

Isaiah presents himself as anointed by God and speaks with joy, which Paul tells us we should always do. John the Baptist, however, doesn't care how people respond to his appearance. It is his message that is important. He proclaims with joy that the Messiah is coming and coming soon.

But John is not the cause for joy. Everyone will have to wait, even if it is just for a little while. And that is the meaning and message of Advent. We wait because the Messiah will change so much. Our joyful waiting, says Paul, should be prayerful because God has chosen us. We need to get ready.

www.gpbs.com.au





Getting ready for Christmas...



Wilkinson-Elford Family



Corliss Family



Fr Troy and Fr Eden



Ghylanne—My nativity scene since December 1993



Bentley Family



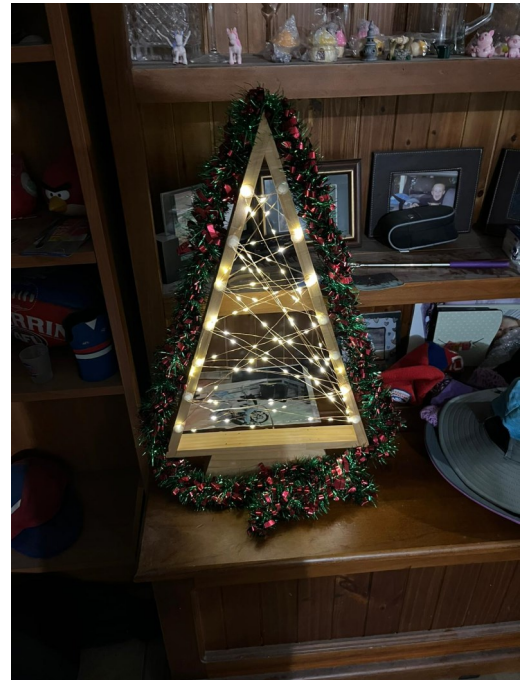
Bryant Family



Freire Family



Johnson Family



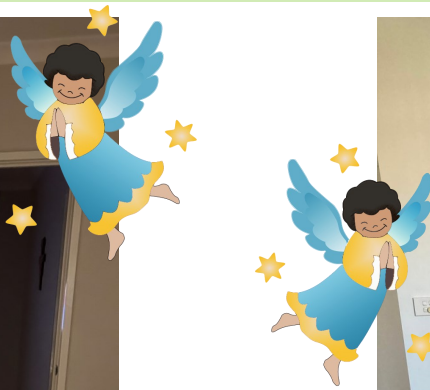
Berry Family



Cantlie Family



Seesink Family



Langcake Family

Rose Family



Grierson Family



Kaddu Family

Baraniecki Family

Parish Office and Church



For those of you who are travelling and won't be with us this Christmas,
we wish you and your family a joyous and Holy Christmas.
May the peace of Christ live in our hearts and homes, our neighbourhood
and our world.
We thank you for your support throughout 2023.



Christmas Flyer Letterbox Drop

Flyers with Christmas Mass times are ready for distribution to all suburbs in the Parish.

We need your help!!

Please take some flyers this weekend and drop them into the letterboxes of the people in your street or area. And surrounding new areas! Thank you.



WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

First Collection (Supporting all priests of the Archdiocese)

1. BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00029248 Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund Ref: Gungahlin and Surname
2. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!

Second Collection (For the upkeep of our parish, staff salaries, parish loans, liturgical needs etc)

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Direct Credit: BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish
3. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!



CONNECT WITH US

Parish Priest: Fr Troy Bobbin

Assistant Priest: Fr Eden Langlands

Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622

Website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Manager: 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

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Sean Ryan

E: sean.ryan.cdss@gmail.com

Parish Groups

Craft Group | Beth Forshaw
Mondays 1:00pm Parish Office

St Vincent de Paul | Drazen Roginic President

P: 0401 669 301

E: Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au

Call to Connect | Maureen Hilton

M: 0431 123 465

Holy Spirit Prayer Group | Kathy Torcasio 0401 920 028
Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church

Social Justice Group | Peter Petersen

E: socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com

Legion of Mary | Grace Magbutay

E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Ministry | Matthew Allen

E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Young Adult Ministry | Melwyn Monteiro

E: melwyn.monteiro@cg.org.au

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.