



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



23-25 December 2023

4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas | Year B



Holy Spirit Amaroo

Saturday 23 December
5:00pm Mass at Amaroo

Sunday 24 December
9:30am Mass at Amaroo
6:00pm Mass at JPC
9:00pm Mass at JPC

Monday 25 December
9:00am Mass at JPC

Tuesday 26 December
9:15am Mass

Wednesday 27 December
9:15am Mass

Thursday 28 December
9:15am Mass

Friday 29 December
9:15am Mass

Saturday 30 December
4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass

Sunday 31 December
8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass

Monday 1 January 2024
9:15am Mass



St Francis Xavier Hall

Weekly Saturdays 5:00pm
Starting 6 January 2024

My First Christmas

Like any firsts in our lives, such as Christmas, a parent's first Christmas, a new family having their first Christmas together, there will always come with it a little nervousness and anxiety. So, I feel a little like that.

We all need a little Christmas in our lives even though it may cause a little tension within us. For at the heart of it all, we know what the season really means and what it can ultimately bring to each of us. To describe what Christmas can bring us, we often use words such as "LIGHT", "PEACE" and "JOY" and, we do this for good reason, as they can have a profound effect on and in our lives.

For me, the first thing that comes to mind when reflecting on the word 'Light' is thank the Lord now I can see what is happening, maybe find what I am looking for, or use the light to learn something as in reading a book. The bible often speaks about Jesus being the 'light' coming in to overpower the darkness in peoples' lives. Maybe this Christmas we need to find time to reflect on the word for ourselves, even jotting things down that come to mind.

When reflecting on the word 'peace', I realise how often this year I have struggled with watching the news on TV; not only listening to the news reader describing the events of war in so many countries and on the affected people, but watching all the graphic images that appear on our screens. Sadly it is not just one war in one country, it is a few wars involving many countries. I have found that a feeling of despair coming over me while I watched the news. I have always been a very positive person by nature, praise God. So, 'peace' has been in my prayers a lot this year. Recently, I don't watch the news as much, so my sense of eagerness has returned for the Birth of Jesus to bring peace to the world by helping us to strive for peace.

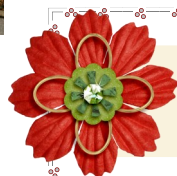
An image of a new parent welcoming their new born baby into the world is the first thing that flashes before me when reflecting on the word 'joy'. You just can't beat that can you?

So let these 'power punching words' this Christmas be what restores and strengthen our faith.

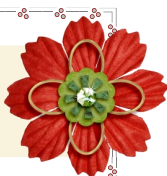
May the God who loves us so passionately and who gave us his only Son, be the gift that continually shows us the way. God bless each and every one of you.

Looking forward to a great year in 2024!

Fr Troy PP



We extend a warm welcome to our Parish especially those visiting family and friends over the festive season.



Parish News and Events

- * **True Life In God (TLIG) | Sunday 7 January 2024 3:30pm-4:45pm**
Parish foyer meeting room—please bring your rosary beads.
Contact Tom Kalliath: 0434 689 957 or Tony Cassar: 0497 804 676



Holiday Mass and Event Schedule



- * **Weekday Masses** - All weekday Masses (including New Year's Day) from 26 December 2023 to 5 January will be at 9:15am at the Amaroo church.
- * **Holy Hour**—there will not be Holy Hour on 29 December or 5 January 2024 and will return on Wednesday 10 January 2024.



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

Children's Sacramental Program 2024



Sacrament of Confirmation

For children in Year 6 and above wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024. Information sessions will be held on **Tuesday 27 February** at the church.

Please select one of the following enrolment options:

- ◆ Children attending Mother Teresa, Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd Primary schools—enrolment letters were sent to your child or enrol via Compass
- ◆ Children **NOT** attending one of the parish Catholic Primary schools and wish to enrol in the parish program: <https://forms.gle/7Yiz8p5TCp7tjanQ6>

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated the week beginning 20 May 2024

For more details please contact:

Parish Program: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
Parish Catholic Schools: mel.unwin@cg.catholic.edu.au

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

Ray Selems
Emmanuel Esteves

Recently Deceased

Cajetan Colaco

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

[Prayer Requests](#)

“
The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much.”

Henry David Thoreau

Christmas is a feast of the heart

Some years ago, I was invited to Christmas lunch by a young family – dad, mum and two gorgeous little girls, living in a suburban Department of Housing flat. The menu featured ham and salad, with Christmas pudding and custard for dessert!

After lunch, the girls asked me to sit beside their homemade crib while they told me the Christmas story, filled with imaginative descriptions of all the characters and animals, including koalas, wombats and kangaroos! Clearly, a nativity story with a very unique Aussie twist! Then came time for the presents, with wrapping paper flying in all directions as it was ripped with great gusto; revealing some wonderful treasures that brought beaming smiles to the faces of two very excited little girls.

The family shared with me their joys: the love and affection they have for each other, their closeness as a family, the importance of faith in their lives, their gratitude for God's blessings, and the immense pride in how well the girls were doing at school.

The family also spoke of their struggles: the difficulties to make ends meet, the challenges they face around the block of flats where they live, including crime, drugs, gang violence and lack of privacy. They also told of their sadness in being unable to find a more suitable place to live, and their concerns about the direction of the world, the uncertainties of life and the children's future.

For the little family, Christmas was all about opening their hearts, sharing their love and being present to each other; a loving presence which was warm and affirming, in the midst of the joys and struggles of life. For me, the encounter was a wonderful witness to the richness, blessing and reality that is the birth of Jesus. God has given us everything through the gift of *Emmanuel*, who lives with us and loves us into fullness of life.

The encounter was also a reminder that God so often works in and through our human experiences and, in particular, our relationships, and how important it is that we nurture and care for our families and the various communities to which we belong.

Christmas is a feast of the heart, revealing to us God's heart. It also reveals to us the potential and capability of the human heart. This Christmas, may we open our hearts more fully to God and to each other, and in doing so, experience the "great joy" that the angels announced to the shepherds.

- David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2023



Good Friday 2024 - Walking Stations of the Cross

We are looking for interested people to re-enact the Good Friday story at our Walking Stations of the Cross. There will be practice sessions organized when we have the full cast. Men, women, teenagers and people of all ages are encouraged to participate. Please email theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au if you are interested.

Packing up at JPC

Wednesday 27 December 2023 – 9am

Can you spare an hour or so to help us to tidy and pack up at St. John Paul II College?

Please meet us at the college at 9am!



*"A Christmas without light
is not Christmas.
Let there be light in the soul,
in the heart;
let there be forgiveness to others;
let there be no hostilities,
which are dark.
Let there be the
beautiful light of Jesus."*
Pope Francis 2014



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.

Suggestion Box



Do you have any feedback or suggestions? Please pop them into our 'Suggestion Box' in the foyer or email the parish office. We want to hear from 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.