



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

29-30 March 2025

4th Sunday of Lent | Year C



Holy Spirit Amaroo

Monday

Office closed
7:00pm Christian Meditation

Tuesday

9:15am Mass

Wednesday

9:15am Mass
6:00pm Holy Hour and
Reconciliation

Thursday

9:15am Mass
10:00am Lenten Bible Study

Friday

7:00am Mass
6:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday

4:15pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass

Sunday

8:00am Mass
9:00am Reconciliation
9:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass

Christianity is a Religion for Losers

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

A man of my acquaintance was disappointed to learn that I am a Christian. "But why?" he demanded of me. "Christianity is a religion for losers!"

I laughed at his unsuspecting insight. "Yes, it is," I admitted. "But the difference between us is: You think that is an insult, and I think that is the good news." Losers, like the prodigal son, are grateful for the invention of Christianity. But he is not the only one. The sick, the blind, the lame, the crazy – all have a lot to be thankful for. So do the dead. So do the poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. Outsiders, women, the despised, those in same-sex relationships, those living on the margins ... when you begin to count them up, a lot of people fall into the category of those who have lost something and long for forgiveness, comfort or justice.

The prodigal son was not the only loser in the story. The father has lost his son, which was a crushing blow. And what the elder son suffered from was perhaps the most devastating of all: the ability to feel compassion for his own brother. The Christian story promises to redress all these losses, whether from sin, suffering, or spiritual sickness. All we have to do is come to the feast.

Questions for Reflection

- When has an apparent blessing been withdrawn in your life? What were you offered in its place?
- How has the spirit of reconciliation affected your life? How and why do you offer it to others?
- What have you gained by being a person of faith?

Action Response

Prayerfully consider where you might be called to be an ambassador for Christ right now. Is there a place where reconciliation is needed in your life, relationships, community?

Kids' Corner

Have you ever felt like God is a long way off from you? Sometimes, it might seem that way if we haven't prayed in a while or when we have done something wrong. When that happens, try putting yourself in the Gospel story today. Think of Jesus as the dad in the story. Jesus sees you from a long way off, and he runs to you, smiling and full of love. His arms wide open to you. As Jesus gives you a big hug, all you know is that Jesus loves you. Now, talk to Jesus. Tell him what's on your mind and in your heart.

Jesus, I have so much to say. Thanks for listening. www.gpbs.com.au



St Francis Xavier Hall
Saturdays 5:00pm



Parish News and Events

- * **Lenten Bible Study** | Lenten Bible Study Group Mondays at 7:30pm (led by Jim Corrigan) or Thursdays at 10:00am (led by Fr Troy) at the Parish Office meeting room.
- * **Parish Wine and Cheese Night** | First Saturday of every month—Saturday 5 April 2025 after the 5pm Mass. All are welcome to come along and mingle with fellow parishioners. There will be a donation box for you to make a contribution for us to purchase wines, cheeses and supplies. We also welcome donations of wines which can be brought in to the parish office during the week. We hope to see you there!
- * **The Chosen: Season 5 The Last Supper**—All interested people are invited to join Fr Troy and other parishioners to watch the first episode of Season 5 The Chosen at **HOYTS Belconnen** on **Thursday 10 April 2025 at the 6:00pm session**. Please contact Jovina at the parish office by Monday 31 March to secure your spot.
- * **Men Alive Working Group**—Fr Troy is looking for 3-4 men from our parish to help him with organising a Men Alive Retreat in October. If you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.
- * **Attention re Sustainability Sunday**—Please note that there is NO Sustainability Sunday this weekend due to parishioners involvement in the Parish Assembly. **PLEASE DO NOT** leave any items at the Church this weekend. All items will be very WELCOME on the last weekend in April. We apologise for any inconvenience. (Maureen on behalf of Friends of the Social Justice Group)



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



For those who are sick
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell
Kwang Hui Lim
Adriano Cesar Junior
Maria Teresa Meireles
Theresa and Joseph Tan
Paul Johnston
Mark Bush
Jim Banks
Barbara Kirk
Vesna Ljubičić
Alonso
Sharni Laffan
Marc Darlington
Nancy Phillips
Ashley
Ana Al-Adhami
Linda Dwyer
Wigglesworth Family
Alan Demascus
Jeffrey Gonzalez
Mary Gardner
Marie Lincoln
Wongduean Sawasditas
Nook Sawasditas
Daranee Teapthong
Judeth Barrett
Bill Honess
Mark and Debbie
Sue Aston
Cory Gregorio
Liberato Nolasco
Dee Pennay
Tom Nunan
Skye Leon
Tim Mulcahy
Yvonne Liddy
David Campbell
Trish Annis Brown
Tatiata Tarazona
Bill Butler
Adrian Mainwaring
Waine Summerfield
Affa Dawalibi
Robert Southwell
Alfred
Bing Eric Zhang
Anniversaries
Bill Sullivan
Sharon Ching-Au
Stejepan Jagarinec
Jo Malouf
Jess Samson
Sylvan Virassamy
Recently Deceased
Steve Cooper
Bernie Minoza
Judith Huthnance
James Carter

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



Irene lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became even more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family. Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills. Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.



"Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves," Irene said. Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



[Prayer Requests](#)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading | Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm | Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Second Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation | Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel | Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

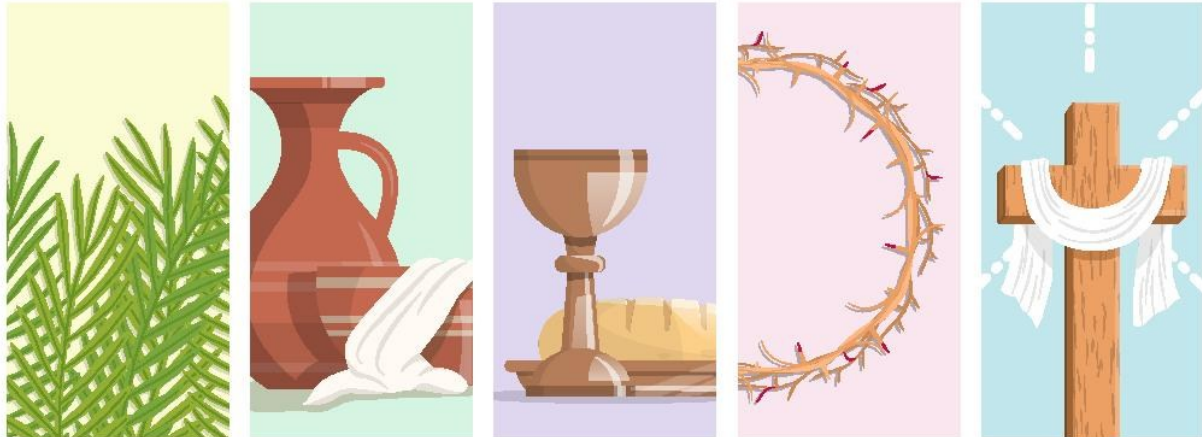
'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Communion Antiphon | Luke 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

Your invitation to
Holy Week
2025

AT HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CHURCH, AMAROO



- PALM SUNDAY 12/13 APRIL -
Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am & 5:00pm

- RECONCILIATION 15 APRIL -
Tuesday 7:00pm

- HOLY THURSDAY 17 APRIL -
Thursday 7:00pm

- GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL -
Friday 9:00am Walking Stations of the Cross
Friday 11:00am Stations of the Cross
Friday 3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

- HOLY SATURDAY 19 APRIL -
Saturday 7:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

- EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL -
Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am (No Mass at Hall & No 5:00pm Mass)

For information
about Holy Week visit



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Community Notices

- * **4-6 April 2025 | Canberra Goulburn Cursillo Retreat**
St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Deepen your faith life through an established program of talks, meditations and prayer. Renew your relationship with God and share fellowship with other men and women. Contact Michael at michaelderadt@gmail.com, Joe Jambor 0401 159 852, or Barry Johns 0421 028 158 . Info and registration <https://bit.ly/cursillo2025>
- * **Wednesday 16 April | Catholic Connect 5:30PM-7:00PM**
The ANU Catholic Society is excited to announce a new networking and mentorship program for Catholic students, graduates, and young professionals in Canberra. We are currently looking for Catholic professionals who are interested in volunteering as mentors. Information Session: Wednesday 16 April, 5:30-7:00PM at John XXIII College, ANU for those interested. Contact: anucathsoc@gmail.com
- * **19 May 2025 | Jubilee of Families European Pilgrimage**
St Peter's Parish, Pambula, together with Fr George Ogah invite you to join our Jubilee of Families European Pilgrimage. In this dedicated jubilee year, be inspired to encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints. 19 May-4 June, 2025. Contact pambula@cg.org.au for more information.
- * **24 May 2025 | MenAlive Recharge**
When: Saturday 24 May (2.00pm to 5.30pm) followed by rosary, Mass and a shared meal
Where: Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden, 115 Hodgson Cres, Pearce ACT
Cost: Nothing. Let's come together, renew our faith, and encourage one another to respond to the great need. Contact Mat at 0438446489 or Fr Emil at 0414 523 036.
- * **Vocations Dinner at Archbishop's House:** Thursday 3 April 6pm. For men interested in discerning a call to the Priesthood. A hearty meal provided with insightful discussions & prayer. To rsvp please contact Vocations Director Fr Emil emil.milat@cg.org.au 0414 523 036



NETWORKING & MENTORSHIP FOR CATHOLICS



The mentorship and networking program for Catholic students, graduates, and young professionals in Canberra is looking for mentors to join the program.

PRESENTED BY
THE ANU CATHOLIC SOCIETY

MENTOR INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, 16 April
5:30 - 7:00 PM
St John XXIII College, ANU

Our mentees come from diverse backgrounds, career stages and disciplines. What unites them all is a well-formed Catholic faith that they wish to bring with them through their careers. We're looking to connect them with Catholics in their industry who can help them in this journey.

Come along to find out what being a mentor entails and enjoy some free food and drink!

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Holy Week Help Sign Up

We need your help!

Would you like to help out during the Holy Week? We want to hear from you! There are lots of ways you can be involved in our special liturgies—flowers, carpark attendants, chairs set up, cleaning, decorating and the usual Mass ministries.

Please complete this online form and let us know your availability as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/MSMjoY4m6GA#F1P9>



Why We Do The Things We Do

Why do we have sponsors in the catechumenate?

Everybody needs a friend along the journey of life. For a person on the journey to becoming a Catholic, the sponsor is a parishioner who 'walks with' the catechumen. The sponsor's role is not to be a theological expert but to simply act as an encourager and guide in the catechumen's faith experience, to respond to questions and to witness to the Gospel in simple, everyday ways. Of course, sponsors are not alone in their role. The catechumen is also supported by catechists, friends and relatives, the priest and other parishioners

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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
E: troy.bobbin@cg.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Eden Langlands
E: eden.langlands@cg.org.au

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: Jovina John Britto
E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Office Support: Chris Konik-Rose
E: officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Finance Officer/ Planned Giving: Tony Rose
E: gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Alison Weeks
E: alisonmweeks@bigpond.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 Peterson
E: socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com

Legion of Mary | Marie Lazaro 0415 302 319

Focolare Families Group | Anna 0416 668 985
E: focolareamaroo@gmail.com

Youth Ministry | E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Care Group | Vacant—please contact Parish Office

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

St Francis Xavier Social Group
Greg Farrugia 0412 299 549 gjvita@gmail.com
Gabrielle O'Kane 0417 464 216 okane.hall@gmail.com

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