



# 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

17-18 January 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A



## Holy Spirit Amaroo

### Monday

Office Closed

### Tuesday

9:15am Mass

### Wednesday

9:15am Mass

6:00pm Holy Hour and  
Reconciliation

### Thursday

9:15am Mass

### Friday

7:00am Mass

### Saturday

4:15pm Reconciliation  
5:00pm Mass

### Sunday

8:00am Mass

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

## Gospel Reflection

Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

## Living the Gospel – Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

## Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

## Gospel Focus – Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

Greg Sunter Liturgy Help © 2026



## St Francis Xavier Hall

Saturdays 5:00pm

# Parish News and Events

- \* **NO Sustainability Sunday** – There will be no Sustainability Sunday on 24-25 January Weekend. The program will resume the last weekend of February.
- \* **Legion of Mary** meetings are held every Friday, starting 16 January 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Vinnies Room. All are welcome to join.
- \* **Loreto annual Mass and Luncheon** - Saturday 14 March, 2026 at St Francis Xavier Church, Hall. Further details to follow.

*Thank you!*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your generous contributions during the Christmas season. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated. We are also grateful to share that the Christmas raffle raised **\$1,994**. Thank you for helping make this season so meaningful for our community.

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2025

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget 2026
<b>Income</b>				
Planned Giving/Second Collection	320,000	352,461	\$32,461	345,000
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	11,800	8,696	(\$3,104)	14,000
Sacramental & Pastoral Programs.	25,500	25,600	\$100	25,800
Other Revenue	38,020	42,049	\$4,029	40,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>395,320</b>	<b>428,806</b>	<b>\$33,486</b>	<b>\$425,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Administration	48,550	50,735	(\$2,185)	65,650
Priest's Cars and Superannuation	23,668	23,665	\$3	23,760
Salaries, Super, A Leave & LSL	196,180	209,671	(\$13,491)	217,099
Insurances	26,500	18,663	\$7,837	24,500
Other Expenses	46,500	33,333	\$13,167	36,050
Appeals/Donations/Quotas	19,500	19,319	\$181	21,400
Capital Items	38,500	43,862	(\$5,362)	5,000
Overall Property Expenses	2,250	1,314	\$936	8,250
Repairs & Maintenance	12,000	11,509	\$491	13,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>413,648</b>	<b>412,071</b>	<b>\$1,577</b>	<b>\$414,709</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$18,328)</b>	<b>\$16,735</b>	<b>\$35,063</b>	<b>\$10,291</b>

**Thank you everyone for your continued financial support of our parish in what continue to be challenging times!**

While we have achieved surplus better than the deficit we were budgeting, we had additional unbudgeted IT equipment expenses associated with a new IT provider. Some other expenses were substantially higher than budgeted causing changes to other planned expenditure.

**We are trying to transition away from cash, where possible, to reduce the risks associated with handling and banking of cash, but the fact is cash will ALWAYS be welcome.**

Many thanks to those who were able to increase their planned giving. **Any further questions please contact Tony Rose (Finance Officer) at the Parish Office.**

Please keep the following individuals in prayer.



### For those who are sick

Andre Swanepoel  
Baby Langakali  
Miriam Clancy  
Jones Velasco  
Lilian Lee  
Matthew Foster  
Carol Ooi  
Robert Darlington  
Irene Pellegrino  
Etgel Tan  
Dominic Kurian Regi  
Mary K  
Carmel Blake  
Vincent Ciauduro

### Recently Deceased

Felicitas Sagrado  
Suellen Wilkinson  
Iole Savorganan

### Death Anniversaries

Rade Krile  
Anica Brusic  
Nguyen Thi Hoa  
Allaire Samantha Mannette  
Arthur Alcalá  
Chita Japa  
Ryszard Zajac  
Florina Bafiancila Cabardo  
Romeo Bafiancila Cabardo  
Arthur Gallagher  
Justina Balberona

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

[Prayer Requests](#)



## Readings for The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

### Entrance Antiphon | Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### First Reading | Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

### Responsorial Psalm | Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

**(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

### Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

### Gospel Acclamation | John 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

### Gospel | John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

### Communion Antiphon | Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Source: Liturgy Help © 2026

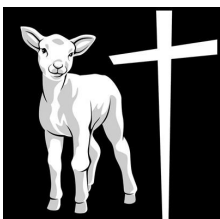
### NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

A national day of mourning for the victims of the Bondi terror attack has been called for **Thursday 22 January 2025**. All Australian flags will be flown at half-mast on Commonwealth buildings. We invite all to remember the victims in prayers and to ask for comfort for their families and all who mourn.



### Kids Corner Word Search

Here is the Lamb of God



J B S S O N U J C T T P G I S  
 T B J V A L I V E A Z M S I I  
 W N P S R K H F S X J A U T N  
 N H P P W O R L D L A M B S Z  
 G E H I A U Y C E I U L W K Y  
 A A U R K A N R C E U R C K T  
 D V R I R Y J D Y B J P N W M  
 Y E I T I M E G R E A T E R Z  
 L N W D O V E R J G X Q J I F  
 R B W A T E R D D W G J O D B  
 S Y A O J Z H E H J B X D D N  
 W F D X J O H N R Y D H Q T R  
 B A P T I S E R N F C U V D S

Try to find these words:

alive  
 baptise  
 dove  
 greater  
 heaven  
 John  
 Lamb  
 sin  
 Son  
 Spirit  
 water  
 world

# This Week on Formed

Week of January 18, 2026



## Saint Francis de Sales: Pastor of Souls

St. Francis de Sales became a hero during the Catholic Reformation for his pastoral care and spiritual writings. Join Dr. Chris Blum as he walks through the life of this great saint, who is celebrated on January 24th!



## Martyrdom of St. Agnes | Sacred Art

Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with different pieces of Sacred Art to discuss their theological meanings and how they can speak to us today. This week, they are looking at The Martyrdom of St. Agnes as depicted by Zampieri Domenico.



## The Story of Saint Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and we celebrate his feast on January 24. Enjoy this short audio reflection for kids.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

# Community Notices

\* **21 January (Closing Date) | Marriage Enrichment - Ministry to the Newly Married**

About to be married or recently married? Then this may be for you!

Ministry to the Newly Married (MNM) is a mentoring program for couples who have married in the last 2 years or about to be married in the next 6 months. This unique program aims to foster the development of relationship skills and supports living the sacrament of marriage. Closing date for registrations for the 2026 program is 21 January 2026. Enquiries: Contact Ralph & Angela on 0401 994 081 OR Helena on 0405 440 463

\* **23-27 January | Trendsetters 2026 - A Jesus Youth Discipleship Retreat**

Navigating your faith into adulthood can be challenging, especially in a fast-paced world! Trendsetters is a time for you to set your eyes on God through ENCOUNTER of His Love and a RENEWAL of your faith!

Dates: 23-27 Jan 2026 (5 DAYS)

Location: YWAM Canberra, Watson, ACT 2602

Who: Highschool Graduates and Uni students (ages 18-23)

Registration closes 11 Jan so book fast using the QR code!

For more information contact:

Email - [canberra@jesusyouth.org.au](mailto:canberra@jesusyouth.org.au)

Tanya Jojo – 0431805052



\* **5 February | The Marriage Course (Alpha)**

The Archdiocese is running The Marriage Course which combines face-to-face and zoom sessions. Course times are consecutive Thursday evenings from 12 February through to 27 March (inclusive) via Zoom. The course will be preceded by an in-person meeting on Thursday 5th February and will conclude with a closing dinner. This course welcomes all couples (married or cohabiting) from all faiths and none and is designed for you to discuss questions as a couple in the privacy of your own home. The Marriage Course provides tools to help you develop and grow your marriage from a good to a great one! Each session will have up to date video material and some time for you to connect as a couple.

The Marriage Course Journal is a key resource, required for the course, and is available [here](#)

To learn more, please contact Cathy Madsen by email on [cathy.madsen@cg.org.au](mailto:cathy.madsen@cg.org.au) or

by phone on 0422 117 210. To register for the program go [here](#)

\* **2026 Glory of Europe 21 Day Tour**

Fr Praveen would like to invite Parishioners to join him for a 21-day Tour of important Religious & Cultural Sites in Europe. Rome, Vatican, Lancia, Cascia, Assisi, Medjugorje, Padua, Venice, Rosa Mystica, Lucerne, Engelberg, Interlaken, Bern, Lausanne, Geneva, Ars Sur Formans, Paris, Lourdes, Avila, Satiago De Compostela, Fatima, Lisbon.

To discuss, ask questions & get more information please see Fr Praveen(0478951473) or contact him [Praveen.Paul@cg.org.au](mailto:Praveen.Paul@cg.org.au)

## Planning to marry in the Catholic Church?

Go to the Archdiocesan marriage and family webpage (without delay) for information and to choose a marriage preparation program that suits at [www.marriagefamily.org.au](http://www.marriagefamily.org.au). For enquiries email [marriage.preparation@cg.org.au](mailto:marriage.preparation@cg.org.au) or text Helena on 0405 440 463.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.'

John 1:29



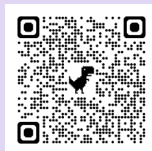
## Children's Sacramental Program for 2026

If you are interested in your child receiving

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Year 3 and above)**  
**First Holy Communion (Year 4 and above)**  
**Confirmation (Year 6 & above)**

And your child does not attend one of the three Parish Catholic Primary Schools, Then please register your expression of interest for 2026 by completing the [online form](#) by 31st January 2026

For more details please contact:  
sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au  
www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au



## PARISH LIBRARY

Please note that the books in the library are for reference and borrowing only and are not meant to be taken permanently. We have noticed that a number of books are currently missing. If you have any library books with you, we kindly request that you return them at your earliest convenience.

## 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. EFTPOS machines or Qkr!

### Second Collection (For the upkeep of our parish, staff salaries, insurance, 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. EFTPOS 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](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Office Manager:** Surani Samaraweera  
E: officemanager@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

**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):** John Mikita  
E: [mikitajgm@gmail.com](mailto:mikitajgm@gmail.com)

Download our parish app: **Pocket Parish** from [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) or sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

### Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Holy Spirit Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

**Parish Safeguarding Officers – Susan Pradeep and Louise Johnson.** While their email addresses are not currently available; please send any concerns to Maria Hicks-Manager Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) at [ipss@cg.org.au](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au) or 02 6239 9806

### 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-cg.org.au

**Call to Connect** | Maureen Hilton | M: 0431 123 465

**Couples for Christ (CFC)** | Kotch Velasquez |  
M: 0405 359 421

**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** | Theivani Evers  
E: amaroocommunitygardens@gmail.com