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

12 - 13 September 2026 | **Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A**

Holy Spirit Amaroo

Monday
Office Closed
7:30pm Bible Study

Tuesday
9:15am Mass
7:00pm Bible Study-Online

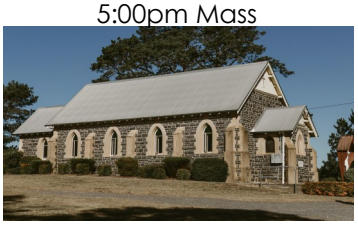
Wednesday
8:20 Mass
(At St. John Paul II College)
9:15am Liturgy of the Word
6:00pm Holy Hour and Reconciliation
7:00pm Rosary
(Companion treat - Last Wednesday of each month)

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



St Francis Xavier Hall
Saturdays 5:00pm Mass

Stop Keeping Score (Matthew 18: 21 - 35)

At that point Peter had the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven." (Matthew 18: 21 - 22)
Matthew puts a confronting question in front of us: how many times should we forgive? In a world that keeps receipts, screenshots, grudges and old arguments, Jesus offers a radically different way of living
Family life can test us. Parish life can test us. Relationships break down. People disappoint us. Words hurt. Sometimes we carry old wounds for years, quietly allowing resentment to shape the way we see another person. We may still smile at Mass, share a sign of peace and sit alongside each other, while something between us remains unresolved.
Jesus does not suggest that forgiveness means ignoring harm or pretending everything is fine. Forgiveness is about refusing to let anger, pride or resentment control what happens next. It is choosing the possibility of repair. It is making room for people to change, relationships to heal and communities to begin again.
If our parishes are truly communities of the Gospel, forgiveness cannot simply be something we talk about. It has to be something people experience.
So here is the challenge: who have you written off? What old resentment are you still carrying? Where might you need to take the first step towards repair?
Maybe the most radical thing we can do as a parish community is stop keeping score.

Questions for Reflection

- Where in my family, friendships or parish community am I being challenged to forgive, let go of resentment or offer someone a fresh start?
- Am I more committed to being right, remembering the wrong or protecting my pride than I am to repairing the relationship?
- What would our parish look and feel like if forgiveness, reconciliation and second chances became part of our everyday culture?

Action Response

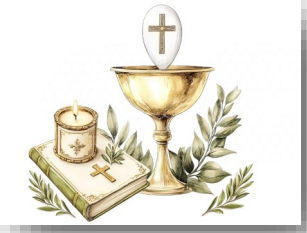
A simple challenge for this week: stop keeping score. Take one small but courageous step towards repair. Make the call, begin the conversation, apologise, forgive or simply choose not to reopen an old wound. Be courageous enough to create space for grace, healing and a fresh start.

Sourced from www.gpbs.com.au

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We joyfully celebrate the first Holy communion Masses on Saturday 19 September 2026 at 11:00AM & 2:00PM as our children from the three primary schools and Parish receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers as they take this beautiful step in their faith journey. May this special day be filled with God's love and blessings!



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Parish News & Events

- **RCIA: Every Wednesday at 7.00pm**. If you haven't yet registered and would like to participate, please contact the Parish Office.
- **Parish Games Night |Saturday 14 November 6.15pm Onwards** - Please refer flyer

Potluck Dinner with Fr. Lolesio

Fr. Lolesio would like to invite all interested parishioners to join him for a potluck meal and a chat. These dinners will be held on **Thursdays at 6:30pm** on the dates listed in the online form. The dinner group will consist of about 10-12 parishioners plus Fr. Lolesio and will take place in the parish rooms. The dates will be allocated on a first come first served basis so please get in there quick to secure your preference.

Please complete this online form to register your interest. Click here

If you have any questions, please contact : Gungahlin@cg.org.au

17 September | 01 October | 08 October | 15 October

Multicultural Mass & Celebration | Saturday 17 October 5:00pm

All are warmly invited to join us for our Multicultural Mass and Celebration and enjoy this special time of fellowship with our parish community. Please bring a traditional dish to share as we celebrate our rich & divers cultures together. Everyone is invited to dinner after the 5pm Mass.

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026
Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Week 3 of the Season of Creation
12 and 13 September
Creation is groaning

According to the book of Genesis God created the Earth and everything on it and "God saw that it was good". The beauty of Creation reflects its Creator.

In his Canticle of the Creatures St Francis of Assisi referred to the Earth as our sister and mother.

In Romans 8:22 there is a biblical image that pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth. We need to listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor. These cries bemoan the destructive actions causing the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity and human suffering as well.

And it is no wonder that the Earth and the Poor are crying when you consider the most recent report of the World Meteorological Organisation – State of the Global Climate 2025. This report notes that:

- 2024 was the warmest year on record;
- Greenhouse gases reached record high levels;
- Ocean heat reached its highest level in the 65 year observational record;
- Global mean sea level reached a record high;
- Antarctic sea-ice extent fell to a record low;
- Extreme weather, by way of heatwaves, cyclones, wildfires and flooding led to loss of life, the destruction of homes and large-scale air pollution across the world;
- Food security, population displacement and impacts on vulnerable populations were of mounting concern, with weather and climate hazards exacerbating the situation in many parts of the world.

The report also says that the Earth's climate system is more out of balance than at any time in observed history. This is a pretty depressing report in many ways, but as we celebrate the Season of Creation we must have hope for change to occur. There is a phrase commonly attributed to St Augustine that says "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not stay as they are."

Maybe we can have a righteous anger that gives us the courage to be hopeful and active for environmental justice.

There are things we can all do to make a difference and over the next 2 weeks we will look at some of those practical things.

Please keep the following individuals in prayer.

For those who are sick
Pauline Cooper
Christina Kaitapu
Pina McGuinness
Sharon Soon
Ernesto Apelo Jr.
Daria
Tom Nunan
Carmen Azzopardi
Colleen Irvine
Frances Miley
Maryann Reginaldo
Boy De Leon
Rey Gutierrez

Recently Deceased
Zurich Henry Durano Cerudo
Pauline Cooper

Death Anniversaries
Rosa Isabel Cano Mora
Michel Bonifacio
Peter Knight
Rosina Cortese
Jan Spodnik
Dr Padma Prabhakaran
Francis Zarzour
Wilfredo Baylin
Reynaldo Magada
John Bicket
Fideligna Baquero
Caterina Madaffari
Tony Johnston
Ernesto Felipe de Mello
Tony Johnston
Marcelo Arguelles
Melquiades Balberona Jr.
Ursula Frances Southwell
Denise Sullivan

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 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Entrance Antiphon | Sirach 36:18
Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading | Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus. Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm | Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8
(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading | Romans 14:7-9
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34
Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

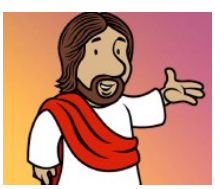
Gospel | Matthew 18:15-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.
'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon | Psalm 41:2-3
How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Source: Liturgy Help © 2026

Kids Corner

Spot the 7 differences between these pictures



BOOK NOW !

Gather a few friends or let us place you on a table with other.

Book your tickets now via QR Code or this link online

Please contact the parish office if you have questions.

HELP US WITH OUR UPCOMING GAMES NIGHT

We are seeking donations for our prizes for adults and children. Please bring these along to Mass or you can drop them off at the parish office.

We are happy to receive any of the following:

- Wines
- Boxed Chocolates
- Gift Vouchers
- Small Toys or Games
- Colouring Pencils/Crayons and Colouring Books
- Pre-packed gift hampers (non-perishable)
- Cash donations for us to purchase prizes

We also need volunteers to help us run a few things, set up the school hall for the night and pack up. If you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

This Week on Formed

Week of September 13, 2026

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.

Our Lady of Sorrows and the Power of Prayer

Discover the value of redemptive motherhood by tuning in to Anna Mitchell, co-host of EWTN's "The Son Rise Morning Show." Anna shares the story of her five-year-old's serious illness along with the miraculous intercession of a fourth-century martyr.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING
MEDIA STATEMENT **SEPTEMBER 4, 2026**

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026: 'LOVE PROTECTS'

Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on September 13.

The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

"'Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet.

"Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence."

Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities.

Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person.

The Church is showing national leadership in safeguarding through:

- Professional development that strengthens the capacity of Catholic organisations
- Reviews, audits and assessments of Catholic organisations
- Management of the Australian Catholic Ministry Register
- Safeguarding awareness, education and communications initiatives

As faith communities gather to mark Safeguarding Sunday, they are encouraged to reflect on the example of Jesus, who welcomed and protected the vulnerable and marginalised. His ministry inspires the Church's commitment to care, respect, and justice.

"Love protects when we listen. Love protects when we act. Love protects when we place the wellbeing of others at the centre of our decisions and our ministry," Bishop Bennet said.

"Together, we can build communities where every person is valued, respected and safe."

Resources for Safeguarding Sunday can be found here.

CENACLE

Courses | Forums | Intensives

What Do We Believe?

Formation Forum

Where?

Haydon Hall | St Christopher's Pastoral Centre

Zoom | Online Offering

When?

Tuesday

15 September 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

Register

Link | tinyurl.com/35vs84j7

Contact

institute@cg.org.au

Community Notices

- **20 September | St Anthony's Parish 50th Anniversary Mass | 09:00 am**
  Save the Date: The Archbishop will celebrate the 50th Anniversary Mass at St Anthony's on Sunday 20 September, 9:00am. All past parishioners are invited to attend. For more information please email m57cass@gmail.com
- **23 September | ACU Veritas Lecture: Never Skip Brain Day: How AI Is Changing Learning, and Why Human Thinking Matters More Than Ever | 05:30 pm**
  Artificial intelligence is not just a tool. It is more like electricity, with the potential to power every tool in our daily lives. While much remains uncertain about its long-term impact on education, one thing is clear. This lecture explores possible answers to this question, focusing on the tenuous space between efficient and effortful learning.
- **25 September | THE CHOSEN SEASON 6 EXCLUSIVE EARLY-ACCESS SCREENING | 06:00 pm**
  The long-awaited season 6 of The Chosen is here! Join us in Haydon Hall at 6pm on Friday 25 September 2026 for an exclusive early-access viewing of S6 Ep 1, featuring the start of Jesus' passion. The event will start at 6pm with the screening, followed by a time of prayerful discussion. All are invited but registration is required via www.trybooking.com/DPIPW. In preparation, you can watch Seasons 1-5 of The Chosen for free on thechosen.tv (Also available on Amazon Prime Video). See you there!!
- **29 September|Special Formation Session-Dom Christopher Jamison OSB |Haydon Hall, 10.00am–12.30pm**
  Clergy and parish pastoral leaders are invited to a special formation session with Dom Christopher Jamison OSB, an internationally recognised speaker and author on faith, leadership and wellbeing. A Benedictine monk and Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, Dom Christopher is visiting Canberra during his Australian visit as a guest of the University of Notre Dame. A valuable opportunity for those serving in parish leadership and ministry.
- **30 September | Explosion 2026: Increase & Overflow | 05:30 pm**
  Registrations are now open for Explosion 2026, a Catholic youth conference for students in years 7 to 12. Hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community, Explosion will be held at St Clare's College, Canberra, from September 30 to October 3, offering inspiring speakers, powerful prayer and worship, and the opportunity to build lasting friendships while growing in faith. Early bird pricing available until August 8. For more information and to register, visit explosionyouth.com
- **17th October 2026 3pm – 7pm at Merici College, Wise St Braddon**.
  Braddon Catholic Girls High School 50th Reunion Year 10 (1974) and Year 12 (1976)
  Bookings are essential and tickets cost $30. Book via Humantix by searching "Merici Alumni" then select the event "Class of 1974/1976 Reunion Braddon" RSVP by 1 October.
  Celebrations will continue from 7:30pm at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue Ainslie.
- **1 November | Marian Procession | 10:00 am**
  The Marian Procession is an ecumenical event hosted by the Goulburn Parish of Sts Mary Queen of Apostles, from the Old Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul's. This year it will process on All Saints Day, Sunday the 1st of November. Save the date!

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

ONE DAY RETREAT IN CANBERRA

Retreat Led by: Fr Sam Samuel, Director, Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby.
Date: One Day Retreat on Saturday, 19 September 2026 (10.30am-3.30pm)
Venue: St Benedict's Catholic Church, 10 Tallara Pkwy, Narrabundah, ACT 2604, Australia.
Admission is FREE, lunch available at nominal cost. **RSVP by 15 September to: p1.rebello@gmail.com**
For enquiries please contact: Parveen: 0439642571; Winnie: 0451015527; Prakash 0406381446; Tom: 0434689957
For Registrations: Click Link

Samoan Mass at St Matthew's Church, Page

Everyone is invited to join Samoan Mass at St Matthew's Church, Page. The Mass commences at 12.30PM on the 4th Sunday of the Month.

Father's Day Appeal

The Archdiocesan Clergy Retirement Foundation thanks everyone who contributed so generously this year.

The average age of our retired clergy is 84 with 6 in their 90's and one celebrating 100 in November. These good men are so grateful, your generosity will be remember in their daily prayers.

For those still wishing to donate, envelopes are available in the church foyer and can be left either with the weekend collection or posted to the Foundation Office. Donations can also be made at www.cgcatholic.org.au/donate

On behalf of the 22 retired priests of this Archdiocese, thank you for your generosity prayers and thoughtfulness

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 Administrator: Fr Lolesio Gisa
E: lolesio.gisa@cg.org.au

Deacon: Joe Blackwell
E: joe.blackwell@cg.org.au

Parish Office and Presbytery
93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622
Website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Office Manager: Surani Samaraweera
E: gungahlin.officemanager@cg.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jovina John Britto
E: gungahlin@cg.org.au

Office Support: Chris Konik-Rose
E: gungahlin.sacraments@cg.org.au

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

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): John Mikita
E: mikitajgm@gmail.com

Parish Groups

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

St Vincent de Paul | Margie Vest (President) | P: 0401 527 088

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: gungahlin@cg.org.au

Care Group | please contact Parish Office

Community Garden Group | Theivani Evers
E: amaroocommunitygardens@gmail.com

RCIA | Victoria Ikutegbe
E: vickyllouis@yahoo.com | 0452552514

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 our thinking and action.

If you have any concerns, please contact;
Parish Safeguarding Officers: Susan Pradeep and Louise Johnson.
Email: gungahlin.safeguarding@cg.org.au