

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH, WEST BELCONNEN

St John the Apostle Church Kippax St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood

To be on Earth the Heart of God



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25 October 2026

YEAR A
#43.26

Gospel Reflection

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish West Belconnen

is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community

Parish Administration

Parish Priest

Fr. Tru Nguyen msc

TruDuc.Nguyen@cg.org.au

Assistant Priest

Fr. Thanh Le msc

VanThanh.Le@cg.org.au

Parish Staff

Br. Daniel Magadia msc

daniel.magadia@cg.org.au

Br. Hoa Tran msc

quochoa.tran@cg.org.au

Sharon Greaves

Ana Sofia Brunicardi

Belconnenwest@cg.org.au

Parish Office

25 Blackham Street

HOLT ACT

6254 3236

Office Hours

9:00am - 3:00pm

Monday

Wednesday - Friday

Website

olsh.org.au

St John the Apostle Primary School Safeguarding Officers

Florey ACT - 62583592

Acting Principal - Andrew Casey

www.sjaps.act.edu.au

Carl Madsen

Marg Hourigan

belconnenwest.safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Thomas Aquinas Primay School Pastoral Council Chair

Charnwood ACT - 6258 4077

James Nield

Principal - Matthew Garton

www.staquinas.act.edu.au

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 Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

We warmly welcome the MSC Parishes Formation Team who will be visiting the parish on the weekend of 7-8 November. The Team comprising of Fr Dominic Gleeson msc, Mrs Narita Perrotta, Deacon Michael Hangan and Mrs Marian England will be conducting a three-year ministry appraisal process for Fr Tru who is completing his third-year parish ministry in Canberra.

Anointing of the Sick within Mass

11:00am – Friday 30 October, followed by a light lunch in the foyer.

WOMENS BREAKFAST

Tuesday 27 October ~ 7:30am

Neutral Grounds Café

Nettfold Street Belconnen

Friendship Group Morning Tea

next meeting on **Wednesday 28 October**

10:15am – SJA parish centre

Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

Thursday Night before 1st Friday

St John the Apostle Church

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Gethsemane Thursday

5 November r - 7:30 – 8:30pm



MASS OF

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

1st Friday of every month ■ 9:30am

St John the Apostle Church

6 November 2026

Sacred Heart Devotion

The heart is the centre of our being, and the seat of our emotions and love. The Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes his great love for humanity. Jesus initiated this devotion out of his great love for us.

DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

REMEMBRANCE MASS

21 November 2026 – 10:00am

St Thomas Aquinas Church



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish
West Belconnen
"To be on Earth the Heart of God"

Family Game Day



Join us for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and fellowship

Activities • Board Games
• Card Games

When? • Every last Saturday of the month
• First event: **31st Oct**
• 2:00 PM — 4:30 PM

BYO Games, Snacks and Softdrinks

St John the Apostle Parish Centre | 25 Blackham St Holt

For inquiries, contact the parish office
or email Br Daniel daniel.magadia@cg.org.au



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish
West Belconnen
"To be on Earth the Heart of God"

Branching Out

Young Adult Spring Meetup (ages 18-35)

Walk and Connect
Meet the members of a wider community



Saturday 7 November | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Himalayan Cedar Forest Trails
Address: Himalayan Cedar Rd, National Arboretum Canberra, ACT 2611



A relaxed morning walk through the cedar forest



Shared lunch: bring a small plate to share if you can



Meet other young adults



Just come as you are!

**REGISTER BY OCT 30
PLEASE SCAN:**



Wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat and water bottle.



Weather update: If the weather changes our plans, we'll text you!

We look forward to walking, sharing, and growing in faith together! ♥

Catholic Voice Christmas Cover Competition

We're inviting Catholic school students across the Archdiocese to enter the [Catholic Voice Christmas Cover Art Competition](#). This year's theme is "Everyone is Invited", exploring how the birth of Jesus brings people together. The winning artwork will feature on our December Christmas cover. Entries close 16 November. For more information please contact catholic.voice@cg.org.au



In Loving memory

Recently Deceased: Gregory Stoll

Anniversary:

Richard Koch, Carmel Johnston, Jeffries Dallinger, Johannes Blengst, Michael McKenzie-McHarg, Robert Imber, Ross Webber, Lorrel Newton, Marion Boland, Barry Parsons, Maryann Marsh, Anselma Carey, Patricia Harman, Dorothy Sutton, William Lilley, Patrick Menzies, Anne Jones, Helen Gorrell, Nicholas Moore, Frank Montgomery, Martin Moloney, Malcolm Lovelock, Francis Fulton, Peter Geraghty, Alejandra Bai, Jack McMahon, Kerry Hogden, Angelo Fallace, Christopher McIntyre, Elsie Screen, Silva Santos, Gregory Robinson, Ann Raads, Paul Newton, Peter Fox, May Skelly, Patrick Healey, Rose Ireland Paul Peleschak, Celio Argenti, Maurice Scheerlinck, Gavin Smith, Emily Flynn, John Joyce, Narim Dawalibi, Ross Pollard, Rex Kelley, Kevin Mongan, Isabella Christian, Edward Dwyer, Edward Tregilgas

Women in Leadership – Are We in a Change of Era?

All welcome! The 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce Annual event is **Friday 30 October 2026**

Commencing 6.00 pm

Canberra Southern Cross Club Woden

Guest speaker, Ms Philomena ('Phil') Billington, an experienced educator, leader, and facilitator will share her To register for this event please go to <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-annual-dinner>.

More information contact 0405 440 463

The Archdiocese Annual Marian Procession, Goulburn - Sunday, 1 November 2026:

Mass at 11:30 am at Our Lady of Mercy Maronite Monastery Chapel, followed by a Marian Procession to St Saviour's Anglican Cathedral and St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral grounds. Return bus from Canberra: \$50 north and south pick up points. Bring an outdoor chair, walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Seats are non-refundable but transferable.

All welcome. Register:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1667499>

Enquiries: Trip Organiser, 0472 672 553.

Bus option for the Annual Archdiocese Annual Marian Procession, Goulburn - Sunday, 1 November 2026:

return bus from Canberra: \$50 north and south pick up points. Bring an outdoor chair, walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Seats are non-refundable but transferable.

All welcome. Register:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1667499>

Enquiries: Trip Organiser, 0472 672 553.

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH
St John the Apostle Church
25 Blackham Street, HOLT 2615

St Thomas Aquinas Church
23 Lhotsky Street, CHARNWOOD 2615

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday	SJA Holt	5:00pm
Sunday	STA Charnwood	8:30am
Sunday	SJA Holt	10:00am
Sunday	SJA Holt	6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Rosary before Mass

Weekdays in both churches at 9:05am

St John the Apostle Church

Monday and Friday 9:30am

St Thomas Aquinas Church

Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am

Liturgy of the Word with Communion:

In both churches Tues 9:30am

ROSTERS

1 November Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	John Hogan, Nah Nguyen
8:30am	Peter Osborne, Margie Hourigan
10:00am	Maxime Kpudzeka, Vy Pham
6:00pm	Peter Le, Nunga Umaru

1 November Lector Roster

5:00pm	Fay Padarin, Marian England
8:30am	Mariana Rollgejser, Irene Daly
10:00am	Frank Colley, Gabe Sequiera
6:00pm	Rod O'Neill, Karna O'Dea

1 November Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Chitra Jayawardena, Angela Boreham
8:30am	Brian Daly, Josh Osborne-Goldsbrough
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Pam Connor, Carmel Screen
6:00pm	Peter Igoe-Taylor, Rose Lawatsch

1 November Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Kay Dwyer, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Sabina Van Rooy
10:00am	Libby Kain, Karen Bower
6:00pm	Francesca Deklin

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	25 Oct	Margaret Stanford
Church Cleaning: SJA	26 Oct	
Grounds SJA	31 Oct	All Groups

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	Contact Parish Office
Reconciliation	Contact Parish Office
Sacramental Program	Contact Parish Office
School of Religion (Parish Centre)	Sunday 9.15am during school term

PRAYER LIFE

Meditation	Friday 5:15-6.30 pm SJA Library
Eucharistic Adoration	Thursday Weekly 5:30pm – 6:30pm STA Church
Gethsemane Eucharistic Adoration	Thursday before First Friday Mass 7:30pm – 8:30pm SJA Church
Sacred Heart Devotion Mass	First Friday of the Month 9:30am SJA Church
Men's Scripture Discussion	Wednesday after 9:30am Mass STA Parish Centre
Open Scripture Discussion	Thursday after 9:30am Mass STA Parish Centre
Latte with Our Lady	First Saturday of the month 10:15am Rosary outside the Charcoal Chicken

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
 and my Father will love them and we will
 come to them.

Alleluia!

Readings

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

1 November 2026

Rev 7:2-4, 9-14

Ps 23:1-6

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12