

# 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*

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A

22 February 2026

#08.26



### Gospel Reflection

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry – will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and personal power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul makes it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Reflection: 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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr. Tru Nguyen msc <a href="mailto:TruDuc.Nguyen@cg.org.au">TruDuc.Nguyen@cg.org.au</a>	<b>Assistant Priest</b>	<b>Parish Officers</b> Sharon Greaves Kirsty Vera <a href="mailto:Belconnenwest@cg.org.au">Belconnenwest@cg.org.au</a>	<b>St John the Apostle Primary School</b> Florey ACT- 62583592 Principal - Jo Reed <a href="http://www.sjaps.act.edu.au">www.sjaps.act.edu.au</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> 25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT	<b>Office Hours</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Monday Wednesday - Friday	<b>Website</b> <a href="http://olsh.org.au">olsh.org.au</a>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas Primary School</b> Charnwood ACT - 6258 4077 Principal - Matthew Garton <a href="http://www.staquinas.act.edu.au">www.staquinas.act.edu.au</a>
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b> Jenny McGee Carl Madsen Marg Hourigan	6254 3236	<b>Pastoral Council Chair</b> James Nield	

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Presentation Masses this weekend

We pray for the children of the parish who have commenced their preparation for the Sacrament of Penance on 18 & 19 March. May they continue to grow in faith trusting in God's love and forgiveness.

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### ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

A group of our parish children (and their families) is on a journey to learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent. In solidarity with our candidates, we pray for them. And over the next four weeks, we also reflect on the major themes of their program.

The first theme is on 'Making Choices'. As human beings, we are created in God's image and likeness. We are also gifted with free will, and it is meant to be used responsibly. Over time, we learn that our words, thoughts, and actions can affect ourselves and our relationships with others, especially God. What is reassuring is that when we "turn around" and return home, like the Prodigal Son, the Father is there with open arms, happy to embrace us and welcome us back. May this Sacrament be for us a warm experience of coming back home.

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### MOVIE NIGHT

7:00pm – 6 March

St John the Apostle Catholic Church  
Parish Library

We are watching "Twin Sisters"

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### Women's Breakfast

Tuesday 24 February – 7:30am

Bean Origin Café

Nettlefold Street Belconnen



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### Friendship Group Morning Tea

next meeting on **Wednesday 25 February**

**10:15am – SJA parish centre**

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

## Lenten Retreat:

### Meeting Christ in Our Deepest Need

You are invited to a 3-session Lenten retreat, *Meeting Christ in Our Deepest Need: A Lenten Journey*, facilitated by Greg Sunter. He is well known for his parish newsletter gospel reflections, which explain Scripture in its historical and cultural context and relate it to contemporary lived experience.

More about Greg:

<https://www.wholehearted.com.au/about/>

Time:

- Friday 27th February 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm;
- Saturday 28th February 10 am -11 am;
- Sunday 1st March 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

**Place:** 25 Blackham St, HOLT ACT 2615

**Cost:** \$20 for all 3 sessions

**Register:** [belconnenwest@cgc.org.au](mailto:belconnenwest@cgc.org.au)

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### Prayer for Our RCIA Candidates

We ask our parish community to keep our **six RCIA members** in your prayers as they continue their faith journey. May they grow in openness to God's grace, deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and come to know the fullness of life in the Catholic Church. Please pray that the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them at every step.

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### ANOINTING OF THE SICK DURING MASS

**Friday 27 February Mass – 11:00am**

St John the Apostle Church

A sandwich lunch will be held in the foyer after Mass.

We would like to assist those who are housebound and cannot normally attend Mass to join this special Mass and lunch. Please contact the parish office if you, or someone you know, would like to attend but needs assistance with transportation.

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### We Welcome

Br. Daniel is appointed to our parish as of 16 February 2026.

## OLSHCare

- Are you unable to attend Mass
- Would you like Holy Communion brought to you
- Would you like a visit

Please contact the parish office:

[belconnenwest@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnenwest@cg.org.au) or 6254 3236

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### Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish



This Weekend,  
the Time, Talent and  
Treasure forms will be

available in the foyer. Brochures will be available which will describe ministries.

Planned Giving Forms are in the foyer.

Commitment Weekend 7/8 March

When you will return your completed forms

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### Community Connections

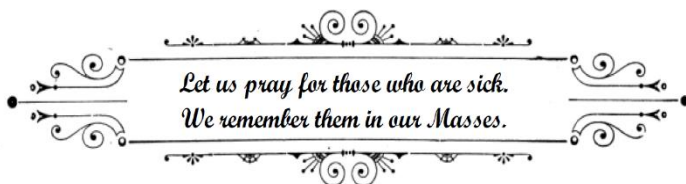
*Connecting with people living alone*

Monthly Gathering

15 February 3:30pm - 5:00pm

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

Parish Library



### Recently Deceased:

#### Anniversary:

Tony Lay, Adrienne Stewart, Ashley Kent, Fay Hodgetts, Eun Cho Shin, Andrew Vumbaca, Hayden Ricketts, Perlita Whitton, Grant Lalor, James McKay, Dorothy Jeffrey, Leo McDonald, Rachael Netting, Ronnie George, Ian Coffill, Francisca Benedictos, Felice Collufio, Wal Kulesza, Sharon Williams, Evelyn Swaris, Josephine Hawkins, Liana Rivera, Timothy Mahoney, Dorothy Hornick, Damien Lamb, Oscar De Jesus Zamora, Darrell Rutter, Jim Grace, Henry Sealey, Marie Hallahan, Wayne Summerfield, Alana Leach, Bernard, Barbara Gardiner, Shirley Hofman,

## PARISH LENTEN JOURNEY'S

### Lenten Prayer Group

10:00am Fridays during Lent

Commencing 20 February 2026

St John the Apostle Kippax Library

### Stations of the Cross

6:00pm Fridays during Lent

Commencing 20 February 2026

St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Courtyard

### Lenten Retreat with Greg Sunter

Friday 27 February – Sunday 1 March

### Lenten Retreat Online

<https://olsh.org.au/lent-2026/>

As part of your preparation for Easter 2026, you are invited to spend time each week during Lent to reflect on and engage in prayer under the guidance of the late Fr. Michael Fallon msc. The weekly selections of audio files from Fr Fallon's retreats with their accompanying notes are available at **INTERNET LINK**. Each audio file is about 30 minutes long.

### Behold & Resound

Saturday 21 March – SJA Kippax

A liturgy and Music Workshop

<https://olsh.org.au/>

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### Adoration During Lent

**St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Church**

5:30pm – 6:30pm

**St John the Apostle Kippax Church**

7:30 – 8:30pm

Thursday Night 26 February

5, 12, 19, 26 March

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

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## DECREE FOR ERECTING THE NEW PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

The Decree establishing our new Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, West Belconnen— issued by Archbishop Christopher Prowse—is now available on our Parish website. We invite you to take a moment to read this document.

<https://olsh.org.au/parish-archives/>

# St John the Apostle Kippax Church

## MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm
Monday and Friday	9:30am
Liturgy of the Word with Communion:	
	Tues 9:30am

## Rosary before Mass

Weekdays in both parishes at 9:05am

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	1st & 2nd Sun during Mass
Reconciliation	Sat 4:00pm – 4:30pm
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
Gethsemane	Thursday before First Friday
Eucharistic Adoration	Mass 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Sacred Heart Devotion Mass	First Friday of the Month 9:30am

## ROSTERS

### 1 March Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	John Hogan, Rod Gardiner
8:30am	Lourdes Asoy, Victoria Gonzales
10:00am	Maxime Kpudzeka, Vy Pham
6:00pm	Maryanne Ferguson, Peter Le

### 1 March Lector Roster

5:00pm	Fay Padarin, Kirsty Vera
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Darren Maharaj
10:00am	Gabe Sequeira, Frank Colley
6:00pm	Joe Ots, Margaret Luck

### 1 March Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Maureen Burgess, Angela Boreham
10:00am	Anthony No0akes, Shovin Weerawarnakula
6:00pm	Carolyn O'Neill, Peter Igoe-Taylor

### 1 March Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Kay Dwyer, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Carmel Screen, Rob Breen
10:00am	Libby Kain, Margaret Sheehan
6:00pm	John McGee, Jenny McGee

### 1 March SJAShop

5:00pm	Lynn O'Brien
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	Jenny McGee

## Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	8 Feb	Pat Gilchrist
Church Cleaning:	9 Feb	Christine Lancaster, Pam Connor Shovin Weerawarnakula
Grounds	7 Feb	Michael Blyth

## Readings 1 March 2026

First Reading	Gen 12:1-4
Psalm	Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22
Second Reading	2 Tim 1:8-10
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9

# St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Church

## MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday	6:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
Wednesday and Thursday	9:30am
Liturgy of the Word with Communion:	
	Tues 9:30am

## Rosary before Mass

Weekdays in both parishes at 9:05am

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	2nd Sun during Mass
Reconciliation	Sat 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Sacramental Program	Contact Parish Office

## PRAYER LIFE

Eucharistic Adoration	Thursday Weekly 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Men's Scripture Discussion	Wednesday after 9:30am Mass
Open Scripture Discussion	Thursday after 9:30am Mass
Latte with Our Lady. Rosary outside the Charcoal Chicken	First Saturday of the month 10:15am

## ROSTERS

### 1 March Acolyte Roster

6:00pm	Michael Carberry
9:00am	Peter Osborne

### 1 March Lector Roster

6:00pm	Fran Handoko, Richard Cruise
9:00am	Leo Walsh, John Connellan

### 1 March Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Brian Daly, Irene Daly
9:00am	Terry Johnson, Trish Blacker

### 1 March Music Ministry / Slides

6:00pm	Recorded., Janette O'Sullivan
9:00am	Recorded, Josh Osborne-Goldsbrough

### 8 March Morning Tea after Mass

9:00am	Irene Daly, Marg Ellis
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## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!