

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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A

22 March 2026

#12.26

Gospel Reflection

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

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	Parish Officers Br. Daniel Magadia msc daniel.magadia@cg.org.au	Parish Officers Sharon Greaves Kirsty Vera Belconnenwest@cg.org.au	St John the Apostle Primary School Florey ACT- 62583592 Principal - Jo Reed www.sjaps.act.edu.au
Parish Office 25 Blackham Street HOLT ACT	Office Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm Monday Wednesday - Friday	Website olsh.org.au Safeguarding Officers Carl Madsen Marg Hourigan belconnenwest.safeguarding@cg.org.au	St Thomas Aquinas Primay School Charnwood ACT - 6258 4077 Principal - Matthew Garton www.staquinas.act.edu.au
Pastoral Council Chair James Nield	6254 3236		

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.

PARISH OFFICE NEWS

Fr. Tru will be away on Thursday 26 March. There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 9:30am at St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Church.

Prayer for Our RCIA Candidates



As a parish community, we continue to pray for our **RCIA candidates**, especially as we are drawing closer to Easter. May they grow in openness to God's grace and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ

and his Church. We also pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and strengthen them in every step of their faith journey.



Holy Thursday

2 April 2026 - 7:00pm

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

Altar of Repose

Evening Prayer will conclude at 9:30pm

Good Friday

3 April 2026 - 10:00am

Stations of the Cross

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

The Passion of the Lord

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

3:00pm

Easter Vigil

4 April 2026 – 7:00pm

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

There will be no evening Mass at St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

5 April 2026

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

9:00am

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

8:30am and 10:00am

There will be no evening Mass

PARISH LENTEN JOURNEY'S

Lenten Prayer Group

10:00am Fridays during Lent

St John the Apostle Kippax Library

Stations of the Cross

6:00pm Fridays during Lent

St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood Courtyard

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.

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 March

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Second Rite of Reconciliation

St Vincents Aranda

Tuesday 31 March at 6:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We congratulate the 35 children of the parish who received the Sacrament of Penance on 18 & 19 March.

May they continue to grow in faith trusting in God's love and forgiveness.

Friendship Group Morning Tea

next meeting on **Wednesday 25 March**

10:15am – SJA parish centre

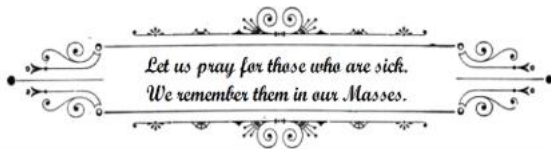
Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

Traditionally in Australia, a special Collection has been taken up on Good Friday to support the Franciscans who administer and maintain the Holy Land pilgrimage sites. The Franciscans also support medical centres, schools and suffering communities. With the horrific hostilities presently smothering the Holy Land and the Middle East, the need for support has never been greater.

Please consider giving generously this Good Friday.

The Collection for the Holy Land, sustained daily by the invaluable work of the Franciscans and those who serve local communities, may seem like a drop in the ocean. Yet the ocean, deprived of its drops, becomes a desert. Cardinal Gugerotti, Prefect.



Recently Deceased: Dermid McGrath

Anniversary: Ludvik Koren, Clement King, James Broderick, Alexander Van Audenaerde, Andrew McEvoy, Stanislaw Bitner, Victoria Huntley, Mark Markham, Moira Leader, Jennifer Adamik, John O'Brien, Jack Lenihan, Catherine Wheelaghan, Sybil Lazaro, Robyn Klatt, Dorothy Murray, William Klatt, Bill Corby, Kay Haworth, Francesca Fernando, Katherine Jones, Giovanni Gingovaz, John Henshaw, Helen McGee, Harold Allester, Una Luff, Joseph Pisciotta, Vivienne Montgomery, Jordan Matthews, John Napier, Caitlin Brice, Alyssa Brice, Betty Kerekes, Janelle Brice, Beryl Daly, Angela Hillis, Wilhelm Chlap, Leonard Smith, Trevor Agnew, Elena Guindas, Kenneth Marlor, Jim Curran, Noel Smith, Denis Hally-Burton, Leon Fernando, Kees Van Rooy, Marnie Dunn, Leo Wyche, Daniel Cassar, Leslie Thomson, Edward Yewdall, Ian Stephenson, Wanda Parkitny, Paul Rogers



National ANZAC Day Mass,
St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka, ACT.
Parishioners are requested to be at the
Cathedral by 7.45am for 8.00am Mass

On Thursday, 26 March 2026 from 4pm - 5pm, the Archdiocese will officially launch the new **Institute for Synodal Evangelisation**, through a live-streamed, online-only event. Register your interest here: bit.ly/institute-launch

The Institute for Synodal Evangelisation emerges from the fruits of our Archdiocesan Assembly and responds to the call for deeper faith formation, leadership development and parish-specific accompaniment. The Institute will further animate a vision of synodal evangelisation across our Archdiocese through a range of gatherings, courses and intensives designed to call, form and send a new generation of missionary disciples.

For further information, please email institute@cg.org.au.

Canberra-Goulburn

Cursillo Weekend for Men and Women

Fri 17 - Sun 19 April 2026, St Clements
Retreat Centre, Galong
Info and register by Fri 3 April
at <https://tinyurl.com/cursillo2026>

Funeral Notice – Dermid McGrath

Requiem Mass for Dermott will be
celebrated on

Wednesday 25 March at 11:00am
at St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood

St John the Apostle Church Kippax
25 Blackham Street, HOLT

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

29 March Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Anthony Jayawardena, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Sigrid Kropp, Vy Pham
10:00am	Maxime Kpudzeka, Peter Kain
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy, Nunga Umaru

29 March Lector Roster

5:00pm	Marian England, Kerry Yard
8:30am	Elizabeth McDonald, Shane Murtagh
10:00am	Frank Colley, Kate Lawrence
6:00pm	Karna O'Dea, Jenny McGee

29 March Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Helen Kennedy, Joe Catanzariti
8:30am	Maria Scarr, Theresia Suh
10:00am	Francesca Dekliun, Gabe Sequeira
6:00pm	Priscilla Momi

29 March Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Helen Murphy, Judith O'Neill
8:30am	Agnes Pham
10:00am	Manel Seneviratna, Christine Lancaster
6:00pm	

29 March SJAShop

5:00pm	
8:30am	
10:00am	
6:00pm	

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	22 March	Margaret Stanford
Church Cleaning:	23 March	
Grounds	28 March	John Blackwell and Family

Readings 29 March 2026

First Reading Is 50:4-7
 Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24
 Second Reading Phil 2:8-9
 Gospel Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood
23 Lhotsky Street, CHARNWOOD

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

29 March Acolyte Roster

6:00pm	Adam Smith-Plattts
9:00am	Rod Goodison

29 March Lector Roster

6:00pm	Annaliese Smith-Platts, Sr Colleen Howe
9:00am	Michael Carberry, Charles Wood

29 March Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Gavin Howard, Cathy Howard
9:00am	Margie Hourigan, Leo Walsh

29 March Music Ministry / Slides

6:00pm	Recorded, Patrick Smith-Platts
9:00am	Recorded, Peter Jean

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
 I am the resurrection and the life,
 says the Lord;
 whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!