

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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A

15 March 2026

#11.26

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World.

The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

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

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.

ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN PREPARING FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Over the last three weeks, our candidates learned about the "what" and "why" of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Week four explored the "how", delving into each of the steps. The scripture passage they reflected on was from John's gospel when the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples. It's really worth staying on the first words Jesus said: "Peace be with you". If we were Jesus, how would we greet the friends that abandoned and betrayed us? Would we greet differently like "I told you so"? What is reassuring from the passage is that Jesus comes to us in peace despite our past wrongdoings. For our candidates, we hope that they happily approach the Sacrament later this week with that peace, knowing that they'll encounter a God who does not condemn them, but loves them.

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.



Time, Talent, Treasure:

Thank you to the parishioners who have returned their forms.

If you have not yet returned your form to advise that you would like to remain in ministry, be removed from ministry or join a new ministry please contact the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to ministry in our parish.

We Welcome Fr. Kimi Vunivesilevu msc to our parish this weekend.

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 12, 19, 26 March

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Reconciliation during Adoration

Thursday 19 March

Second Rite of Reconciliation

St Vincents Aranda

Tuesday 31 March at 6:00pm

Pins & Needles

7:15pm – 16 March

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

Parish Library

Community Connections

Connecting with people living alone

Monthly Gathering

15 March 3:30pm - 5:00pm

St John the Apostle Catholic Church

Parish Library

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We pray for the children of the parish who will receive the Sacrament of Penance on 18 & 19 March.

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

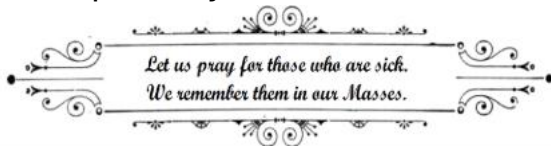
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will be auditing all parishes for accreditation purposes in addressing the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. This will occur in August 2026. If you are currently volunteering in any capacity in the parish and have not completed a Child Protection Code of Conduct form or provided your current Working With Vulnerable People Card, please contact the parish office.

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>



Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Peter Roache, Marijan Cavlovic, Garth Towers, Brian Weston, Michael Lowe, Generoso D'Ambrosio, Jack Ranson, Judith Davidson, Veronica Brennan, Michael Murray, Rex Zygmunt, Ludvik Koren, James Broderick, Alexander Van Audenaerde, Clement King, 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, Francesca Fernando, Kay Haworth, Katherine Jones, Giovanni Gingovaz, John Henshaw

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Easter Triduum 2026:

- This year is the first time that we are having Easter Triduum at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, so we needed to choose times and locations that would allow as many parishioners as possible.
- St John the Apostle Church was selected to provide sufficient space for the larger congregation. Our intention is to foster a stronger sense of unity between St Thomas Aquinas Church and St John the Apostle Church, while ensuring we can comfortably accommodate everyone who wishes to participate in these solemn liturgies.

I understand that this is a change from what we have done in the past, and I would like to ask you to keep us all in your prayers as we take this step together as one parish, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, West Belconnen.

The Easter Triduum

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

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

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 Eucharistic Adoration	Thursday before First Friday Mass 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Sacred Heart Devotion Mass	First Friday of the Month 9:30am

ROSTERS

22 March Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Di Bruce, Murray Bruce
8:30am	Sigrid Kropp, Lourdes Asoy
10:00am	Peter Kain, Dennis Puniard
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy, Carl Madsen

22 March Lector Roster

5:00pm	Elaine Laycock, James Nield
8:30am	Shane Murtagh, Victoria Gonzales
10:00am	Kerry Yard, Edgard Nnajide
6:00pm	Meg Millband, Peter Igoe-taylor

22 March Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	John Drury, Laurine Smeaton
8:30am	Darren Maharaj, Karen Bower
10:00am	Boni Benedictos, Rosa Benedictos
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Priscilla Momi

22 March Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Joan Galpin, Marie McKie
8:30am	Joan Beswick, Pamela Blackwell
10:00am	John Blackwell and family
6:00pm	Francesca Deklin

22 March SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	15 March	Angela Boreham
Church Cleaning:	16 March	
Grounds	21 March	David Momi

Readings 22 March 2026

First Reading Eze 37:12-14
 Psalm Ps 129
 Second Reading Rms 8:8-11
 Gospel John 11:1-45

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

22 March Acolyte Roster

6:00pm	Stephen Kiley
9:00am	Maria Walker

22 March Lector Roster

6:00pm	Sophie Kiley, Sr Colleen Howe
9:00am	Terry Johnson, Eden DeCastro

22 March Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Lian Kiley, Geoff Barker
9:00am	Trish Blacker, Michael Carberry

22 March Music Ministry / Slides

6:00pm	Double J, PC Lim
9:00am	Recorded, Skye McPadden

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd;
 there is nothing I shall want

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God,
 Lord Jesus Christ!
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
 whoever follows me
 will have the light of life.
 Glory to you, Word of God,
 Lord Jesus Christ!