

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
19 April 2026

YEAR A
#16.26

Gospel Reflection

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that!

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

The parish office will be closed
Monday 27 April - ANZAC Day

FAREWELL TO SR. COLLEEN

You are invited to a morning tea after 9am Mass on Sunday 26th April, to farewell Sr Colleen after 40 years connected with St Thomas Aquinas Parish Charnwood. There will be a leaving collection after all masses this weekend.

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

SCHOOLS ENROLLING NOW 2027

St John the Apostle School Florey

Early Learning Centre

Years Kinder – 6

6258 3592 www.sjaps.act.edu.au

St Thomas Aquinas School Charnwood

Early Learning Centre

Years Kinder – 6

6258 4077 <https://staquinas.act.edu.au/>

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

YCS Youth Group - Students in Years 7 -12

Sunday - 26 April 2026

After 6pm Mass, from 7pm – 9pm

St John the Apostle Parish Centre

Join us for food, games and fun, as we talk about social justice and what we can do to help our community.

We are looking for open-minded teens to join us and expand our group.

For more information contact the parish office on 6254 3236 or

belconnenwest@cg.org.au

Pins & Needles

7:15pm – 20 April

St John the Apostle Catholic Church
Parish Library

Community Connections

Connecting with people living alone

April 3:30pm - 5:00pm

St John the Apostle Catholic Church
Parish Library

Funeral Notice – Lesly Gorbach

Funeral Prayers for Lesly will be celebrated on Wednesday 29 April at 12noon at St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood

Funeral Notice – Jenny Fisher

Requiem Mass for Jenny will be celebrated on Friday 24 April at 11:00am at St John the Apostle Church Holt

ST THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

For several years various maintenance issues relating to the St Thomas Aquinas Church, Presbytery and Parish Centre, have been a concern. These issues included leaking rooves, damaged or sagging ceilings, damaged walls, cracks in walls and floors, mould, moth eaten carpet, damaged window frames, deteriorating paint on external window frames and holes in walls, amongst several others. To address these issues an appeal for funds was made during 2025 which raised \$18,915. Unfortunately, this was not enough to undertake all the work that had been identified. Accordingly, it was decided to limit maintenance to the church only pending a decision as to the future use of the presbytery. That work commenced in 2025 and is currently in progress. At the time of writing, all structural work has been completed and painting of damaged surfaces is underway. It is anticipated that all work should be completed within the next few weeks

MENS GROUP

6:00pm Friday 24 April Parish Centre

Peter Kain is a volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial and has agreed to talk to us about “Myths of ANZAC”
beer, wine, soft drink, snack food and pizza

Women's Breakfast

Tuesday 28 April – 7:30am

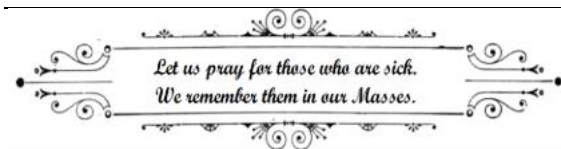
Bean Origin Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen



ALPHA – series of conversations

Do you have questions about life and meaning? West Belconnen Parish is hosting a series of conversations called Alpha, beginning Wednesday the 13th of May for 8 weeks. Come to share some food, watch a video and discuss together. We will meet at St John the Apostle Church from 6 - 7:30pm. Register here: bit.ly/olsh-alpha

Sunday Collection at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish unlike other parishes in our Archdiocese, our churches conducts one collection during Sunday Masses. This collection is split 30/70: 30% is contributed to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Religious Order, which supports the living expenses of priests within our parish. 70% of the collection stays within the parish to cover the parish's operational expenses and ministries. Many thanks to the wardens and counters behind the scene who ensure that collections are taken up and in safe keeping each week.



Recently Deceased: Dr John Broomhead

Anniversary:

Leslie Barry, Daryl Smeaton, Mary Moran, Daniel Dewar, Claudio Orifice, Sheldon Doyle, Yolanda Melikian, Brenda Hudson, John Bizjak, Basil Adkins, Ricaredo Jabagat, Michael Fallon msc, Monique Adamik, Hannah Kennett, Joachim Tittlebach, Frederick Hayes, Len rankin, Betty Dowthwaite, Vladislav Malnar, Joseph Kowalski, David Callanan, Miroslav Chodora, Daniel Julan, Patrica Ticehurst, Andrea Sannazzaro, Michael Quigley, Cyril Harper, Joy Danaher

ACU Blackfriars Lecture: Misinformation as a Threat to International Security: The Cases of North Korea, Ukraine and Iran

Date: Tuesday 5 May

Time: 5pm light refreshments
5:30pm lecture + Q&A

Place: ACU Canberra, Veritas Building (Building 301, Level 1, Room 20), 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson

The lecture examines misinformation as an emerging threat to international security, a challenge explicitly recognised by the UN Secretary-General during the Summit of the Future (2025). In a global environment shaped by instantaneous information flows, AI-generated content, and coordinated influence operations, misinformation has become a strategic tool capable of destabilising societies, fuelling conflicts, and undermining international peace and security.

Registration: [Blackfriars Lecture - Misinformation as a Threat to International Security - ACU](#)

Public Lecture by High Court Judge 13 May | 05:30 pm

The Honourable Justice Simon Steward AC of the High Court of Australia will deliver a public address on jurisprudence and theology at the ANU Law School. Hosted by the ANU Law School, ANU Catholic Society, and the Australian Catholic Students Association (ACSA), this event marks the ACT launch of ACSA's National Conference. All are welcome. Registration is essential — <https://events.humanitix.com/public-lecture-by-justice-simon-steward/tickets>

The Dignity and Mission of the Christian Family - Keynote Speaker: His Eminence Cardinal Mykola Bychok Wednesday 3 June 2026 - 7.30pm Mecure Hotel Braddon

Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania
Register Now: <https://bit.ly/stmf-030626>

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

ROSTERS

26 April Acolyte Roster

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

26 April Lector Roster

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

26 April Ministers of Communion

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

26 April Hospitality Roster

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

26 April SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	19 April	Mary Cruickshank
Church Cleaning:	20 April	Carol Blyth, Dushy Upasena, Nishan Upasena
Grounds	25 April	John Blackwell and Family

Readings 26 April 2026

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41
 Psalm Ps 22:1-6
 Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25
 Gospel John 10:1-10

St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood
23 Lhotsky Street, CHARNWOOD

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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

26 April Acolyte Roster

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

26 April Lector Roster

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

26 April Ministers of Communion

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

26 April Music Ministry / Slides

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

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
 make our hearts burn with love
 when you speak.

Alleluia!