

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 OF EASTER

YEAR A

26 April 2026

#17.26

Gospel Reflection

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

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.

Vocations Sunday 26 April 2026.

When Fr Jules Chevalier founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1854, his vision was a world encompassing one. He wanted the “Sacred Heart to be loved everywhere”, so he called his new society missionaries. His vision encompassed all those who could carry forward his dream. On this Sunday, we pray that those who are called to the priesthood and religious life that they may hear that calling above all the noise; we pray for all those who have answered the call that they have the courage to be faithful. If you would like to know more about a life dedicated to the priesthood or religion life, speak with one of the MSC priests or contact: msc.vocations@misacor.org.au

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

Thursday Night before 1st Friday

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Gethsemane Thursday

30 April 7:30 – 8:30pm

MASS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

1st Friday of every month ■ 9:30am

1 May 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

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

FAREWELL TO SR. COLLEEN

Farewell Morning Tea for Sr. Colleen after the 9:00am Mass Sunday 26 April.

We would like to thank her for the more than 30 years of commitment to our Parish and School. Her dedication and leadership to the community and her support for all never faulted. We wish her well in her retirement and returning to live in her religious community in Goulburn

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Formation Evening for parents

Wednesday 29 April

6:00pm – 7:00

St John the Apostle Parish Centre

belconnenwest@cg.org.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

Spirituality of the Heart:

If you are interested in deepening your understanding of Spirituality of the Heart, the Chevalier family invites you to join a series of Zoom presentations. Sr. Merle Salazar, a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, is presenting Four

Movements of the Heart over a series of four Saturdays beginning on 16 May. The time for Australia is 3.30-4.30 pm. More information along with the Zoom links, Meeting IDs and Passcode is on the brochure that can be found on the

<https://olsh.org.au/prayer-life/>

Funeral Notice – Lesly Gorbach

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

Women's Breakfast

Tuesday 28 April – 7:30am
Bean Origin Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen



Friendship Group Morning Tea

next meeting on **Wednesday 29 April**
10:15am – SJA parish centre

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

SCHOOLS ENROLLING NOW 2027

St John the Apostle School Florey

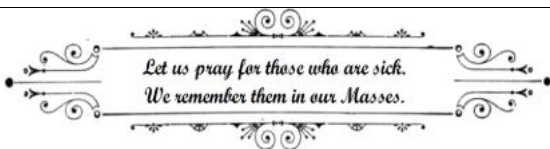
Early Learning Centre
Years Kinder – 6

6258 3592 www.sjaps.act.ed.au

St Thomas Aquinas School Charnwood

Early Learning Centre
Years Kinder – 6

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



Recently Deceased: Jim Jones

Anniversary:

Jaochim 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, Michael Bell,
Denis Carey, Pamela White, Marlene Walls,
Elaine Carter, Anna Rodziewicz,
Ashley Johnson, Anna Clobus, Neil White,
Gertrude Harridence, John Schmich,
Pauline O’Gorman, John Braddon,
Marjorie Brett, Denis Strangman, Felix Catillo,
John Costelloe, Lillian Boyd, Robert Pate,
Ruth Lloyd

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 and stipend for supply clergy. 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.

Jesus Youth Trivia Night

15 May | 06:00 pm

All young adults are invited along to Jesus Youth Canberra's Trivia Night! Happening at 6pm on Friday 15 May 2026 at Haydon Hall, 55 Franklin St Forrest. With a theme of Saints and Bible favourites, pull out your saint costumes and get ready to compete for prizes such as first place, best dressed, best team spirit and MVPs!! Open to all young adults 18+, snacks and drinks provided.

Register now using the QR-code provided or through our Instagram @jycanberra!!

<https://forms.gle/ngGpDXrRtSodoK3H6>



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

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

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

3 May Acolyte Roster

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

3 May Lector Roster

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

3 May Ministers of Communion

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

3 May Hospitality Roster

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

3 May SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	26 April	Margaret Stanford
Church Cleaning:	27 April	
Grounds	2 May	Michael Blyth

Readings

3 May 2026

First Reading Acts 6:1-7
 Psalm Ps 32:--2, 4-5, 18-19
 Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9
 Gospel John 14:1-12

St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood
23 Lhotsky Street, CHARNWOOD

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SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms	1st Sun during Mass
Reconciliation	Contact Parish Office
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

3 May Acolyte Roster

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

3 May Lector Roster

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

3 May Ministers of Communion

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

3 May Music Ministry / Slides

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

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd;
 There is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
 I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
 I know my sheep, and mine know me.
 Alleluia!