

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 OF EASTER
3 May 2026

YEAR A
#18.26

Gospel Reflection

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

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.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Presentation Masses this weekend

We pray for the children of the parish who have commenced their preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on the weekends of 30/31 May and 6/7 June.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

Last Wednesday, the parish had a formation night to kickstart the preparation program for First Holy Communion. The parents were given input to help them accompany their children over the next four weeks.



Week one of the workbook is centred on 'Jesus is with us', where they will explore how the Eucharist is a celebration. Across cultures, milestones and special events are often marked by celebration, with its share of rituals and traditions. These practices convey meaning. They will also reflect on the four ways Jesus is present in the Eucharistic celebration: the people gathering, the priest, the word, and the gifts of bread and wine.

As a community, let us pray for our candidates and their families during this special time.

To my friends in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish and beyond!

Words cannot adequately express my deep appreciation and gratitude for all for the love, friendship, generosity and acceptance that I have experienced over the many years as a member of the parish community.

While a very special chapter in my life's journey may be ended the remaining chapters will be enriched because of you. I have been gifted/graced with so much more than I could ever possibly give. Thank you!

'I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you I pray with joy' 🙏🎵

You will never be far away as I carry you in my heart.

Colleen.....Sister of St Joseph

of the Sacred Heart. ❤️

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



Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Saturday 30 May 2026.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart this year is the first time we will celebrate this special day for our parish. It is also an important feast day for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. To mark this special occasion, there will be an opportunity to learn more about Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on the Friday evening before the feast day, and to come together to celebrate the Eucharist on the Saturday.



Join us at St John's Parish Centre, Kippax, on Friday evening 29 May at 6.30 pm. After a short liturgy, Sr Dain Inglis, a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred, will give a 30-minute presentation, "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – to know her is to love her". You are invited to stay for a cuppa/ coffee following the presentation.

On Saturday 30 May at 10.00 am we will celebrate Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at St Thomas Aquinas, Charnwood. We hope as many as possible will stay for an early lunch as part of our parish celebration.

Community Connections

Connecting with people living alone

Coffee Group – 12 May

2:00pm - Ichi Café

Kippax Shopping Centre

OPEN DAYS
Enrolling for 2027

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School

Thursday 30 April @ 4pm
Monday 4 May @ 10am & 4pm
Friday 8 May @ 10am & 4pm.

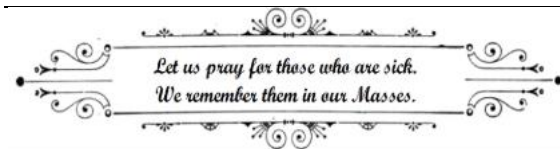
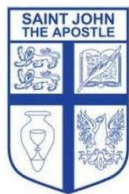
The ELC has the same dates
but their times are either 30
minutes before or after us:

Thursday 30 April @ 3:30pm
Monday 4 May @ 10:30am & 3:30pm
Friday 8 May @ 10:30am & 3:30pm.



St John the Apostle Primary School

Monday 11 May
9:30am – 11:00AM
Thursday 14 May
9:30am – 11:00am
5:00pm – 6:00pm



Recently Deceased:

Anniversary:

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, Jack Draper, Robert Griffiths,
Matthew Ray, Helen Kelly, Cesar Leon,
Lawrence Southwick, Dorothy Towse,
Adelaide Giurgola, Terence Gaynor,
Bernadette McGrath, Andrew Harker,
Jeremy Hope, Zeffirina Penfold,
Kenneth Brennan, Krysta Lindstrom,
Harrison Wroe, Antonia Gladwish,
Pat McLindin, Kevin Crossley, Sarah Sealey,
Betty Cowman

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/>

Community Connections

For People Living Alone
Monthly Gathering
17 May 3:30pm - 5:00pm
St John the Apostle Catholic Church
Parish Library

Pins & Needles

7:15pm – Monday 18 May
St John the Apostle Catholic Church
Parish Library

Women’s Breakfast



Tuesday 26 May – 7:30am
Bean Origin Café
Nettlefold Street Belconnen

Men’s Group

6:00pm Friday May Parish Centre Kippax
beer, wine, soft drink, snack food and pizza

MOVIE NIGHT

7:00pm – 22 May
St John the Apostle Catholic Church
Parish Library
We are watching
“The Scarlet and the Black”

Friendship Group Morning Tea

next meeting on **Wednesday 27 May**
10:15am – SJA parish centre
Please come and join us, you are all most welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

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

ROSTERS

10 May Acolyte Roster

5:00pm	Anthony Jayawardena, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30am	Maria Scarr, Frank Craddock
10:00am	Francesca Deklin, Peter Kain
6:00pm	Nunga Umaru

10 May Lector Roster

5:00pm	Colleen Reed, Therese Kercher
8:30am	Sigrid Kropp, Mariana Rollgejser
10:00am	Pam Connor, Dennis Punaird
6:00pm	Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck

10 May Ministers of Communion

5:00pm	Maria Catanzariti, Marian England
8:30am	Shane Murtagh, Carmel Screen
10:00am	Frank Colley, Margarete Gill
6:00pm	John McGee

10 May Hospitality Roster

5:00pm	Jenny Maher, Mercia Needham
8:30am	Mandy Lalor, Wendy Wade
10:00am	Shovin Weerawarnakula, Francesca Deklin
6:00pm	Sabina Van Rooy, Peter Igoe-Taylor

10 May SJAShop

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

Weekly Rosters

Altar Society	3 May	Maryanne Ferguson
Church Cleaning:	4 May	Joseph Le Van Hai, Lanh Dang, Sam Van Nguyen
Grounds	9 May	Carl Madsen, Bede Foundling

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in your.

St Thomas Aquinas Church Charnwood
23 Lhotsky Street, CHARNWOOD

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 Sunday 9:00am
 Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am
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 Tues 9:30am

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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

10 May Acolyte Roster

6:00pm	Adam Smith-Platts
9:00am	Peter Osborne

10 May Lector Roster

6:00pm	Annaliese Smith-Platts, Peter Osborne
9:00am	

10 May Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Geoff Barker, Cathy Howard
9:00am	Leo Walsh, Helene Axelby

10 May Music Ministry / Slides

6:00pm	Recorded, Patrick Smith-Platts
9:00am	Beverly & Choir, Eden Ybas

Readings

First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
 Psalm Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20
 Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18
 Gospel John 14:15-21

10 May 2026

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
 I am the way, the truth, and the life,
 says the Lord;
 no one comes to the Father,
 except through me.
 Alleluia!