



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo ACT and 220 Victoria St, Hall ACT
Supporting and supported by Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd,
Mother Teresa Primary Schools and St John Paul II College



24-25 December 2022

Christmas 2022 | Year A



Holy Spirit Amaroo

Monday 26 December

No Mass
Office closed

Tuesday 27 December

No Mass

Wednesday 28 December

No Mass

Thursday 29 December

No Mass

Friday 30 December

No Mass

Saturday 31 December

4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass

Sunday 1 January

8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass



St Francis Xavier Hall

No Mass on 8 January 2023
Cycle will begin on
22 January 2023

Fr Mark's Farewell Message 2022

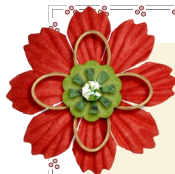
This is my 15th and final Christmas at Holy Spirit. Having completed the work, I began years back; I will walk away with many great memories. I have met so many people from so many walks of life. Indeed, the number of children baptised, funerals and wedding would total over a thousand and each time I lead in these roles, despite the monotony of the same process, I feel most privileged and fulfilled in sharing moment with whoever the family might be. When people are met with respect and accepted for who they are, all feel at home in the Church even though so many rarely enter on a practicing base. I have never forgotten where I came from to the priesthood and always feel most at home with these families. Indeed, I am very blessed in my own priesthood. What is most life giving is not so much what I have done in this time, but what I have learned from you the parishioners. We are now the most multicultural area in Canberra not to mention the majority of Australia. It makes a wonderful blend. Not only does this give our parish a differing perspective we are now seeing many other religions living in harmony within our Gungahlin community.

In this period of my leadership there have been many changes. The Church had only just opened when I arrived in 2008 and we had only the two primary schools in our parish. The further explosion of the population has seen us gain one more primary school and the High School College, St John Paul's. However, for whatever bricks and mortar that have grown, a community still needs a heart. This parish with the Church and school makeup, has a great sense of belonging which has been so well fostered from the beginning of its inception. Let none of us forget this and nor take it for granted. It needs us all to keep the heartbeat going. Often people remark when they visit here about the sense of welcome they experience, along with the spirit in which people participate.

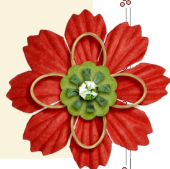
I have been blessed over the years with the quality of staff who are not only gifted in their roles but have a love for the Church. So much of what translates into the Church liturgies at weekends and other special events comes from these people and the many other generous volunteers who so generously devote their time and abilities to the Church for the sake of us all.

Thank you to all for the support you have given me over such a long period of time. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I will for you. May God Bless and keep you, Happy Christmas!

Fr Mark Croker



We wish you and your family a joyous and Holy Christmas.
May the peace of Christ live in our hearts and homes, our
neighbourhood and our world.
We thank you for your support throughout 2022.





You make our parish a wonderful place!

To all those members of our Parish Community who have helped in any way with the parish liturgies, groups, parish maintenance or any activities over the last year. Your contributions and generosity are invaluable and you have helped to develop and support this community. In particular we would like to thank the following individuals: Nita Corliss (Funerals/ Sacristan), Veronica Davis (Window Display) Suzanne Kukolic (Liturgy), Fiona Wilkinson and

Peter Elford (Parish Grounds and Community Garden), George Burke (Charis, Roof, Community Garden to name a few), Franc Glavinic (Painting and Stairs). And as a group, a big thank you to our cleaning teams who come every week to ensure the church is clean for us to worship in. Thank you to all!

Please keep the following individuals in prayer.....



For those who are sick

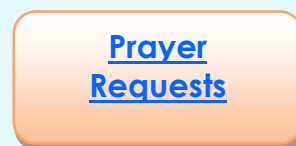
Jim Banks
Diego Castaneda
Dorrell Hogan
Rhonda Lipton
Grant
Alan Demascus
Gowri Shivasabesan
Kathy Morris
Juana Iris Gvevara
Sandra Cortez
Priscila Adriano
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell
Alex Yap
Caitlin Wigglesworth

Recently Deceased

Jordan Sulkowski
Simone
Elizabeth Fritzi

Anniversaries

We include those who are members of our Parish or relatives. Please email contact the parish office or click here to request prayers.



A Christmas Prayer

Lord,
We welcome You
into our hearts
and homes.
Bless us with
Your peace, fill us
with Your joy,
surround us with
Your love.
We celebrate You
for coming.
Amen.



Parish Office and Holiday Mass Schedule



- * **Parish Office opening hours over the holiday** - The Parish Office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year and will re-open on **Tuesday 3 January 2023** for reduced hours. We can be contacted via email at office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au. Alternatively, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- * **No Weekday Masses** - Due to the changeover of priests, there will not be weekday Masses from Tuesday **27 December—Friday 6 January 2023**. Weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday 10 January 2023. Please check the parish app to see if there will be liturgy services on any particular day.



Children's Sacramental Program 2023

Sacrament of Confirmation

For children in Year 6 and above wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023. Information sessions will be held on **Tuesday 14 February** at the church.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated **9, 10, 11 May 2023**.
Enrolment link: <https://forms.gle/oGMZ2GXVxi477pos9>

Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation

For children in Year 3 and above wishing to receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation in 2023. Information sessions will be held on **Tuesday 20 June** at the church.

Celebration of First Reconciliation
Week of **21 -24 August**

Celebration of First Eucharist
At Masses on weekends
9-10 September and 16-17 September



For more details please visit our [website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au) or Contact the REC at school.



Christmas Giving



- * **Donating to St Vincent de Paul** - Christmas Appeal envelopes are available in the foyer. Please continue to support Vinnies generously.



- * **Fr Mark's Special Appeal**

A big thank you to everyone who have made a contribution to this special appeal. We received a total of \$2400 in cash donations. Through your generosity we were able to help 8 extremely grateful families and bring some Christmas cheer to them. If you feel you have missed giving and would still like to, you can donate online <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/holyspirit> or normal parish bank account (BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Reference: Parish Advent Giving) or use envelopes available in the foyer and place it in the Wooden Box or collection baskets. We will distribute any funds received in January to help additional families with back to school expenses.

Farewell and Thank You!

As well as saying goodbye to Fr Mark and Fr Thonn, earlier this month we farewelled **Naomi Johnson, Katrina Battilana** and **Paris Morris** from their formal roles in the Parish Office.

After much consideration Naomi made the tough decision to move on and tendered her resignation as Parish Office Support. Naomi has been such a great joy to the Parish Office team and has implemented a few initiatives and ideas to support the parish financially, as well as streamlining some of our complex record keeping procedures (WWVP being one!). Whilst we are sad to say goodbye to her, we support her in all her new endeavours. Naomi has offered to provide occasional support to the parish office once she settles into her new role.



We say goodbye to Katrina who has been with years since January 2021 as our Sacramental Coordinator. Whilst it was not "2020", Katrina still had to navigate a lot of Covid-19 related challenges with the Sacramental program, which she faced each one with a smile, determination and care. Katrina and her family are moving to sunny Cairns early January and we wish the whole family all the best (even if we are all a little jealous!). We will miss her unique Irish humour, commitment and work ethic.

After an interesting, fun and challenging couple of years of Youth Ministry at Holy Spirit Parish, Paris finished up her final youth group on 11 December 2022. We will still see Paris around as the Youth Minister for Good Shepherd Primary School.

We would like to thank Naomi, Katrina and Paris for all their work and wish all three of them the best for the future.

Welcome!

We formally welcome **Anne Smart** to the team as Parish Office Support. Some of you may have already received emails from Anne about roster and ministries. Anne will be managing our various parish rosters, music licencing and parish registers.



Jokes from Christmas Crackers....



- Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? Samson because he brought the house down.
- Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Tonight's sermon: 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our carol practice.
- Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible? When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.



May God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
The warmth of Christmas which is love;
The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.

~Wilda English

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Online Mass Contribution (First and Second Collections combined)

We encourage you to continue to support our parish by making contributions to our First and Second Collections online. Follow the steps below to make a secure online donation.

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Select Biller Code 1002872 – Mass Contribution
3. Enter your payment details.



Parish Bank Account Details

BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish

CONNECT WITH US

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Croker

Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony (Fr Thonn) Riosa, SSS.

Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622
Website: www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Assistant: Theivani Evers

E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
P: 0472 921 518

Parish Secretary: Magda Baraniecki

E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Office Support: Anne Smart

E: officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Finance Officer/ Planned Giving: Tony Rose

E: gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Katrina Battilana

E: sacraments@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Minister: Paris Morris

E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Steve Seesink

E: stephen.seesink@gmail.com

Parish Groups

Craft Group | Beth Forshaw
Mondays 1:30pm Parish Office

St Vincent de Paul | Maria Stark—Regional President
P: 0468 992 034
E: maria.stark@vinnies.org.au

Call to Connect | Anne Smart
M: 0415 175 802

Reflecting on Scripture | Fortnightly on Tuesdays
Alison Weeks alisonmweeks@bigpond.com or
Jim Corrigan: mjet@grapevine.com.au

Social Justice Group | Peter Petersen
E: socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com

Legion of Mary | Grace Magbutay
E: office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Youth Ministry | Paris Morris
E: youth@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Young Adult Ministry | Frances Dinn
E: frances_1406@hotmail.com

Care Group | Sonja Vocisano
P: 0438 699 591

Community Garden Group | Parish Office
E: theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Download our parish app: **Pocket Parish** from **App Store** or **Google Play**.