



# 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



23-24 March 2024

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord | Year B



## Holy Spirit Amaroo

For Holy Week Mass times please see the flyer on the next page.

Please note there will not be any weekday morning Masses on Holy Thursday or Good Friday.

## Holy Water

Will be available after Easter Masses for a gold coin donation



## This Is My Body

When we hear the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, we remember our Eucharist: *Take, this is my body.* But originally the words implied more than a ritual offering. Jesus offered his real flesh and blood to friends and persecutors alike. He surrendered his life in that hour. Nothing could be more generous, or more gentle. Yet those who seized his body and took his life were far from gentle. There is violence buried in the word "take." They took his body; and they slapped, spat at, mocked, whipped, pierced, and murdered him.

Today we look up at our sacrament and hear benevolent words: *This is my body.* The crucifix reveals the violence in those words, but all trace of it is gone from our bread and wine. What was sacrifice is now food. What was suffering is salvation. What was meant to destroy has become the source of life. Jesus died on the cross, but nothing was lost there. God gathered up the fragments of that great offering, and made eternal food. When we take the body of Jesus now, it is with great reverence.

**Consider your relationship to the sacrament of Eucharist. How has your understanding of it changed over time?**

## Pray

Deep Spirit, present within all things, we gather as a people, alive with hopes, fears, longings, joy, and weariness. We come in worship, we come in community, we come in expectant vulnerability. In peace, may we continue our Lenten journey from Lent into Holy Week. May worship be filled with a sense of wonder, a sense of fragile longing about the events to come, a sense of what it means to be part of our sacred humanity. In the spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## Ponder

Is your life consecrated to God's purposes? Let every moment of your day be a holy one. Give yourself, body and soul, to God in prayer, and experience the power of Eucharist. "*Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?*" Jesus said, "*Yes, I am, and you'll see it yourself.*"

## Kids' Corner

*Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear. (Isaiah 50: 4)*

When you woke up this morning, what did you hear? Birds chirping outside? Someone preparing breakfast? Sometimes sounds are so familiar, we hardly notice them. But sounds can be important, especially if they warn us of danger or teach us something new.

This week, as you hear the Sunday Gospel, listen to the sounds described: a jar of oil breaking, a rooster crowing, a crowd shouting, and then finally, silence. Think about these sounds this week, and pay attention to all you hear – especially the voices of people asking for help.

Open my ears to your voice, Lord. Amen. [www.gpbs.com.au](http://www.gpbs.com.au)



## St Francis Xavier Hall

Saturday 23 March 5:00pm

No Mass on Saturday  
30 March

# Parish News and Events

## Parish Newsletter:

Did you know our parish newsletter can be delivered directly to your email inbox?  
If you would like to receive the newsletter this way you will also be helping us to save on unnecessary printing. The online version is more comprehensive and is not limited to four pages.  
You will be able to stay connected with the parish even when you are out of town.  
[You can subscribe to the newsletter here.](#)



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



### For those who are sick

Kathy Morris  
Elisabeth Faith O'Connell  
Caitlin Wigglesworth  
Kwang Hui Lim  
Grant  
Gail  
Elizabeth  
Adriano Cesar Junior  
Maria Teresa Meireles  
Theresa and Joseph Tan  
Cyril Jolicoeur  
Tony Johnston  
Jaya Raghwan  
Julie Mirfan  
Paul Johnston  
Edwin Joseph Dsouza  
Alan Kay  
Sharron Davis  
Michelle  
Mark Bush  
Tim Watson  
Jim Banks  
Barbara Kirk  
Vesna Ljubičić  
Gaudencio Montaos  
Alonso  
Rosalind Murphy  
Sharni Laffan  
Marc Darlington  
Liam O'Brien  
Nancy Phillips  
Daranee Thepthong

### Anniversaries

Sharon Ching Au  
Jo Malouf  
Bernard Jose Guirola  
Melhado

### Recently Deceased

### Birthdays

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

## Your invitation to Holy Week 2024



### AT HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CHURCH, AMAROO

- **PALM SUNDAY 23/24 MARCH** -  
Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am & 5:00pm
- **RECONCILIATION 26 MARCH** -  
Tuesday 7:00pm

### AT ST. JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE, NICHOLLS

- **HOLY THURSDAY 28 MARCH** -  
Thursday 7:00pm
- **GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH** -  
Friday 9:00am Walking Stations of the Cross  
Friday 11:00am Stations of the Cross  
Friday 3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion
- **HOLY SATURDAY 30 MARCH** -  
Saturday 7:00pm Easter Vigil Mass
- **EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH** -  
Sunday 9:30am Only (No 8:00am or 5:00pm Mass)

For information about Holy Week visit



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

[www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

[Prayer Requests](#)



## Warm Clothing Appeal - Palm Sunday 23-24 March 2024

As summer has come to an end and the cooler days are fast approaching, we may remember our brothers and sisters who will find the winter months difficult due to lack of warm clothing and blankets. As part of our Lenten journey we remember Palm Sunday (Jesus' entry into Jerusalem), we hear of Jesus riding on the donkey through the gates of Jerusalem and people shedding their cloaks and tunics. This year I would like us to do the same, I would like us to shed a warm piece of clothing and bring it on Palm Sunday Weekend (23-24 March) and hang them on the end of the first chair of each row and after Palm Sunday services we can pass on the clothing to our brothers and sisters who are standing beside us shivering through St Vincent de Paul.

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## We need to prepare for the Archdiocesan Assembly 18 - 20 October 2024



To prepare for the Archdiocesan Assembly in October, parishioners are invited to join others from across the Archdiocese for a time of prayerful dialogue in the spirit of synodality on significant topics in the life and mission of the Church. The Roundtables Series is grounded in core themes from the Plenary Council and broader topics of Synodal discernment. The Roundtables hope to identify existing initiatives and opportunities for collaboration amongst parishes, communities, movements and ministries. These will also develop a foundation and inform both content and process for the Archdiocesan Assembly in October this year.

### Important dates for your diary are:

- ◆ **Expanding the Tent: Ethnic and Ecclesial Communities, Ministries and Movements** – Tuesday, 16 April – 4.30pm – 6.00pm
- ◆ **Moments of Encounter: Sacramental Initiation and Liturgy** – Thursday, 18 April – 4.30pm – 6pm
- ◆ **Our Common Home: Justice, Outreach and Integral Ecology** – Friday, 24 May – 4.30pm – 6pm
- ◆ **Seek the City: Faith in the Public Sphere** – Saturday, 22 June – 1pm – 2.30pm
- ◆ **Reconciliation and First Nations: Healing Wounds, Receiving Gifts** – Sunday, 7 July – 12.30pm – 2pm – 6pm
- ◆ **The Equal Dignity of Women and Men in Our Church** – Thursday, 1 August – 4.30pm
- ◆ **The Voice of the Child: Safeguarding the Gift of our Children and Vulnerable** – Wednesday, 4 September – 1pm – 2.30pm

All Roundtables will be held at St Christophers Pastoral Centre + Zoom – click here to register or visit <https://www.cgevangelisation.org.au/roundtables/>

For further information, our Parish contact is Jim Corrigan at [jim.corrigan67@gmail.com](mailto:jim.corrigan67@gmail.com)



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### Cursillo Retreat, 12-14 April, St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong

Cursillo provides an opportunity for men and women to renew and deepen their faith life through a program of talks, meditations and prayer. Contact Irma and Joe at [irmandjoe@gmail.com](mailto:irmandjoe@gmail.com).  
Info: <https://bit.ly/cursillo24>





# Palm Sunday Rally – Justice for Refugees

**On Sunday 24 March** the annual Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees will be held in Garema Place, Canberra at 1pm. **Members from Holy Spirit Parish will meet at the merry-go-round from 12.30pm.** The rally will support the rights of refugees in Australia.

24 March is also the feast day of St Oscar Romero, who was martyred for his words and actions in support of social justice issues in his home country of El Salvador.

## Why should you care about refugees?

Every Christian has a responsibility to care about the poor and downtrodden of society. People seeking asylum in Australia have often been threatened in their own countries in ways we would find hard to imagine in the relative safety of Australia.

They have often been persecuted because of their race, religion, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, resulting in the suffering of serious human rights violations, including torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The process for acceptance of refugee status in Australia for asylum seekers is incredibly slow. People are waiting for years. Many are still being held in detention. It isn't right.

## What can you do?

Come along to the Palm Sunday Rally and join with members of the local Social Justice Group. If you can't attend the rally you could think about making a donation to the Australian Refugee Action Network [Australian Refugee Action Network ARAN](#) or Canberra Refugee Action Campaign [Refugee Action Campaign, Canberra \(RAC\) - Home](#) or the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project [Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project - Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project \(BASP\)](#)

You can write to politicians, both government and non-government to ask them to do more to help refugees.

Don't forget that Jesus and the holy family were once refugees. According to the gospel of Matthew the holy family had to flee to Egypt to avoid the vengeance of Herod. So they were displaced from their home. It is also important to remember the words of Matthew (Matt 25:35) where the king separates the sheep from the goats and one of the criteria is "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". We need to be welcoming.

*Mark Carter*

On behalf of the Social Justice Group

**JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES**

**PERMANENT VISAS NOW**

Palm Sunday Rally  
1pm 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Garema Place

# Focolare Children's Lenten Retreat big success

The first Focolare Kids Lenten program was held over Canberra long weekend. The first day, Sunday, 10 March in the home of one of the parishioners in Forde and the second day was held in the Parish Rooms on Monday, 11 March 2024.

The Parish Focolare leadership team of Adriana Martinez, Catherine Ross and Anna Kabir were well supported in their efforts by our Priests, Fathers Troy and Eden, Parish Manager, Theivani Evers and parishioner, Maureen Hilton.

The aim of the Focolare Movement is to contribute to building a more united world in which people value and respect diversity, inspired by Jesus' prayer to the Father, 'May they all be one.' (Jn. 17:21) [For more information go to Home - Focolare Movement \(https://focolare.org.au/\)](https://focolare.org.au/) or follow the Oceania Facebook page 'Focolare Oceania – updating and communications'.

Below is a collage of photos that illustrate the gift of enjoyment and blessings that were shared over the weekend by the 14 children and 10 adults who attended.

Fr Eden participated on the first day and the team are grateful for his support.

The group will meet again on **Sunday, 7 April at 10.45am (after the 9.30am Mass) in the Parish Rooms for about 45 minutes and all mums and kids** are invited.

If you would like more information, please contact Anna on [kabirfamily8@gmail.com](mailto:kabirfamily8@gmail.com)

Anna on behalf of Adriana and Catherine





**Enrolments  
now Open!**



ST JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE  
1021 Gungahlin Drive, Nicholls

# OPEN EVENTS at JPC

**Try JPC Day** Friday 22 March 2024  
9.00 am - 2.30 pm

**Open Evening** Wednesday 3 April 2024  
4.30 pm - last tour at 6.30 pm

**Try JPC Day** Friday 10 May 2024  
9.00 am - 2.30 pm

**Senior College  
Expo** Tuesday 7 May 2024  
4.30 pm - 6.30 pm  
Years 9 - 12

**Enrolment Period for Year 7 2025**  
29 April 2024 - 31 May 2024



Visit the St John Paul II  
College Website to book your  
tickets for all events  
[www.act.jpc.edu.au](http://www.act.jpc.edu.au)



## God is Not Distant

The truly good news is that God is not a distant God, a God to be feared and avoided, a God of revenge, but a God who is moved by our pains and participates in the fullness of the human struggle.... God is a compassionate God. This means, first of all, that he is a God who has chosen to be God-with-us....

As soon as we call God, "God-with-us," we enter into a new relationship of intimacy with him. By calling him Immanuel, we recognize that he has committed himself to live in solidarity with us, to share our joys and pains, to defend and protect us, and to suffer all of life with us. The God-with-us is a close God, a God whom we call our refuge, our stronghold, our wisdom, and even, more intimately, our helper, our shepherd, our love. We will never really know God as a compassionate God if we do not understand with our heart and mind that "he lived among us" (John 1:14).

Dear Lord, show me your kindness and your gentleness, you who are meek and humble of heart.

So often I say to myself, "The Lord loves me." Yet time and again I have to confess that I have not let your love descend fully from my mind into my heart. In the coming weeks, O Lord, I will be able to see again how much you indeed love me. Let these weeks become an opportunity for me to let go of all my resistances to your love and an occasion for you to call me closer to you.  
Amen.

## WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### First Collection (Supporting all priests of the Archdiocese)

1. BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00029248 Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund Ref: Gungahlin and Surname
2. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!

### Second Collection (For the upkeep of our parish, staff salaries, parish loans, liturgical needs etc)

1. Click on <https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/donations-payments/secure-online-payments/>
2. Direct Credit: BSB: 062 786 Acc Number: 00010701 Acc Name: Holy Spirit Parish
3. Tap and Go machines or Qkr!



## CONNECT WITH US

**Parish Priest:** Fr Troy Bobbin

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Eden Langlands

### Parish Office and Presbytery

93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo Ph: 6242 9622

Website: [www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Parish Manager:** Theivani Evers

E: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

P: 0472 921 518

**Parish Secretary:** Vacant

E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Office Support:** Anne Smart

E: [officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:officesupport@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Finance Officer/ Planned Giving:** Tony Rose

E: [gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au](mailto:gungahlin.finance@cg.org.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Sean Ryan

E: [sean.ryan.cdss@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ryan.cdss@gmail.com)

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

### Parish Groups

**Craft Group** | Beth Forshaw  
Mondays 1:00pm Parish Office

**St Vincent de Paul** | Drazen Roginic President  
P: 0401 669 301  
E: [Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Drazen.Roginic@vinnies.org.au)

**Call to Connect** | Maureen Hilton  
M: 0431 123 465

**Holy Spirit Prayer Group** | Kathy Torcasio 0401 920 028  
Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church

**Social Justice Group** | Peter Petersen  
E: [socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com](mailto:socialjustice.hsp@gmail.com)

**Legion of Mary** | Grace Magbutay  
E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Youth Ministry**  
E: [office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

**Care Group** | Sonja Vocisano  
P: 0438 699 591

**Community Garden Group** | Parish Office  
E: [theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

### St Francis Xavier Social Group

Greg Farrugia 0412 299 549 [gjvita@gmail.com](mailto:gjvita@gmail.com)

Gabrielle O'Kane 0417 464 216 [okane.hall@gmail.com](mailto:okane.hall@gmail.com)