



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

4 HARTLEY STREET, P.O. BOX 9, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Guided by the Holy Spirit, OLSH Parish in Central Australia is a family of God actively engaging in Jesus' love bringing justice, compassion and charity to all creation.



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Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5:00p.m.

Facebook Page: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

8:30 am - 12 noon

Saturday and Sunday - Closed



“Families cannot help but be places of support, guidance and direction, however much they may have to rethink their methods and discover new resources. Parents need to consider what they want their children to be exposed to, and this necessarily means being concerned about who is providing their entertainment, who is entering their rooms through television and electronic devices, and with whom they are spending their free time. Only if we devote time to our children, speaking of important things with simplicity and concern, and finding healthy ways for them to spend their time, will we be able to shield them from harm. Vigilance is always necessary and neglect is never beneficial. Parents have to help prepare children and adolescents to confront the risk, for example, of aggression, abuse or drug addiction”.

Pope Francis *A/Laetitia*, Chap.7/260

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A
14th - 15th December, 2019

CALLED TO GREATNESS AND HOLINESS

We are now very close to celebrating the Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity, Christmas Day, on December 25th. The Lord is very near and is coming quickly, as the Liturgy of the Church keeps reminding us. It is the recurring theme in the season of Advent.

The nearness of the Lord should be a comfort to all believers. The Redeemer of all people is coming, desiring that all of us partake of everlasting life. Christ our God came among us as a human being, toiling and suffering for us, sharing our existence to the full, showing us how to live and how to hand ourselves over in the service of God and neighbor.

The Lord calls us to give of ourselves, what Christ also called “losing oneself,” in order to truly find oneself, whereby we attain complete fulfillment, realized in Christ who dwells in our hearts.

The scripture readings assigned for the Third Sunday of Advent, when the vestment color changes, remind us of the Lord's nearness and how pleasant and rich the mystery of God's coming really is. The color assigned by the Church for today's liturgy is rose, recalling the fragrant offering we make to God and calling to mind what many consider to be the most fragrant of flowers, the rose. Our Church in her liturgy wishes us to know that our God can be compared to the powerful beauty and fragrance of the rose. Of course it is only a comparison, since our God transcends the beauty and goodness of all things.

In the first lesson for this Sunday Isaiah the Prophet rejoices in the thought of the transformation of all things: the barren desert, the parched earth, the dry fields, the weak and drooping hands and knees, those who are frightened—anything and anyone in need of encouragement, enrichment and life. Presumably that includes each of us as well. We are sinful creatures, yet called to greatness and holiness, possible by the active working of God in our souls, what is called supernatural grace. It cannot be weighed or measured, but is more real than anything we have ever had or experienced.

We carry on in the season of Advent with gentle expectation of truly meeting the Lord who has loved us into being and invites us to taste immortality.

Fr Raass SVD

Parish Priest:

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD

Assistant Parish Priest:

Fr Alejandro de la Sotta SVD

Arrernte Catholic Chaplain

Fr Olivier Noclam SVD

Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr Leonse K. Moosariparambil.

Parish Council Chairman

Mr Manfred Casseeram

Contact: chairpersonppc@gmail.com

Liturgy Coordinator

Sr Anne Surtees OSU

Sacristan

Ms Sue Bain

RCIA Director

Sr Helen Kennedy FMM

Parish Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

Safety & Health Officer

Mr Fred Twohig

Parish Treasurer

Mr Kevin Hickmott

Parish Social Media Coordinator

Cindy Decosta

olshparishmediateam@gmail.com

OLSH College Principal

Br Tony Caddy FMS

Sunday School Catechists

Knight Family

Hospitality Coordinator

(TBA)

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Mr George Tetteh, Ms Pane Komene

& Mr Manfred Casseeram

Contact: olshsafeguard@gmail.com

Smart-Loving Ministry

(Pre-Nuptial)

Mr & Mrs Emil Tabadda

Parish Mass Schedule

Monday to Friday: 7am & 5:30pm; Saturday 11am & 6 pm; Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am & 5:30 pm;

Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community

11am Indigenous Community Mass except

2nd Sunday of the Month

Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

We acknowledge the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to the Elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia. As we share our faith within our Catholic family we also acknowledge those that paved the way to give us our Church and Parish and welcome all into our community.

+ PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +

Daily Readings: starting 16 December 2019

Mon: Num 24:2-7,15-17 Mt 21:23-27
Tues: Gen 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17
Wed: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-24
Thu: Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Lk 1:5-25
Fri: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Song 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
Sun: Is 7:10-14 Mt 1:18-24
Rm 1:1-7

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Harry Buckley, Ethel Jean Candaroma Leonie Palmer, Mike & Judy Bowden, Jim Brown, Nod Rioux, Kersley Dabeesing, May Shah, Jenny Leahy, Poppy Lindbeck, Kathy Golotta, Kweralya Quall, Virgie Gomugda Golfo, Tricia Wormald, Eric Robinson, Marie Liedwinger, James Harvey, Grace Boog, Coleen Langcake, Felisa Sara, Betty Rawson, Ellen Gunner, Latai Mailau, Penelope Fleming, Joan Brenton, Pauline Cardoz, Shiroma Bulner, Anne Tobin, Margaret McNaught, Thomas Andrew Jackson, Joyce & Duncan Komene, Bernadette Dowd, Georgina Gilbert, Clare Lorkin, Luigia Sabadin, Ailyn Talavera.

May the Lord grant them healing

Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:15 pm

Baptism: By appointment, one month's notice required. Formation of parents falls on the 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 pm -8:00 pm

Marriage:

By appointment only, 12 months' notice required for divorced requiring annulment, otherwise 6 months for free-to-marry Catholics.

Devotional Practices:

Prayers of the Holy Rosary

Monday to Thursday 5pm

Prayers of Devotion to St. Joseph

First Wednesday of the month 9am

Contact: Cathy Golotta 8952 1991

Syro-Malayalam (Indian) Fellowship

Sunday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Home Based)

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday from 6-7pm; every second Saturday of the month from 3-4 pm at Missionaries of Charity Convent, 12 Standley Crescent.

Christian Meditation (Presbytery Chapel)

Thursday 12:00 - 12:30pm

Weekly Bible Sharing

Wednesdays 6:15pm -7:00pm

Children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word

Every Sunday from 9:20am

Charismatic Prayer Group

Every Thursdays 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Divine Office - Liturgy of the Hours

Monday to Friday 6:45am

ADVENT is not....

Although the Church is only just beginning its period of preparation for Christmas, retail stores put their Christmas gift displays and Christmas decorations in place months ago. Advent is probably the most misunderstood and misrepresented season of the liturgical year. It might be instructive to counter some of the misconceptions about this season by looking at what Advent is not.

Advent is not Christmas. It is a period of waiting, of anticipation, of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, but it is not the time for celebrating that event. In fact, the first three weeks of Advent focus on Christ's second coming at the end of time. It is only from December 17th that the readings and prayers of the Mass start to refer directly to the birth of Christ. Not until this date should we even think about singing Christmas carols at Mass or putting up the nativity scene in the church!

There is plenty of time to sing carols and to pray before the crib during the Christmas season, which does not finish until the Baptism of the Lord. While there seems to be general acceptance of the fact that it is not appropriate to sing 'Alleluias' before the Easter Vigil, this is not translated into an understanding of the inappropriateness of singing carols long before 25 December.

Advent is not Lent. In the past, Advent took on penitential characteristics, but the liturgical documents describe Advent as a time of 'devout and joyful expectation' (my emphasis). Many parishes use a lighter shade of violet for Advent vestments to emphasise that it is different from Lent. The Gloria is omitted during Advent, not because it is a season of penance and abstinence, but so that we might sing this hymn, which echoes the song of the angels heralding the birth of Christ, with renewed joy and vigour on Christmas night.

Advent is not the end of the year for the Church as it is for the secular calendar, but rather the beginning of a new liturgical cycle. We have now moved into year A, the year of Matthew, in the 3-year cycle of Sunday readings, and into year 2 for weekdays. Preaching and liturgical symbols during Advent need to emphasise that this time of year is for Christians not an ending, but a new beginning, a chance to start again with hope in the future.

It is no easy task in the midst of all the contrary messages and images coming from the world, for the Church to be counter-cultural and remain faithful to the true spirit of Advent, but at least we should make an effort!

Bishops' Liturgical Commission

FAREWELL TO SR HELEN KENNEDY FMM, SR MARIE JEANNE FMMBR JAMES HODGE FMS, & A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO Br TONY CADDY FMS.

OLSH Parish will be farewelling Ss Helen & Marie Jeanne and Brs James & saying thank you to Br Tony FMS on Saturday 21 Dec during and after the 11:00am Mass. The parish owes so much gratitude to the three hardworking religious and are leaving for another chapter in their vocational response. Please bring a plate to share. Thank you.

OLSH PARISH MARIAN PILGRIMAGE



This is a traditional 18nights/22days Marian Pilgrimage, covering five countries in Europe departing on 4 October 2020. Indicative Costing: Based on 15-19 paying = AUD\$10,250.00 per person / twin share. Single Supplement: AUD\$1,890.00 per person. Start saving!



**OLSH PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS
SCHEDULE 2019**

**Christmas Eve,
Tuesday December 24th**
7:00pm: Children's Christmas
Vigil Mass
9:30pm - 10:15pm: Carols & Reflection
10:30pm: Christmas Night Mass

**Christmas Day
Wednesday December 25th**
9:30am Mass, *One Mass Only!*

Please Note: No other Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Day except the 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are asked to rearrange their

PARKING

Parking on the Church access road is strictly for the disabled only, during Mass times.

Please do not park on the Church access road where the yellow line is marked. This is reserved for Emergency Vehicle access. We have provided a Drop Off and Pick Up zone for people who would like to use this zone for that purpose only.

If you do not possess a disabled sticker, please utilize the free parking available at the ANZAC

“ I just want to say THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve you and your families. It has been a life-changing experience And I am leaving you with a heart full of Gratitude and knowledge of me and God. Please look after each other and keep returning to the Table of the Eucharist. May the intercessory prayers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart keep you safe in God’s loving heart. Thank you”.



PRISON MINISTRY

Please take note that our Prison Ministry will resume this week. If this is something you wish to do, talk to Fr Olivier.

Cleaning: December 21, 2019 **Group 4**
Mary Neck, Jan Jennings, Stephanie King, Joyce Clifford

Counters: December 22, 2019
Mel & Tinna Buenviaje

Last Week’s Collections

1st Collection: \$1,388.50 (for the presbytery)
2nd Collection: \$1,098.85 (for the parish)
Planned Giving: \$997.00

Thank you for your time and kind generosity!

Groups please remember to keep the Bulletin Team informed if you change your days/times etc.

Parish Service Groups on Hold During Festive Season

(21st Dec 2019—12th Dec 2020)

- Social Justice Awareness Team
- Parish Council/Finance & Works
- Hospitality Team
- Children’s Sunday Catechism
- Catholic Youth of Alice Springs
- Adult Faith Education on Mondays
- Thursday Aboriginal Bible Sharing
- Wednesday Bible Sharing
- Christian Meditation
- Friday Holy Hour
- Liturgy Team

Ongoing Parish Service Groups During Festive Season

- Prison Ministry
- Parish Wednesday Bread Run
- Aboriginal Communities Visitation
- Old Timers Eucharist on Thursdays
- Hospital Visitation
- Choirs & Cleaners
- Readers & Ext. Ministers

LEAVE a gift to OLSH PARISH in Your WILL

Think about it...

The Catholic Church has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your First Communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. The work of the many ministries of the Catholic Church are far-reaching, life-giving and life-saving ... every day.

By leaving a gift to OLSH PARISH in your Will, you will leave a legacy of faith – a legacy to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue both for today’s needs and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

But talk to your family members first. They are your first priority.



Friendly Reminder: Please observe the disabled parking bays around OLSH Church and refrain from using these if you do not carry a badge or permit. - Fr Raass

Roster for weekend of December 21 - 22, 2019

	Commentator	Readers	Communion Ministers
Sat 6:00pm	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 7:30am	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 9:30am	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 5:30pm	Volunteer	Volunteers	Volunteers

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A
14th - 15th December, 2019

Entrance Antiphon:

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading:

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 145:6-10

R/ Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading:

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon .

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Isa 61:1

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer

Communion Antiphon:

cf Isa 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES & MEETINGS

Adult Faith & Culture Formation :

TBA

Prison (Correctional Centre) Ministries

Tuesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Sunday: December 29, 2019

Ministers' Ecumenical Fellowship

1st Tuesday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

Bread Delivery to Town Camps (facilitated by OLSH College)

Wednesdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Yuendumu Aboriginal Mission (5hrs drive)

2nd Wednesday of the month

Children's Sunday School

Every Sunday from 9:20am except on school holidays

Jay Creek Aboriginal Mission (20m drive)

3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:00pm

Old Timers Aged-Care Ministries

Thursdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm, Mass on the 2nd Thurs of the Month

Hetti Perkins Aboriginal Ministry

3rd Friday of the month from 10:30am-11:30am

Harts Range Aboriginal Mission (3hrs drive)

4th Friday of the month

Parish Council Meetings

1st Thursday of the month from 6:15pm-8:00pm

Finance Team Ministry

1st Saturday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

Catholic Youth of Alice Springs

1st & 3rd Friday of the month, 6pm at JP2 Hall.

Arrenrte Catholic Elders Bible Study: Every Thursdays from 10-12midday, lunch provided.

CAAAPU (Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation)

Sundays from 4:00pm—5:00pm

Social Justice Awareness Group: 4th Sunday of the month from 3:00pm-4:30pm

Sunday Mass Pick-Up: Every Sunday if you can help those who wish to attend Mass in the main Church.

Hospitality Ministry: After every 9:30am Sunday Mass and during major events of the parish.

Children's Choir: Every Saturday's at 1:00pm in the main Church

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME +