



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.



Parish Contacts:

Phone: (08) 8952 1049

Fax: (08) 8952 9823

Email: olsh_parity_asp@bigpond.com

Website:

www.olshparishalicesprings.org.au

Bulletin: Email:

olsh.parity.bulletin@gmail.com

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



“Obsession, however, is not education. We cannot control every situation that a child may experience. Here it remains true that “time is greater than space”.²⁹¹ In other words, it is more important to start processes than to dominate spaces. If parents are obsessed with always knowing where their children are and controlling all their movements, they will seek only to dominate space. But this is no way to educate, strengthen and prepare their children to face challenges. What is most important is the ability lovingly to help them grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline and real autonomy. Only in this way will children come to possess the wherewithal needed to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently whenever they meet with difficulties. **“Pope Francis A/Laetitia, Chap.7/261**

4th Sunday of Advent Year A
21st - 22nd December, 2019

Parish Priest:

Fr Asaeli Raass SVD

Assistant Parish Priest:

Fr Alejandro de la Sotta SVD

Arrernte Catholic Chaplain

Fr Olivier Noclam SVD

Fr Alfonsus Nahak

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-Nup)

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

JOSEPH'S HEART

Let us present this Sunday's Gospel from the point of view of St Joseph, the betrothed of the Virgin Mary.

Joseph and Mary were dwelling in rural Nazareth; they were not yet living together, because they were not yet married. In the meantime, Mary, after having welcomed the Angel's announcement, came to be with child by the power of the Holy Spirit. When Joseph realized this, he was bewildered. The Gospel does not explain what his thoughts were, but it does tell us the essential: he seeks to do the will of God and is ready for the most radical renunciation. Rather than defending himself and asserting his rights, Joseph chooses what for him is an enormous sacrifice. And the Gospel tells us: “Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly” (1:19) – but not without sorrow in his heart!

Biblical scholars tend to think of two possible theories. The first is called the suspicion theory and it is the most popular. Joseph is thought to have suspected Mary of being unfaithful with another man in getting pregnant. The second is pious theory based on the idea that Joseph realized that the child in Mary's womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that he, Joseph, was so overwhelmed with the holiness of the situation and the responsibility of being a step-father to God's child and of being a husband to His mother, that Joseph was afraid since he was a humble man and didn't consider himself worthy to be part of that family.

Imagine the great trial in Joseph's heart in the days preceding Jesus' birth. Imagine, giving up what was most precious, the person most loved. God intervenes, and rightly so! This is a very unusual and mysterious interaction between Mary, Joseph and the Holy Spirit. Joseph needs help right away and the angel says, “Joseph, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:20).

This Gospel passage reveals to us the greatness of St Joseph's heart and soul. He was following a good plan for his life, but God was reserving another plan for him, a greater mission. Joseph was a man who always listened to the voice of God, he was deeply sensitive to his secret will, he was a man attentive to the messages that came to him from the depths of his heart and from on high. He did not persist in following his own plan for his life, he did not allow bitterness to poison his soul; rather, he was ready to make himself available to the news that, in a such a bewildering way, was being presented to him. And thus, he was a good man. He did not hate, and he did not allow bitterness to poison his soul. Yet how many times does hatred, or even dislike and bitterness poison our souls! And this is harmful. Never allow it: he is an example of this.

Let us make ourselves ready to celebrate Christmas by contemplating Mary and Joseph: Mary, the woman full of grace who had the courage to entrust herself totally to the Word of God; Joseph, the faithful and just man who chose to believe the Lord rather than listen to the voices of doubt and human pride. With them, let us walk together toward Bethlehem singing ‘Joy to the world’!

Fr Raass SVD
Parish Priest

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 23 December 2019

Mon: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66
Tues: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 Lk 1:67-79
Wed: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
Thu: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22
Fri: 1 John 1:1-4 Jn 20:2-8
Sat: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18
Sun: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 Mt 2:13-15,19-23
 Col 3:12-21

+ Pray & read your Bible every day +



Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Oliver Surtess, Harry Buckley, Ethel Jean Candaroma Leonie Palmer, Mike & Judy Bowden, Jim Brown, Nod Rioux, Kersley Dabeesing, May Shah, Jenny Leahy, Poppy Lindbeck, Kathy Golotta, Kwerralya 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



Farewell Speech of Fr Raass SVD (last Sunday)

Priest of OLSH Parish

2004-2009/2014-2019

Bishop Charles, Parish Councillors, Finance & Works Team, Team Leaders, Parish Coordinators, religious, brothers and sisters in Christ.

You know what, I prefer hellos than goodbyes. And I promise myself not to cry during this farewell speech.

I have said many goodbyes in my seventeen years as a priest and still gets emotional and words don't express much of what needs to be said. I still remember the feelings when my parents tucked me into bed and said goodnight. I remember that first day at primary school – it was painful and hard to manage as a small kid.

Today the feeling is sort of bitter-sweet because on one hand, I am leaving behind twelve years of friendship and on the other hand opening new ones. Well, it is an inevitable part of life and must be faced. Maybe I'll do some yoga classes while eating ice cream to soothe my feelings! I think I am just experiencing a sense of loss and anticipation of the new role as Provincial-elect of the Divine Word Missionaries in Thailand, Burma, New Zealand and Australia effective from 1 Jan 2020. I am now officially leaving OLSH Parish to take on this massive responsibility and will reside in Marsfield, NSW. Thank God I will have two secretaries to manage my workload.

I feel in my heart that I have to especially thank God through Mary Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who have guided this parish since 1929 and 50 years of this church building. ...and still going. God's grace has made this day possible considering that His mercies are new every morning...!

When I received word from Rome about this new leadership responsibility, I asked "Lord, what do You ask of me? It is a great weight that You are placing on my shoulders" ...and few minutes later, "Lord, what did I do wrong?!" After some reflection I can now say to God "Yes Lord, but, if You ask it of me, I will cast my nets out wide, confident that You will guide me, even with all my weaknesses. And I do not have to do it alone".

My life in this parish has been a very tight schedule juggling various roles and responsibilities in Darwin, Alice Springs and Sydney. It has been demanding and energy draining with difficult moments. But then along any of the Church's path, I too have had moments of joy and light, graced moments. It felt like St. Peter and the Apostles in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. Indeed the Lord has given this parish many days of sunshine and light breezes, days when the fishing was plentiful, but also times when the water was rough and the winds against us, just as throughout the whole history of the Church, when the Lord seemed to be sleeping.

But I always knew that the Lord is in that boat and I always knew that the boat of the Church is not mine, not ours, but is His. And the Lord will not let it sink even if we all want it to sink! The Holy Spirit is the one who steers her, of course also through those He has chosen because that is how God wanted it.

And that is why today my heart is filled with gratitude to God, because He never left this parish—the whole Church or me—without His consolation, His light, or His love. I am only grateful to be chosen to participate in His mission.

I am using metaphors I am familiar with, fishing, boats, rough seas because I am a saltwater person. It's one of those things I really miss – the expansiveness of the ocean. Sometimes I would look into the warm blue sky in Alice Springs and pretend it's the ocean and birds as fish in the sea! Today the deep blue sky reminds me of the expansiveness of God's love hovering over the desert and waters of Mother Earth, and from time to time stretching our narrow existence.

One of my regrets was not knowing each one of you personally. Getting to know everyone by names has been difficult however I feel my loving you compensated for these feelings of "I should have known your name and understood you better". Another regret I have is my inability to learn the Arrernte language. I remember one day I was asking God to just give it to me – to wake up one morning and bingo – I can speak Arrernte! Of course, language learning is not some sort of magic. I hope and pray my brother priests and all of us can learn some Arrernte language and culture for the sake of reconciliation, respect and good will.....con't next page

.....I am leaving with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that I will always treasure. Working here has been a massive learning curve and I am thankful to God for the gift of patience I have acquired over the years. Of course, there is a lot more we could do together for our parish.

All Parish Priests are different and hence different leadership styles. If I have in any way did not live up to your expectations and have not been a good role model, I beg your forgiveness. I am sorry. There have been times I had to make some executive decisions which were difficult but always I believe for the good of the parish.

Just the goldsmith fashions a precious metal until it's pure and shine bright, so does the Lord refines us until we become a reflection of his glorious presence.

That's one of the beautiful things I have realized in my twelve years walking with you and the Lord Jesus Christ! We are still the clay and He is the Master Potter.

Please keep returning to the Table of the Eucharist and the Word. Look after each other especially the needy in our community of Alice Springs. You have been so good and so kind to me these years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you. To all volunteers of the many service groups, you are such an inspiration. God bless you heaps for the many gifts and talents offered willingly for others and God.

Finally, as I leave the desert sands of the Arrernte peoples and this Catholic community, I am conscious that I am not only sent by my superiors in Rome on this new mission. You too are part of this mission, God's Mission, and you are sending me as well.

What unfolded at OLSH Parish for all these years have truly become a solid stepping-stone to say goodbye and move on. I WILL MISS YOU VERY MUCH.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace''- (Numbers 6: 24-26).

A Merry Christmas and Happy 2020 to you all.

- Fr Raass SVD



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!*

Thursday 26 December

Feast of Stephen

5:30pm MASS ONLY

Please Note: No other Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Day except the 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are asked to rearrange their work schedule in order to attend one of the three Christmas Masses.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Due to rising temperatures, all weekday Masses will be celebrated in the small Chapel at the presbytery. Please drink lots of water and look after the kids during school holidays.

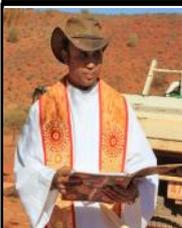
LEAVE a gift to OLSH PARISH in Your WILL

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.



WELCOME FR PRAKASH MENEZES SVD

New Parish Priest of
OLSH PARISH



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 28 - 29, 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

Cleaning: December 28, 2019 **Group 5**
Oliver & Dorothy Ponado, Sammy Nobleza

Counters: December 29, 2019
Eric & Kath McGargill

Last Week's Collections:
1st Collection: \$1,156.90 (for the presbytery)
2nd Collection: \$1,512.45 (for the parish)
Planned Giving: \$1,535.00

Thank you for your time and kind generosity!

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

4th Sunday of Advent Year A
21st - 22nd December, 2019

Entrance Antiphon:

cf. Isa 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 23:1-6

R/ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfill the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer

Communion Antiphon:

Isa 7:14

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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 +