



# Canberra Inner North Catholic Community

Under the Care of Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS)

Fr Anthony (Thonn) Riosa SSS Moderator - [anthony.riosacg.org.au](mailto:anthony.riosacg.org.au)

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**Parish Secretary:** Kathie Guillester | **Parish Manager:** Julie Barnes

Telephone: 0416 823 447 | Email: [innorthcg.org.au](mailto:innorthcg.org.au) | Mail: PO Box 900, Dickson ACT 2602

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am - 3.30pm | Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals: by Appointment contact the Parish Office

## Acknowledgement of Country

*We Acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, as Traditional Owners of the land where*

Issue 06 - 31st December 2023 - Year B



### ST BRIGID'S & ST PATRICK'S CANBERRA CENTRAL PARISH

2 Bancroft Street,  
Dickson ACT 2602

Fr Sebastian Luistro SSS

Website:

<http://cg.org.au/canberracentral>



### ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

30 White Crescent  
Campbell ACT 2612

Fr Anthony Riosa SSS

Website:

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

Facebook:

[facebook.com/  
st.thomasmore.campbell](https://facebook.com/st.thomasmore.campbell)



### BLACKFRIARS PARISH

Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street,  
Watson ACT  
2602

Fr Renoir Oliver Jr SSS

Website:

[www.cg.org.au/watson](http://www.cg.org.au/watson)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Holy-  
Rosary-Parish-Watson](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson)



### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

61 Boronia Drive,  
O'Connor ACT 2602

Fr Anthony Riosa SSS

Facebook:

[St Joseph's Parish, O'Connor,  
ACT](https://StJosephsParish,OConnor,ACT)

## Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parishes are committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action. This approach is to follow Jesus' command in Matthew 18:1-3.

Inquiries or concerns please contact:

- Fr Anthony Riosa SSS  
[anthony.riosacg.org.au](mailto:anthony.riosacg.org.au)
- Maria Hicks (Manager)  
Phone 02 6239 9806
- Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) [ipsscg.org.au](mailto:ipsscg.org.au)





### Entrance Antiphon - Luke 2: 16

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant  
lying in a manger.

### First Reading - Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 104(105):1-6,8-9

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

### Second reading - Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered

Cont...up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

### Gospel Acclamation - Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;

because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

### Communion Antiphon is Not recited when hymns are sung.

#### Communion Antiphon: Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.

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## OFFICE CLOSURE

**Canberra Inner North Catholic Church Offices will  
close on FRIDAY 23 December and re open on  
TUESDAY 2nd January at 9:00am.**

## THANK YOU

Fr Anthony, Fr Renoir, and Fr Sebastian with members of the Parish Team would like to thank all parishioners for your generosity and help during the year.

We have a huge list of people to acknowledge.

'Thank You' to members of the Parish Finance Councils, Parish Pastoral Councils, CINSC (Canberra Inner North Steering Committee).

'Thank You' to the Acolytes, Readers, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Welcome Ministers, Musicians & Choir, Catechists, Counters & Collectors, Social Function, Pastoral Care, Flower Ladies, Maintenance, St Vincent de Paul, Altar Linen / Sacred Vessel Carers, Prayer, Reflection and Renewal Groups, Sausage Sizzlers, to the parishioners who work tirelessly away in the church attending to a myriad of chores and all the other quiet achievers who contribute to the life of our wonderful Parish!

***We share with you the glory, the wonder, the miracle of this beautiful Holy Season.***



Cont...that they will enable us to learn how our own solar system developed and whether there is life on other planets.

In the face of such staggering immensities of time and space, how insignificantly tiny we are! And the Creator of it all? How could our minds ever form the faintest idea of a Being of such grandeur and power?

As Paul exclaims, "How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?" (Rom 11:33-34)

This month we will see numerous Christmas cribs with the familiar figures of an adolescent girl and her husband gazing lovingly into the eyes of a new-born baby boy lying in a bedding of straw – an animal's feeding box. Yes, the very Creator of the universe is there among us, as a tiny, fragile infant! From the beginning his powerlessness is emphasized, having to flee a cruel tyrant seeking to kill him lest his own power be threatened. Some early Christian authors saw the swaddling clothes as a hint of what was to come at the end.

For, according to Jewish custom, the lambs to be sacrificed in the Temple were bound and their legs were swaddled. "He was wrapped in swaddling clothes," Gregory Nazianzen noted, "then took off the swathing bands of the grave by ... rising again." Once risen, Jesus inaugurated a new relation to our world in commissioning his disciples to become bearers of his message.

Through the gift of his Spirit, he would be with them now as an interior companion to encourage and guide them in living and proclaiming his message through the centuries to come until the end of the time. They were to learn from the model of his own earthly life as they sought to make him tangibly present in the world of their time, culture, and language.

Once again, God had chosen to work through finite creatures, now his church. Respecting our freedom meant choosing to work with our limitations and resistances, with our stubbornness and half-heartedness, while always renouncing recourse to coercive force.

For over fifty years now our church has been undertaking a major re-set, seeking to free itself from outdated cultural elements and attitudes that have at times obscured, warped, or distorted the full embodiment of his message – the marginalising of women, a clericalism that infected ministry with hierarchical class and power, the condoning of colonialism and even slavery... The list could go on. To see that the work is ongoing it is enough to look at a photograph of a session of the current Synod in Rome. There we see the members, for the first time ever, seated at a series of round tables all on the same level – lay women and men beside priests, bishops, and cardinals (and the Pope) without a hint of hierarchical ordering. Moreover, all have the same right to speak and to be heard, as well as to vote.

God invites us at Christmas to ponder prayerfully on the incarnation, on his choice of working within our human vulnerability rather than having recourse to worldly methods of dominance, privilege, and exclusion. How might the Synod be a pointer for us disciples of in Australia today?

It all began in Bethlehem?  
Fr Tony McSweeney, SSS



## YEAR END

As we come to the end of the year, we reflect on how God has been with us every step of the way. We thank God for his gentle, loving presence – and pray that in the New Year we will be more alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, leading us through Jesus into even deeper union with our loving God.

## NEW YEAR

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.



All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires. All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have - these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

## IT ALL BEGAN IN BETHLEHEM

Stunning photographs from the Hubble and James Webb telescopes have provoked amazement and wonder worldwide. According to space scientists, we are viewing cosmic events taking place over 13.5 billion years ago when the first galaxies were beginning to form. It is hoped

## ENCOUNTERS

Some encounters leave us with a sense of having experienced the divine. It might not immediately be obvious but we go away from having met someone with the same sort of awe and reverence that Simeon has when he encounters the infant Jesus. So moved is he that he articulates that which only becomes obvious to so many others much later in Jesus' life: here is the Messiah, the Saviour promised to the Jewish people.



Simeon was able to discern a lot about the baby carried in the arms of Mary and Joseph.

On a weekend when we celebrate the family, and the example set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let us not forget the faithfulness evidenced in the testimony of Simeon. Like Simeon, when the time comes, may we recognise Christ in others. [D. McGovern editor@churchresources.com.au](mailto:D.McGovern_editor@churchresources.com.au)



*Mary held in her arms  
the God of Love,  
that he might hold in our  
hearts the Love of God.*

## OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.  
Petronella Wensing, Margaret Byrne, Marguerite Sergi

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Labez Jazrawi, Bill McManus, Romano Ippoliti  
Deceased Family and Friends

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIEST & PARISH

### Contribute to the First Collection.

Account Name: Central Presbytery Fund  
BSB: 062-786 - Bank Account: 000029248  
Reference: Use your Parish Location to assist in correct allocation & Your Name (e.g. Campbell Smith)

**Planned Giving:** Planned Giving is a weekly, fortnightly or monthly contribution to the first and/or second collection via cash, direct Debit or credit card. By contributing you help by the parish to forecast and budget its ongoing expenses. To contribute to your parish's planned giving, please contact the Parish Office.

### Canberra Central Parish

Account Name: Canberra Central Parish  
BSB: 062786 - A/C: 000013150  
Reference: Name & Giving Number

### Blackfriars Parish

Account Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson  
BSB: 062786 - A/C: 000013341  
Reference: Name & Giving Number

### St Joseph's Parish

Account Name: St Joseph's Parish  
BSB: 062 786 No: 000012798  
Reference: Parish & Name

### St Thomas More Parish

Account Name: St Thomas More Parish  
BSB: 062786 - A/C: 000014869  
Reference: Campbell/Surname

## In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Mary Pavey, Anne Corver, Sue King, Barbara Wilson, Una Bell, Philip Bailey, Peter Catlin, Veronica Cornelly, Rosa Maria Santos, Gloria Sibley, Beth Delos Santos, Fr Ellis Clifford, June Pollard, Philip Cruz, Maureen Blood, Awny El-Ghitany, Pamela Sandy, Una Ford, Robin Lees, Elizabeth Webster, Ann Moran, Colleen Brackett (& friend Jackie), Brenda Currer, Joan Goodwin, Dave Senior, Nadine Hartley, Gabriel Hengkiarto Indra, Mary O'Hanlon, Baby Remi Elliott, Tony Bandle, Clare Packer, Mahsa Raoofian, Christopher Douglas, Kahren, daughter of Joycelyn, Lyn Mowbray Lily Copeland, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Alphonsa & Maria Bankovsky, Carmel Slammon, Carol - Jayne McManus

## WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
St Patrick's (Braddon)		12:30pm	12:30pm	12:30pm	12:30pm	
St Thomas More's (Campbell)					10:00am*	
St Brigid's (Dickson)			9:00am	9:00am		9:00am
St Joseph's (O'Connor)		9:15am	8:00am	9:15am	9:15am	8:30am
Holy Rosary (Watson)		5:30pm	5:30pm	5:30pm	5:30pm	
ACU-Signadou (Watson)			12:00noon**			

\* During school term, as advised when Classes attend.

\*\* First Wednesday of month during University Terms

## SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES

	Saturday Vigil Mass	Sunday Morning & Evening Masses				
		8:00am	8:30am	9:30am	10:00am	5:00pm
St Patrick's (Braddon)		8:00am			10:00am *	
St Thomas More's (Campbell)					10:00am	
St Brigid's (Dickson)	6:00pm			9:30am		5:00pm**
St Joseph's (O'Connor)	6:00pm		8:30am			
Holy Rosary (Watson)	5:00pm				10:00am	5:00pm
ACU-Signadou (Watson)						

\* German Mass

\*\* Vietnamese Mass (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

## ADORATION & SACRAMENTS

	Reconciliation
St Patrick's (Braddon)	12:00 noon Friday
St Brigid's (Dickson)	9:30am - 10:00am Saturday 5:30pm - 5:50pm Saturday
St Joseph's (O'Connor)	5:30pm - Saturday (during Holy Hour)
Holy Rosary (Watson)	4:00pm - 4:30pm Saturday
	Adoration of the Eucharist
St Brigid's (Dickson)	9:30am - 8:00pm Wednesday
St Joseph's (O'Connor)	8:15am - 9:15am Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
Holy Rosary (Watson)	6:00pm - 7:00pm Friday
	Pray the Rosary
St Brigid's (Dickson)	8:30am Tuesday to Saturday
St Joseph's (O'Connor)	After morning Mass Tuesday, Wed (Cenacle), Thursday, Friday
Holy Rosary (Watson)	Before 10:00am Mass, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays
	Anointing of the Sick
St Joseph's (O'Connor)	8:30am First Saturday of the month
St Thomas More (Campbell)	11:15am First Sunday of the month

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **3.00pm TUESDAY**  
Ph: 0416 823 447 email: [innernorth@cg.org.au](mailto:innernorth@cg.org.au)