

OUR PARISH WELCOME

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

Pope Francis (EG 114)

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers, people of colour and colourful people.

We welcome you whether you can sing like a lark or just growl quietly to yourself. You are welcome here if you are 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We do not care if you are more Christian than our Archbishop, or have not been to church since Christmas or Easter last millennium.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but have not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep fit mums in 'active wear', football dads in team colours, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegans and vegetarians or junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you are having problems, down in the dumps or do not like organised religion.

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, LGBTQI+, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or poor.

We offer a welcome to those who think the world is flat, work too hard, do not work, cannot work or cannot spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to our parish now.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could do with a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or simply got lost because their GPS or Google Maps let them down and they ended up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, refugees, asylum seekers, tourists, searchers, doubters . . . and you!

Adapted by Fr Richard VG from the original in Coventry Cathedral, updated 25 January 2024

Our Parish

Mary Help of Christians

Our Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Our Patron

Mary Help of Christians

Our Feast Day

24 May

Dedication of Sacred Heart Church

12 December 1976

by Bishop Pat Dougherty DD

Parish Priest: Fr Emil Milat

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MARY,
HELP OF CHRISTIANS
PARISH

SOUTH WODEN, ACT

PASTORAL PLAN 2024-2027

"Refresh my heart in Christ"

Philemon 1:20b



Year of the Holy Spirit
August 2023 - August 2024

"It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit" Act:15-28

Our parish acknowledges and celebrates the indigenous custodians of this sacred land.



OUR MISSION

All the Church, all the Gospel,
all the people, all the time.

From Christ the Evangeliser
to the Evangelising Church, we are
called to **EVANGELISE THROUGH...**

Encounter - the place

To lead others to have a deep and profound
personal experience of God through, with and in
Jesus Christ.

Discipleship - the people

The modern person listens more willingly to
witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen
to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.
Evangelii Nuntiandi 41

Mission - the possibilities

Proclaim the Word of God; Celebrate the
sacraments, especially the Eucharist; To be
missionaries of charity to others.

Resources available at:
<https://www.cgevangelisation.org.au/>



WORSHIP

As disciples sharing the evangelising mission of the Church, we embrace the teachings and the traditions of the Catholic Church in an Australian context. The Eucharistic celebration is the source and summit of our faith. We seek to live and serve that faith with an open heart. Excellence in our worship honours God.

We value Inclusiveness

Our intent:

- Vibrant ministries
- Relevant today and for tomorrow
- Our diverse communities are valued and engaged

WORD

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and that the Gospel is the life of Jesus Christ breathed into our lives. The Word of God directs our evangelising journey of faith and brings us joy. Two Gospel texts: the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4:5-30) and the Emmaus disciples (Lk 24:13-35) assist our focus for evangelisation.

We value Joy

Our intent:

- Formation programs for all parishioners
- Formation programs for ministry teams
- Strong and vibrant Liturgy

WELFARE

We believe that our Baptism calls us into an evangelising family that is constantly nourished and renewed by all the sacraments. This teaches us to love one another as Christ loves us. We strive to build a culture of welcome and hospitality, caring for all members of our global family, especially the marginalised and the poor.

We value Each Other

Our intent:

- Responsible Social Justice focus
- Flourishing community
- Connected to our whole Archdiocese

WORKS

We witness to Jesus' evangelising mission by ensuring our structures and ministries are safe, inviting and open to positive change. We are sensitive to the needs of our neighbour, our environment and to the planet which is in our care.

We value This Challenge

Our intent:

- Maintain an engaging public profile which reflects our "care for our common home"
- Ensure a financially, viable Parish for the next generation
- We commit to upholding all national safeguarding standards for the wellbeing of our staff, parishioners and all visitors
- Maintain a responsive, future focused Pastoral Parish Plan