

Welcome

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 9 MARCH 2025

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW
2045

P: 02 9798 6657

E: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

W: www.stjoanofarc.org.au

Office hours:

Tuesday—Friday 9am-3pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary: Paula Cheng

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil): 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)

Weekdays:

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan

P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan

P: 9712 2133

From the Pastor

Breaking Crystalware No Sin

Imagine you're at a friend's house, and you accidentally drop her cherished crystalware, shattering it into pieces. To make matters worse, you don't immediately apologize. You feel terrible—so much so that you wonder whether you need to go to confession. But do you?

While good manners encourage us to be polite and respectful, failing in etiquette is not necessarily a sin unless it stems from deeper pride, selfishness, or a lack of charity. Saying "please," "thank you," and "sorry" fosters a pleasant community, but neglecting these courtesies is not, in itself, a matter for the confessional.

Understanding Sin

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, sin is "an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity" (CCC 1849).

Sin has two key dimensions:

1. A rupture in our communion with God (*cf.* Psalm 51:4)
2. A failure to love and care for others.

At its core, sin stems from human pride and self-centeredness—a rejection of God's love.

The Social and Personal Dimensions of Sin

The personal dimension of sin is easy to grasp. However, fewer people recognize its social dimension—when sin leads to unjust structures that perpetuate evil (*cf.* CCC 1869). While personal sins call for acts of contrition and confession, social sins demand public acts of penance and charity.

Understanding this social aspect is crucial to our call to establish God's Kingdom. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say, "*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:10). Our participation in charitable initiatives like *Project Compassion* is not just about making amends for personal sins but also about addressing social injustices that hinder hope and joy for many around the world.

Determining the Seriousness of Sin

The gravity of sin—whether personal or social—is determined by three key factors:

1. The seriousness of the matter
2. Full knowledge of its moral weight
3. Deliberate consent

This applies to both sins of commission (wrongful actions) and omission (failure to do what is right).

To repair the rupture in our relationship with God and others, we need both personal conversion and social responsibility. Lent is a time of preparation to receive Jesus Christ, the Savior who brings us the fullness of life (*cf.* John 10:10). Anything that obstructs this transformation is sin—and it must be removed.



First Reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R)

Second Reading Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the

heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord .

Prima lettura Dt 26,4-10

Professione di fede del popolo eletto.

Dal libro del Deuteronomio

Mosè parlò al popolo e disse:

«Il sacerdote prenderà la cesta dalle tue mani e la deporrà davanti all'altare del Signore, tuo Dio, e tu pronuncerai queste parole davanti al Signore, tuo Dio: "Mio padre era un Aramèo errante; scese in Egitto, vi stette come un forestiero con poca gente e vi diventò una nazione grande, forte e numerosa. Gli Egiziani ci maltrattarono, ci umiliarono e ci imposero una dura schiavitù. Allora gridammo al Signore, al Dio dei nostri padri, e il Signore ascoltò la nostra voce, vide la nostra umiliazione, la nostra miseria e la nostra oppressione; il Signore ci fece uscire dall'Egitto con mano potente e con braccio teso, spargendo terrore e operando segni e prodigi. Ci condusse in questo luogo e ci diede questa terra, dove scorrono latte e miele. Ora, ecco, io presento le primizie dei frutti del suolo che tu, Signore, mi hai dato". Le deporrai davanti al Signore, tuo Dio, e ti prostrerai davanti al Signore, tuo Dio».

Parola di Dio

Salmo responsoriale Sal 90

Resta con noi, Signore, nell'ora della prova.

Chi abita al riparo dell'Altissimo
passerà la notte all'ombra dell'Onnipotente.
Io dico al Signore: «Mio rifugio e mia fortezza,
mio Dio in cui confido».

Non ti potrà colpire la sventura,
nessun colpo cadrà sulla tua tenda.
Egli per te darà ordine ai suoi angeli
di custodirti in tutte le tue vie.

Sulle mani essi ti porteranno,
perché il tuo piede non inciampi nella pietra.
Calpesterai leoni e vipere,
schiaccerai leoncelli e draghi.

«Lo libererò, perché a me si è legato,
lo porrò al sicuro, perché ha conosciuto il mio nome.
Mi invocherà e io gli darò risposta;
nell'angoscia io sarò con lui,
lo libererò e lo renderò glorioso».

Seconda lettura Rm 10,8-13

Professione di fede di chi crede in Cristo.

Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo ai Romani

Fratelli, che cosa dice [Mosè]? «Vicino a te è la Parola, sulla tua bocca e nel tuo cuore», cioè la parola della fede che noi predichiamo. Perché se con la tua bocca proclamerai: «Gesù è il Signore!», e con il

tuo cuore crederai che Dio lo ha risuscitato dai morti, sarai salvo. Con il cuore infatti si crede per ottenere la giustizia, e con la bocca si fa la professione di fede per avere la salvezza.

Dice infatti la Scrittura: «Chiunque crede in lui non sarà deluso». Poiché non c'è distinzione fra Giudeo e Greco, dato che lui stesso è il Signore di tutti, ricco verso tutti quelli che lo invocano. Infatti: «Chiunque invocherà il nome del Signore sarà salvato».

Parola di Dio

Canto al Vangelo Mt 4,4

Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!
Non di solo pane vivrà l'uomo,
ma di ogni parola che esce dalla bocca di Dio.
Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

Vangelo Lc 4,1-13

Gesù fu guidato dallo Spirito nel deserto e tentato dal diavolo.

Dal Vangelo secondo Luca

In quel tempo, Gesù, pieno di Spirito Santo, si allontanò dal Giordano ed era guidato dallo Spirito nel deserto, per quaranta giorni, tentato dal diavolo. Non mangiò nulla in quei giorni, ma quando furono terminati, ebbe fame. Allora il diavolo gli disse: «Se tu sei Figlio di Dio, di' a questa pietra che diventi pane». Gesù gli rispose: «Sta scritto: "Non di solo pane vivrà l'uomo"».

Il diavolo lo condusse in alto, gli mostrò in un istante tutti i regni della terra e gli disse: «Ti darò tutto questo potere e la loro gloria, perché a me è stata data e io la do a chi voglio. Perciò, se ti prostrerai in adorazione dinanzi a me, tutto sarà tuo». Gesù gli rispose: «Sta scritto: "Il Signore, Dio tuo, adorerai: a lui solo renderai culto"».

Lo condusse a Gerusalemme, lo pose sul punto più alto del tempio e gli disse: «Se tu sei Figlio di Dio, gèttati giù di qui; sta scritto infatti: "Ai suoi angeli darà ordini a tuo riguardo affinché essi ti custodiscano"; e anche: "Essi ti porteranno sulle loro mani perché il tuo piede non inciampi in una pietra"». Gesù gli rispose: «È stato detto: "Non metterai alla prova il Signore Dio tuo"».

Dopo aver esaurito ogni tentazione, il diavolo si allontanò da lui fino al momento fissato.

Parola del Signore

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year C, Luke 4:1-13

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Temptations

After his baptism Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where the devil put him to the test. Jesus was offered three shortcuts to his living in harmony with the will of his Heavenly Father.

First, when *he* was hungry there would be bread out of stones.

Second, when he wanted to change the world he could have absolute political power.

Third, when he needed to take risks, angels would keep him safe.

Our baptism does not insulate us from the same threefold pattern of temptation. Do you find yourself saying:

I want the whole world to change to satisfy me, *or*

I want to exercise power over others, *or*

I want to take stupid risks and come out unharmed, *or* all three!

What must we do when such temptations assail us?

Realise that such temptations are much less powerful than they seem – the last gasp of the vanquished devil. Imitate Jesus in going to the Scriptures, preferably the Gospels, in order to have the words to hurl back at the devil as you are tested.

We could pause to make a Lenten resolution to read a Gospel, and to do so confident of our Baptismal identity as beloved daughters and sons of God.

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Understanding the Gospel, Luke 4:1-13

Scriptural context – The temptations

The three temptations Jesus faces all focus upon the nature of his mission and ministry. The first temptation is to miraculously feed himself – is his ministry to be about himself or others? The second is to take power and authority over all the world – to fulfil the human expectations of what a Messiah ought to be or fulfil God's plan of service, rather than domination? The third temptation is about grandstanding – to make a spectacular declaration of his arrival or to minister to the lowly and reveal himself in that way?

Have you thought? – The Devil

The personification of 'the devil' is sometimes difficult to contemplate. The one who tempts Jesus in the wilderness is referred to in this passage as 'the devil'. Devil is the English translation of a Greek word, *diabolos*. As the gospel of Luke was originally written in Greek, we can assume that *diabolos* was the word used. *Diabolos* has several meanings: *the accuser; the slanderer; the one who separates*. It is the purpose of the temptations to 'separate' Jesus from God and from his intended approach to his ministry. The temptations we face are often those that 'separate' us from what we know to be right.

Living the Gospel – Lent

The 40 days that Jesus spent praying and preparing in the wilderness is reflected in the season of Lent that lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter Sunday (not counting Sundays in the season). It has been traditional that during the time of Lent Christian people renew their efforts in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. All three of these practices are actions of preparation. Just as Jesus prepared for his ministry in the wilderness, so too is Lent an opportunity for us to be deliberate about our reflection on what we are called to do in this world.

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Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

April

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART

GRACE



I was born in Australia into a strict Italian family. My father was a real disciplinarian, and interestingly, my parents did not go to church. So, my sisters and I did not go to church either during our childhoods. We never said prayers at home and we never said the rosary. However, I was sent to a good Catholic school. I fondly remember singing the hymn *'God is dwelling in my heart. He and I are one. All his joys he gives to me, through Christ His Son.'* I still relate strongly to those words. Yes, I did my first Holy Communion, and have a photo to show you, although my parents did not attend the service. My Uncle Nick, who was my godfather, took me to my first Holy Communion.

It wasn't until I married that I committed to the Church. We would go every single Sunday with the children. I wanted my children to grow up knowing God. In those days I remember thanking God a lot. That was before all the problems started.

You ask me whether there was a pivotal moment in my life that influenced my faith journey. Yes, definitely, although it was not a moment but an experience that spanned a period of more than ten years. In late adolescence, my middle daughter developed a devastating mental illness. Despite the best mental health treatment, her illness proved intractable. She suffered terribly. It would be impossible to describe her suffering and do it justice. And of course it impacted the family, my son, daughter, husband and parents. In the end she died of an accidental overdose. She was twenty-eight years old. My husband died eighteen months later. I say he died of a broken heart.

Curiously, that experience brought me closer to God. Although, I had a relationship with Him before, I felt so grateful to God for releasing my daughter from her suffering. I know that she is now in heaven with God, and that gives me comfort. Friends said to me, *'Surely you are angry with God for taking your daughter away'*, but that is not how I feel at all. I know that she is with God, and is now at peace.

After my daughter died, I started praying the rosary. I was working full time but I made time to do it. It was a comfort to me. That's probably when I felt the closest to God.

Have I had any challenges to my faith? Well yes, it's that question about *'Why do bad things happen to good people?'* My daughter was a good person, we were a good family. It's hard to understand why we had to go through all this. Having said this, it was definitely a reassurance having God to talk to after my daughter and husband died. You can talk to God in a way that you can't talk to your family. And you don't want to burden them. God is, after all, our Heavenly Father.

I do feel that my faith has evolved during my life. As a young person I had little or no faith. Now my faith is much stronger. I pray a lot. I always pray before I go to sleep. And I do feel I have a personal relationship with God. I sometimes wonder if God is as strict as many people think. God is like a loving father. Look how he helped Mary Magdalene, and also the woman at the well.

The hymn. *'God is dwelling in my heart'* is constantly in my head as a soundtrack to my life. My hope for the future as I continue on my faith journey is to be a better person than I was the day before, to show kindness and reach out to people and help others, just as Jesus taught us. I would like to be remembered after my death as a kind person.



Altar Servers Training

Boys and girls who have received First Holy Communion and are not Students of St Joan of Arc School are welcome to apply for Altar Server training by sending an email to the parish office. Students of St Joan of Arc School are recruited and trained through the School.



Recently Deceased: Antonio Lo Surdo, Jose Nunes, Salvatore Calabro, Lilla Scaltrito, Paul Ponticello, Bartolo Ficarra

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary: Martin Carey, Giuseppe Aversa, Concetta Cardillo, Giuseppe Azena

Rest in Peace: Franco Cerri Telli, Alfia Torrisi, Rosetta Ursino, Giuseppe Fedele, Maria Barbatì, Adam George Elie Messih, Francisconicola & Rafael Azena, Giuseppe & Lucia Amoroso, Gaspero & Carmela Amoroso, Antonio Pietro, Catania Velasi

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community:

Lucy Tudehope, Silvana Cocilova, Vittoria Colantuono, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoury, Mary Finios, Glen Dixon, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5813 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Nominate a Parishioner

The parish exists because of the people of faith who continue to come together for worship and share their God experience. Each of these parishioners has a story to tell.

The Faith Formation Group is working on interviewing nominated parishioners and collecting their stories. We would like you to nominate one or more names of parishioners to be interviewed. There is a blue box and blue cards near the Baptismal Font. Please use the blue cards to write your nomination and place them in the blue box. Alternatively, you can contact the parish office by email: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

Do you have an hour or more to spare and help out at the Parish office?

Paula, our Parish Secretary, is looking for a volunteer to assist her with general tasks in the office. No prior experience required. Parish Office hours are Tuesday – Friday 9am -3pm.

If available to help, please contact Fr Thomas by email, admin@stjoanofarc.org.au.

Stations of the Cross



There will be Stations of the Cross prayed in the Church @6.30 pm on Fridays of the Lent. It will be a half an hour devotion, and it will be followed by Confessions for those who want to.

Lenten Parish Mission

I have invited Fire up Ministries to do a parish Mission for us on the last week of Lent, just before the Palm Sunday.

It will be held **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8-10 April 2025**. Each of these three days will start with Rosary at 6.30 pm and talk by Simon Carrington at 7 pm. The topics will be

1. The Passion of Christ: His Radical Love for You
2. The 4 Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving and Forgiveness
3. Your Sins are Forgiven: The Healing Power of Confession

The target group is people aged between 30-60.

If anyone would like to sponsor the Mission, please see Fr Thomas for the details.

Bishop's Visitation



The revised Directory of the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops (2004) speaks of the pastoral visit of the bishop as a means by which a bishop “maintains personal contact with the clergy and other members of the people of God”. It says, “it

is an occasion to rejuvenate the energies of those engaged in evangelisation, to praise, encourage and reassure them”. (n220). Accordingly, Most Rev Danny Meagher, the Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney, in charge of our region, will make a formal visit to the parish on 28 & 30 March.

On Friday, 28 March, the bishop will preside over at 9.15 am Mass with school children in attendance. Then he will meet Domremy College staff at 11 am and have lunch with SJA Primary School Staff. In between he will be checking Church Records, visiting some of the sick and elderly who are home bound.

On Sunday, 30 March, the bishop will preside over 9 am Mass, after which he will join our morning tea put on by the Welcome and Events Committee. It is an opportunity for the parish community to share its life and activities with the bishop, reflecting upon our evangelising community life.

Bishop Danny would like to make the visitation an occasion to acknowledge all the good works that is being done in the parish and affirm the many people who so generously contribute to the parish’s life and ministry. Therefore, I invite all volunteers to come along to the 9 am Mass on the day and stay back to the bishop for morning tea.

In preparation, I have been meeting with the Executive of the Pastoral Council and our dean Very Rev Sebastian Savarimuthu.

Join now!

St Joan of Arc Playgroup
9:15 AM WEDNESDAY'S
 Join Miss Belinda and friends during school term's

Our Fun-filled, Play-based learning and educational content fosters cognitive, social, and emotional development in young children. Through interactive games, stories, and creative projects, children learn essential skills while having fun within their future school's environment.
 Bring your water bottle, morning tea and hat.

Contact Miss Belinda to join:
 ☎ 0421 669 752
 📧 belinda.bayssariesyd.catholic.edu.au
 🌐 www.stjahaberfield.syd.catholic.edu.au

CONTACT MISS BELINDA TO JOIN TODAY!!
 AT ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
 88 DALHOUSIE ST, HABERFIELD

Information on Lenten Penance and Synod of Sydney 2026

Printed copies of:

1. Archbishop’s directive on Lenten Penance
2. a pastoral letter to the Archdiocese of Sydney regarding the Synod of Sydney 2026

are available at the entrance of the Church (Foyer) for parishioners to collect.

Weekly Diary 10 - 16 Mar 2025

Date	Time	To note
Tuesday, 11 Mar	5:00 pm	St Vincent de Paul Conference
Wednesday, 12 Mar	9:00 am	Mass
	7:30 pm	Liturgy Committee
Thursday, 13 Mar	9:00 am	Mass
	2:00 pm	Charismatic Prayer Group
	7:30 pm	Social Justice Committee
Friday, 14 Mar	9:15 am	Mass
	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross & Confessions
Saturday, 15 Mar	4:15 pm - 4:45pm	Confession
	5:00 pm	Mass
Sunday, 16 Mar	9:00 am	Mass/Family Mass & MT
	6:00 pm	Mass

Thanksgiving dinner to parish volunteers



Annual Fashion Parade – W&EC

We will once again be holding our annual Fashion Parade on **Saturday 22nd March at 1pm in the SJA school Hall.**

Cost remains at \$10 each, and we will provide delicious food and drink, and of course a great variety of clothes in a wide size range, as well as jewellery and bags.



Tickets will be available on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fashion-parade-tickets-1234221262019?aff=oddttdcreator> or from the Piety Stall after weekend Masses **from 8th February.** Come and join us for a great social afternoon!!

Sacramental Program 2025 Enrolment Opens

Please visit the Parish website, www.stjoanofarc.org.au to enrol your child/ children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programs, using the online forms.

Closing date for enrolment is 3pm, Tuesday 1 April 2025.

There will not be any Reconciliation Program in 2025.

For further questions please contact office by phone on 9798 6657 or by email admin@stjoanofarc.org.au