



Ministerial Region of the Good Shepherd Parish

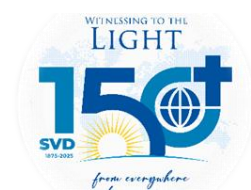
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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C 20TH AND 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Friends,

As Spring arrives, so too does the official celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the founding by St Arnold Janssen of the Society of the Divine Word with the Theme **“WITNESSING TO THE LIGHT: FROM EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE.”**

St Arnold Janssen founded his missionary society on September 8, 1875. Driven by prayer and a desire that all people should have the opportunity to know the Good News of Jesus Christ, he overcame much opposition to begin fulfilling his dream. From those humble beginnings, the SVD has flourished and grown to be the sixth biggest male religious order in the world, with nearly 6000 missionaries, from 76 nationalities, serving in 79 countries.

The SVD AUSTRALIA Province will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Society of the Divine Word in September with a special Jubilee Mass, a Provincial Assembly in Melbourne, followed by participation in an Ecumenical Mission Conference.

As we celebrate this 150th Anniversary, I have been thinking about what it must have taken Fr Arnold to step out in faith, answering God's call for him to establish a missionary society, especially in Germany at that time, where there was a big crackdown on Church activity during the Kulturkampf. Indeed, he had to cross the border into the Netherlands to bring his dream to reality. One thing we know is that he was a man of prayer with a deep devotion to the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As indicated by the name he gave his Society, he was also a man devoted to the Word of God. And, as evidenced by his steadfastness in the face of opposition, we can deduce that he was a man of courage.

This past year of preparing for the 150th Jubilee of the SVD has been a time of great blessing, helping us to focus more deeply on our key task of 'Witnessing to the Light'. The celebrations around the Australia Province have also highlighted the importance of our collaboration with our parish communities, chaplaincies, and our partners in mission in so many areas.

THUS, what lies before us as Divine Word missionaries **is to know the Word, grow with the Word, and live with the Word**, and this can be manifested only through our witnessing life-missionary commitment, engagement through the practice of prophetic dialogue in mission

Our mission is to make God's love tangible, to bring hope and happiness among People's lives, to offer spiritual nourishment, and to stand by those in their darkest moments. We are called to alleviate their suffering, to replace despair with peace, and sorrow with joy. This mission drives us to continually grow, to be active, and to strive for excellence as relevant, and impactful missionaries. Mission is a two-way street. It is sharing the love of Jesus Christ with one another, and we are so grateful for those who walk together with us on this journey.

St. Arnold Janssen – Pray for us

Yours in the Word,

Fr Asaeli Rass SVD, Provincial.

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with God. Micah. 6:8