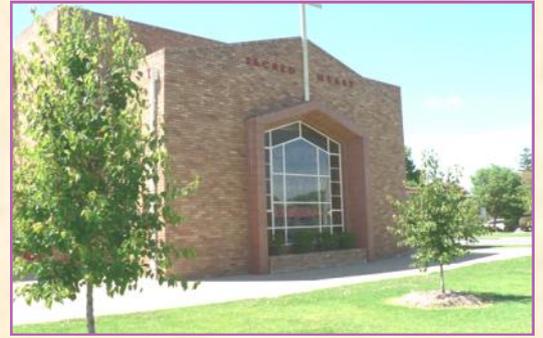


# Sacred Heart Parish

## North Albury



### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*20th / 21st December 2014*

#### **Parish Clergy**

Fr Kevin Flanagan PP

#### **Parish Office**

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Fax: 60404016

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

#### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL:** 6.00 pm

**SUNDAY:** 8.30 am; 10.30 am

**WEEKDAYS:** 9.30 am Monday,  
Wednesday, Friday (in the church)

First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass  
at Mercy Place.

#### **RECONCILIATION**

**SATURDAY:** 4.45 PM-5.45 PM

**WEDDINGS**—By appointment.

Preparation course: 6051 0222

**BAPTISMS**—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

#### **Coming Events:**

##### **Christmas Mass Times:**

**Christmas Eve:**

St Anne's School Hall 6pm

Sacred Heart Church 9 pm

**Christmas Morning:** Sacred Heart Church  
9.30am



#### The Christmas Truce of 1914

As we acknowledge the centenary of the start of the First World War it is good to reflect on the truce that occurred during the Christmas of 1914.

'In Flanders, the German forces on the one hand and the British and French on the other had dug in with the few metres of no-man's land separating them. On Christmas Eve, German troops decorated their trenches with Christmas trees and candles and paper lanterns and began singing Christmas carols.

Signs were raised—'You no fight: we no fight'- and Merry Christmas banners. Soldiers began to leave their trenches to meet in no-man's land and shake hands and exchange mementos and gifts. It was an opportunity to retrieve and bury the dead and for prisoners to be exchanged.

A German soldier described Christmas Day in his diary: 'The English brought a soccer ball from the trenches and pretty soon a lively game ensued. How marvellously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English Officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time.'

The truce lasted mainly through to the next day, while in a few areas it went until New Year's Day.

Let us continue to pray for those areas of conflict within our world today.

# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Barry Quigley (Margaret Bryant's brother), Lorna Webster, Dorothy Filliponi, Erina Parmesan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Keith Groth, Bernard Harper, Johanna Henry, Jane Hill, Barbara Kidd, Jill Fox, Kathleen Frauenfelder, Fr Michael Buckdale, Kevin Krautz, Benjamin Orman, Peter Gibbs, Jack Galvin, John Nenzl, Frederick Lindsay, Lyn Maloney, Tom O'Rourke, Griff Rosser, Gavin Surridge, Michael Dunn, Frederick Mackay, Stan Deveney, George Pugh, Linus Drew, Annette Power, Oswald Stenson, Joan Krautz.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them. May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 20th / 21st Dec

| Ministry  | Vigil                            | 8.30am                         | 10.30am                        |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Commentator   | Anthony Foley                    | Colleen Day                    | Sr Carina Morton               |
| Lector 1  | Kellie Gordes                    | Volunteer                      | Wendy McFerran                 |
| Lector 2  | Ed Brown                         | Bede Hart                      | Volunteer                      |
| Eucharistic Ministers   | Jeneice Harding<br>Geoff Jervois | Robert Brown<br>Noelene Cruise | Carmel Butts<br>Fran Kernaghan |
| Cantor  | John Van Lint                    |                                | Mary Buckley                   |
| Musicians   | Judy Foley                       | Tim Van Kerk Oerle             | Val Hayes                      |
| Counters: Peter Toner & Bill McNamee    Cleaning Group: Group 3 |                                  |                                |                                |

Sat /Sun: 27th Dec / 28th Dec

| Ministry  | Vigil                             | 8.30 am                          | 10.30am                           |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Commentator   | Cassandra Jones                   | Richard Parkinson                | Colleen Day                       |
| Lector 1  | Pat Hickman                       | Nicola Hanzic                    | Volunteer                         |
| Lector 2  | Stephen O'Connor                  | Volunteer                        | Volunteer                         |
| Eucharistic Ministers                                     | Pauline Mulquiney<br>Judy Lindsay | Kevin Kennedy<br>Trish Parkinson | Gemma Whitehead<br>Fran Kernaghan |
| Cantor  | John Van Lint                     |                                  | Marg & Ed Brown                   |
| Musicians   | Judy Foley                        | Tim Van Kerk Oerle               | Val Hayes                         |
| Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts    Cleaning Group: Group 4 |                                   |                                  |                                   |



*Advent at Home*

**Prayer for the lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

*Loving favouring God,*

*Hope is coming among us!*

*As we wait for the birth of Jesus we pray that we might find favour with God. In these last days of Advent, we place our waiting, our message taking, our witnessing and our actions before you. May they lead us to the season of Christmas with love and peace and may they witness to our hope in the coming of the one we call the Saviour—Jesus. We ask this prayer through Jesus our Hope. Amen*

*Wishing all a peace-filled  
Christmas*



# Parish News

## Advent Activities in Our Parish For 20th / 21st Dec

This weekend you are invited to collect a Blessing upon Our Christmas Meal cards which are available at all entrances of the Church.

## Christmas Mass Times

*Christmas Eve:* St Anne's School Hall—6.00pm

Sacred Heart Church—9.00pm

*Christmas Day:* Sacred Heart Church—9.30am

## DPF Message

"The Management and Staff of the Diocesan Provident Fund, extend to you the peace and joy of Christmas, and hope that the blessings of this special season continue into 2015.

## Parish 60th Anniversary

Thank you to those who have sent in information or recollections of the Parish for the 60th Anniversary Book. Items of interest can continue to be handed in during January.

## Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors Christmas Roster

If you are available for any of the Christmas Masses please put your name on the sheets provided at the entrances to back of church.

## Christmas Offering Envelopes

These envelopes are available at entrances to the Church.

## Heartbeat

Our December edition of Heartbeat is now available. Please take a copy and find out what has been happening in our parish community.

## Middle East Crisis Appeal

Thank you for your very generous response to the Middle East Crisis appeal. We raised \$2,940 and a cheque has been sent away to Caritas Australia. Thank you.

## CARDS AND CALENDARS

On sale at the rear of the Church:

- Columban Art Calendars - \$8
- Christmas Cards (pack of 10) - \$6



## *Feastdays of the Week*

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day – Birth of Jesus

Friday 26th December – St Stephen

Acts says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "[Y]ou always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b). The Bible records that he was stoned and killed by those he criticised.

Saturday 27th December – St John Apostle And Evangelist

# Liturgy of the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent —Year B

*Readings:* 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12 ; Rom 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26- 38

*Responsorial Psalm*



**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord**

*Acclamation:* Alleluia, alleluia

I am the servant of the Lord

May his will for me be done

Alleluia

## Reflection on the Reading

### Mary defies social conventions to let God's plan unfold

"...the angel approached a maiden to proclaim the Good News. For Luke, the gospel did not start in the place (the Temple in Jerusalem) and to the people (the hierarchy of Judaism represented by the priest) everyone expected. No, the gospel began in a place (a backwater town despised by the cosmopolitan inhabitants of Jerusalem) and to a person (a young teenage girl) no one expected.

Let's consider the place of girls like Mary in social pecking order of first century Palestine. In a gender segregated, male dominated society, young girls like Mary were sheltered from the outside world, in order to protect their virginity and insure the honour of the family. (The murder of promiscuous or raped young girls by family members was not uncommon; the reason for such homicides was family honour.) It was inconceivable that young girls could lead the people in such a public function as temple worship.

In addition to family honour, young girls were not educated. Literacy lay with the male, since females were considered too inferior and emotional for education. (How could Mary know the Scriptures like Zechariah? Remember that women had no rights in ancient society; they were treated like property.) Girls symbolized by Mary stood at the bottom of proper society." (From a reflection on the Gospel by Larry Broding, of the Word on Sunday website.)

### Responding promptly with a 'yes' enables God's grace to act

"How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or scepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of 'yes' to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the 'mother of God' because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: 'For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man'. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way." (From a reflection on the Gospel by Dan Schwager.)

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