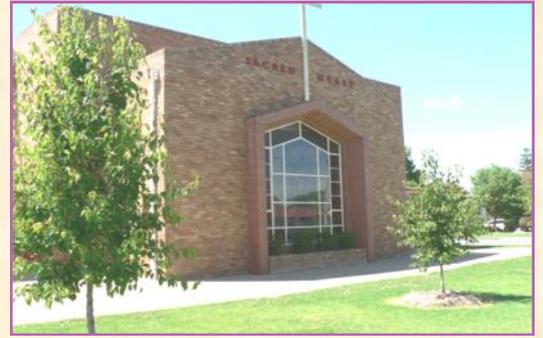


# Sacred Heart Parish

## North Albury



### *First Sunday of Advent*

*28th November / 29th November 2015*

#### **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: 9.30 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:**

Advent Reconciliation in preparation for  
Christmas: Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm

#### Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: St Anne's School Hall 6pm

Sacred Heart Church 9pm

Christmas Morning: Sacred Heart Church  
9.30am



The Church's Liturgical Year begins with the season of Advent. Advent, which means 'coming' is a season of waiting, a time of anticipation for the birth of Jesus and the Second Coming of Christ.

A friend told me a story recently. He was attending a day of reflection at a nearby retreat center. The priest who

was leading the day was fielding questions from the audience. Many of the questions dealt with the kinds of fears and worries common to all of us these days. Finally, the priest looked at the people gathered and said simply, "Remember, God deals with what is, not with what if." This lesson hit home for me as I went through a tough stretch. With each crisis I knew I had a choice—I could ask God to walk with me through the difficulty and help me to learn what I could from each painful event. Or I could throw up my hands and ask God why this was happening to me.

I chose to stay in the moment despite the uncertainty of what was happening. I tried to listen and learn from the pain. The unexpected blessing was how focused I became on what was happening right in front of me: what is, instead of what if. To get through a difficult day, I needed to pay attention, to concentrate moment-by-moment. It's in that gritty moment of real time that we meet God: that I met God.

And while I don't recommend you invite calamities into your life to help you focus—surely life knows how to serve up calamities all on its own—in every moment you can attempt to be present, even as we long for God to be present. After all, where else could we ever meet God but right here and right now?

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Barbara Murray, John Howard, Wally Patterson, Laurie Dykes, Kenneth Wright, Carmel Neilson.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Louise Harvey, Joyn Dyball, William Mulquiney, John Robinson, Peter Schnitzer, Cecil Woodhouse, Daniel O'Connor, Elizabeth Clancy, Daisy Hobdell, Kathleen Berg, Br Trevor Kimble, Sarah Caton, Lorrie Quigley, Anne Mitchell, Herb Norman, Jane Hicks, Vera Coyle, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Mary Willis, Antonia Ramaekeres, Jack O'Rourke, Gerry Harrington.

*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: 28th November / 29th November

Ministry	Vigil 6pm	9.30am
Commentator	Virginia Mitsch	Colleen Day
Lector 1	Paula Waters	Rosalie Martin
Lector 2	Barbara Godde	Richard Parkinson
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Jervois Pauline Mulquiney	Pat Hopkins Robert Brown Dianne Treacy
Cantor Musicians	Catherine / Judy Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher    Cleaning Group: Group 3		

Sat / Sun: 5th Dec / 6th Dec

Ministry	Vigil 6pm	9.30am
Commentator	Sr Carina Morton	Jane Murtagh
Lector 1	Tony Smit	Nicola Hanzic
Lector 2	Kellie Gordes	Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Kaye Deanshaw Jim Deanshaw	Noelene Cruise Dianne Treacy Peter Treacy
Cantor Musicians	John Van Lint Val Hayes	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Peter Toner & Gordon Bryant    Cleaning Group: Group 4		

## Advent at Home



Prayer for the lighting of the First Advent Candle

Lord, be with us now as we gather around this wreath. As we light this candle, may this time together open our eyes to see your love in our lives and in the love of those around us. Help us to be grateful for all of the ways you shine a light in the darkness of our hearts. Let us feel that love from you and be grateful for it. Open our hearts to those who have so much less than we do; those whose lives are so full of pain that they cannot see the light of your love. Show us how to carry that light to other people. Amen

### For reflection:

How did I bring light into someone's life today?

What person or people do I think need a special light in their lives?

Name a light someone brought into my life today.

**A Thought for the Week:** 'It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.'

# Parish News

## Advent Activities in Our Parish For 28th / 29th Nov

This weekend you are invited to place a card on our Advent / Christmas Prayer Tree at the back of the Church, requesting prayers for people or situations in our world.

Cards are available beside the tree.

## Weekend 5th Dec/ 6th Dec:

Next weekend is our Giving time for Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Parishioners are invited to bring to Mass a gift (suitable for a child, young person or adult—wrapped with a tag indicating boy or girl and suitable age), or a nonperishable food item ( could be a Christmas treat), or a monetary donation ( sealed in an envelope). These donations can be placed in the boxes provided near the Offertory Table at the back of the Church. All these gifts will be brought to the altar during the Offertory Procession.

**DIRECT DEBIT FOR PLANNED GIVING:** Our Parish relies on the generosity of our Parishioners contributing via Planned Giving. Setting up a regular EFT contribution is a welcome means of supporting our Parish, and can be made using the following details:

BSB: 082690 Account No: 509763895

*Please contact Parish Office to be given a Ref number and further information on 6025 1516.*

## CARDS AND CALENDARS

- ◆ Columban Art Calendars - \$8 each
- ◆ Christmas Cards (Pk of 10) - \$5 each

On sale now at rear of the Church

Advent Reconciliation - Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm

## Christmas Mass Times

*Christmas Eve - St Anne's Hall at 6pm; Sacred Heart Church at 9pm*

*Christmas Day - Sacred Heart Church at 9.30am*

## PLEASE NOTE

THERE WILL BE NO 9.30AM MASS THIS MONDAY AS THERE WILL BE A REQUIEM MASS AT 11AM FOR SISTER BARBARA MURRAY.

## Advent Reflection Books

If you request a copy of the Advent Lectio Divina Book from the Broken Bay Diocese please write your name on the sheet provided.

There are also Advent Reflection books from the Wollongong Diocese available at the back of the Church. If you wish to buy one of these—cost \$3—place your money in the envelopes provided and put into the collection bag at Mass.

## Crosses

This is our last weekend for displaying the crosses for those who have died. If you wish to collect your cross and take it home you are most welcome to do so.

## Communion to the House Bound

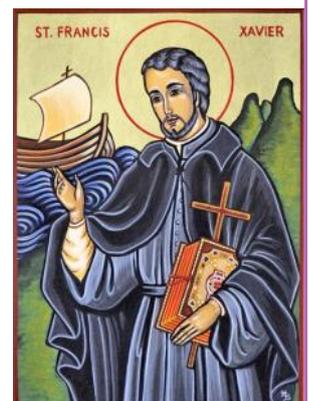
If you know of anyone who is unable to attend Mass because of illness or old age and would appreciate receiving Holy Communion at home could you please leave their name at the Presbytery and contact will be made to arrange a visit.

**Altar Serving Training** - For children interested in altar serving or may have just begun to serve training will be Thursday 10 Dec at 3.45pm in the Church. Contact Virginia 0407 266 016 or Ed 0427 452 762.

## *Feast Days of the Week*

### Thur Dec 3- St Francis Xavier (1506-1552)

One of the first companions of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, Francis was the Jesuits' first foreign missionary. Francis departed for India in 1541 and reached Japan in 1549. In 1552 he set out for China, landed on the island of Sancian within sight of his goal, but died before he reached the mainland. One of the greatest missionaries of the Church since Saint Paul, Francis was canonised in 1622 and proclaimed patron of all foreign missions by Pope Pius X in 1904.

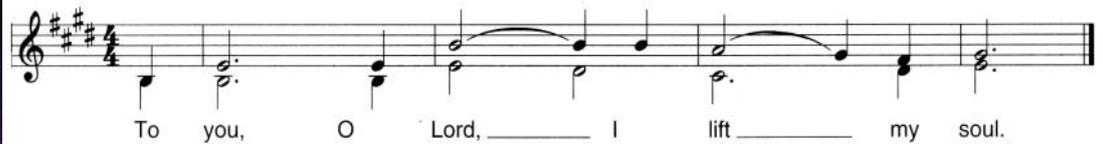


# Liturgy of the Word

First Sunday of Advent —Year C

*Readings: Jer 33: 14-16; 1Thess; 3: 12—4: 2 Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36*

*Responsorial Psalm*



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

## Reflection on the Reading

### Finding Christ in the entire human condition

Our rejoicing in the fact that God has actually been here is half of the meaning of Advent. The other half focuses our attention on the second coming of Christ, which is described in apocalyptic terms in today's Lucan Gospel; although the language is symbolic and quite picturesque, it instils in us a sense of the suddenness of the end. When Christ appears with power and glory, Phillips writes, "the human experiment will end, illusion will give way to reality, the temporary will disappear before the permanent and the king will be seen for who he is." We, for our part, are to be vigilant at all times and pray for strength.

Vigilance does not mean that we sit back and watch the cosmic horizon for signs, or that we withdraw from reality and pray to keep ourselves unsullied by the world. On the contrary, our annual remembrance of the Incarnation celebrates God's desire to become immersed in the human experience. To do justice to this great gift, we are also to immerse ourselves in every aspect of the human condition. There we will find Christ.

With her eyes made new by her faith, and her heart warmed by her sense of God's presence, Dorothy Day recognised and welcomed Christ in the needy, the hungry, the homeless and the forgotten. Jesus' words about serving his needs in God's poor ones were seared into her soul...Day was convinced that that prayer was more than words. She was certain that prayer can be the witness of one's life, the work one does, the friendships one cultivates and the love one gives and receives from others. Through her prayer, she was able to recognise and serve Christ in his many comings among us.

As we celebrate the comings of Jesus, the example of this good Christian woman and the spirit of the Advent season invite us to take stock of ourselves. Is our eye keen enough, our faith firm enough, our heart warm enough to recognize the face of Jesus in all our brothers and sisters and to serve their needs? (From a reflection on the Gospel by Patricia Sánchez,)



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