

Sacred Heart Parish

North Albury



Second Sunday of Advent

3rd / 4th December 2016

Parish Clergy

Fr Kevin Flanagan PP

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Fax: 60404016

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



Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

(Dianne Bergant)



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Hazel Hulm, Kevin Loughry, Les Coward, Mary Kelly (Reg l'anson's sister) Sr Therese Esler, Lloyd Kennedy, Sr Mary Clancy, Gail Hunter, Mary Keen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Slattery, Michael Gleeson, Louis Dimitrijevic, Brenda De Hennin, Noreen Low, Jack Collins, Herb Norman, Jane Hicks, Vera Coyle, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Msgr Hatswell, Carmel Glasgow, Mary Willis, Angela Leber, Malcolm Nicholson, Antonia Ramaekeres, Mary Mulquiney, Joff Hutchinson, Winifred O'Brien, Jack O'Rourke, Susan Guy, Jason Farrell, 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: 3rd / 4th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	YOUTH MASS	Jane Murtagh Terry Hillman Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	YOUTH MASS	Pauline Willis Carey Menz-Dowling Noelene Cruise Pat Hopkins
Cantor Musicians	YOUTH MASS	Catherine & Judy Val Hayes
Counters: Anna Loughry & Michael Byrnes Cleaning Group: Group 6		

Sat /Sun: 10th / 11th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Kellie Gordes Anthony Foley Pat Hickman	Judy Lindsay Jeneice Harding
Eucharistic Ministers	Gavin Dykes Kathy Nyhan Sr Carina Morton	Gemma Whitehead Kansas Michael Dianne & Peter Treacy
Cantor Musicians	John Van Lint Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon Cleaning Group: Group 7		

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'In Advent we rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey ... across the paths of time.'

Prayer for the lighting of the Second Advent Candle



Loving messenger God,

Hope is coming among us!

As we wait for the birth of Jesus we pray for those who continue to bring our world messages of the good news of God's love. May we be among them! Help us to make this time of Advent a time when our messages of hope for world are louder and stronger than ever, especially to those who so desperately need to hear a message of peace and love. We ask this prayer through Jesus our hope. Amen



Parish News

Season of Advent

You are still welcome to take a card from the Giving Tree. On the back is an act of kindness for us to put into practice during this week or the remaining weeks of Advent.

This weekend and next you are invited to contribute either a gift (unwrapped and suitable for a child 12 years or under), non-perishable food item (well inside the 'best by' and 'use by' dates) or monetary donation (these can be left in the Christmas Box on the small table) for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. The gifts can be placed in the baskets around the Giving Tree at the Swan Street entrance to the Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - 6.00pm Family Mass St Anne's School Hall

9.00pm Mass in the Church

Christmas Day - 9.30am Mass in the Church

Parish Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm

Columban Calendars 2017 - \$8 each

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards - \$5 pk of 10

Now available at back of Church

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors

If you are available for any of the Christmas Masses please put your name on the roster provided on the side table at front of Church.

Feast Days during the Week

Tuesday 6th December—St Nicholas

Wednesday 7th December—St Ambrose

Thursday 8th December—Immaculate Conception

Mass Times for This Week

Wednesday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am - Gift Giving Mass—St Anne's
School

No Mass Monday

Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,

*Source of all hope and good things;
You call us in love, to share in the work
and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart
Parish.*

*Bless this parish of ours and lead us to
be confident and joyful in serving those
around us, so that through us, the
world may catch a glimpse of the love
you have for each one of us.*

*Make us instruments of your love to
everyone that we encounter in our
parish community, at home, at work
and in our neighbourhood.*

*Help us to grow in gratitude so that we
can recognise and thank you for all the
good things you have given us.*

*Each day may we come to know you
more clearly, love you more dearly and
follow you more nearly.*

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MURRAY CONSERVATORIUM CHOIR PRESENTS

A CONCERT OF CAROLS

December 3, St Matthew's Albury at 7.30 pm

December 4, St John's Wodonga at 2.30 pm

Tickets: \$25.00 and \$20.00 concession; Under 18 free.

Liturgy of the Word

Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

Readings: Is 11: 1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Matthew 3: 1-12

Responsorial Psalm:



Justice shall flourish in his time and fullness of peace for ever.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

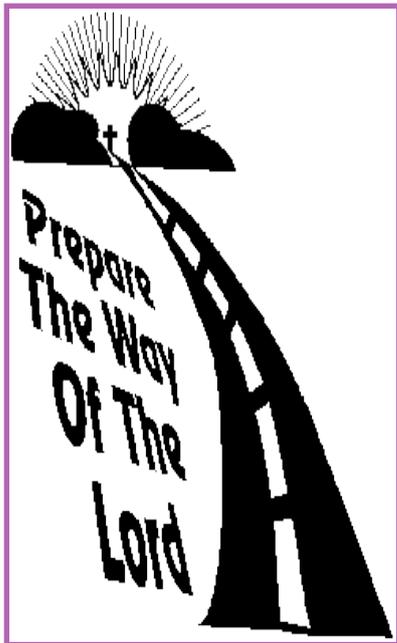
In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' (Fr Richard Leonard SJ)



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