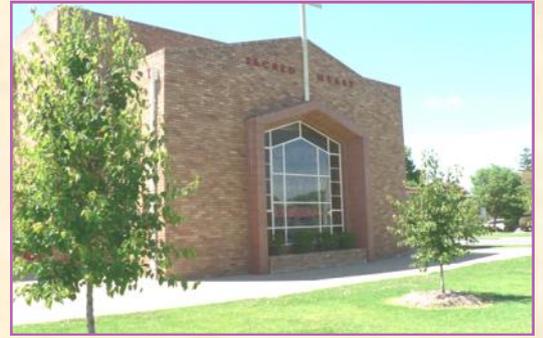


Sacred Heart Parish

North Albury



First Sunday of Advent

2nd / 3rd December 2017

Parish Clergy

Fr Gabriel Murray

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 02 6025 1516

E-mail sacredheartna@gmail.com

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

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: 9.30 am

Monday– Saturday (Church)

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment. (Dianne Bergant CSS)



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Norman Creek, Robert Thompson, Andy Carter.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jane Waite, John Dyball, Bill Slattery, Michael Gleeson, Brenda De Hennin, Jack Collins, Herb Norman, Jane Hicks, Vera Coyle, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Msgr Hatswell, Carmel Glasgow, Mary Willis, Angela Leber, Malcolm Nicholson, Antonia Rameekeres, 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: 2nd / 3rd December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Sr Corina Morton
Lector 1	Virginia Mitsch	Kathy Nyhan
Lector 2	Karen Purtle	Gavin Dykes
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Hopkins Pauline Mulquiney	Frank Glennon Kansas Michael Carmel Butts
Cantor	John Van Lint	Barnadette O'Donnell
Musicians	Judy Foley	Wendy McFarren
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher Cleaning Group: Group 2		

Sat /Sun: 9th / 10th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Anthony Foley	Rosalie Martin
Lector 1	Kellie Gordes	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Pat Hickman	Jane Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Jervois Pat Hopkins	Carey Menz-Dowling Trish Parkinson Gemma Whitehead
Cantor	Brian Waters	Catherine Cutler & Judy
Musicians	Judy Foley	Lindsay Val Hayes
Counters: Peter Toner & Gordon Bryant Cleaning Group: Group 3		



Prayer for Lighting the First Advent Candle at Home

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 (Pope Francis):

'Advent has a special charm, it makes us experience deeply the meaning of history.'

Parish News

Season of Advent

This weekend we commence a new Liturgical Year with the season of Advent.

On the 2nd & 3rd weekends of Advent you are asked to contribute either a gift (unwrapped and suitable for a young person—from babyhood to teenage), non-perishable food item (well inside the 'best by' and 'use by' dates) or monetary donation for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. These can be placed in the baskets at the entrances to the Church.

Magnificat

Murray Conservatorium Choir will present 'Magnificat' by John Rutter and a selection of popular carols in its annual Christmas concert.

This a very fitting work for Advent and celebrates Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth recorded in Luke's Gospel. Concerts are on December 8 at Walla Lutheran Church at 8pm; December 9 at St Matthew's Albury at 8pm and December 10 at St John's Wodonga at 2.30pm. Tickets: Adults \$25; Concession \$20; Under 18 free. (See posters at church doors)

Ecumenical Men's Breakfast

Come along and enjoy our Men's Breakfast on Saturday 9th December at 8am at St James Anglican Church, Heriot Street Lavington.

St Vincent de Paul Calendars & Christmas Cards

Are now available for sale at back of Church

Calendars x \$9 each

Pk of 10 cards x \$5

Save the Date

The Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo are offering a two and a half day workshop for women on April 13-15, 2018. Bookings: 02 4236 0533, cottageretreats@jamberoo.org.au

Feast Days during the Week

Monday 4th December - St John Damascene

Wednesday 6th December —St Nicholas

Thursday 7th December —St Ambrose

Friday 8th December—Immaculate Conception of Mary

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

On the weekend of 2nd Sunday of Advent (9th/10th Dec) we will have our Gift Giving for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Gifts can consist of the following:

- ~ Unwrapped gifts for boys / girls up to the age of teenagers;
- ~ Non perishable food items
- ~ Cash donations

Baskets will be placed at each of the entrances to the Church for the collection of the above.

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.

Parish Morning Tea

**Everyone is welcome to Morning Tea after
the 9.30 Mass today Sunday 3rd December.
Everyone welcome.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Sunday of Advent—Year B

Readings: Is 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

Responsorial Psalm:



Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face _____ and we shall be saved.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that. The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter. (Greg Sunter)



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