



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*23rd / 24th 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](mailto: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

### **Father Kevin Flanagan**

**26.08.1928 - 21.12.2017**



*Lord God we remember our beloved Father Kevin whose life has touched so many people.*

*We are grateful for all the times he shared with us,*

*his fidelity to his priestly ministry,  
his care and concern for family and friends,  
his involvement in the wider community and  
his acceptance of all.*

*May the hand of God hold him.*

*The peace of God enfold him.*

*May the light of God be beside him.*

*May you enjoy God's presence forever.*

*And until we meet again  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*



# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Kevin Flanagan

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bernard Harper, Johanna Henry, Kit Telby, William Foo, Pat Smithenbecker, John Warford, Barbara Kidd, John Hallam, Jill Fox, Peter Rolfe, Kevin Krautz, Bill Ryan, Matthew Gunning, Jack Galvin John Nenzi, Maddison Palmer, Robert Weissel, Scott Larkin, Lyn Maloney, Griff Rosser, Gavin SurrIDGE, Michael Dunn, Stanley Harrison, Norm Robinson, George Rossmann, George Pugh, Jim Brooder, Nancy Gray, John Gawen, Ross Smith.

*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: 23rd/ 24th December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Foley	Bede Hart
<b>Lector 1</b>	Pat Hickman	Rosalie Martin
<b>Lector 2</b>	Brian Waters	Ray Murtagh
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jeneice Harding Pauline Mulquiney	Gemma Whitehead <b>Volunteers please</b>
<b>Cantor</b>	Marg & Ed Brown	Simon Goss
<b>Musicians</b>	Mary Hunt	Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Michael Byrnes(Wed 27 Dec) <b>Cleaning Group:</b> Group 5		

## Christmas Masses

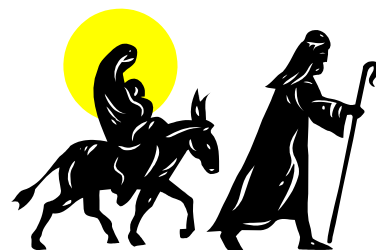
<b><u>Christmas Eve</u></b>	<b><u>Readers</u></b>	<b><u>Eucharistic Min</u></b>
<b><u>Family Mass 6pm</u></b>	Volunteers needed	Noelene Cruise Pat Hickman Trish Parkinson
<b><u>Vigil Mass 9pm</u></b>	Volunteers Needed	Jeneice Harding Jim Deanshaw
<b><u>Christmas Day 9.30am</u></b>	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers



## Prayer for Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle at Home

God of my heart, thank you for this day. As we light all the candles we think of the courage it must have taken Mary and Joseph to make that trip to Bethlehem. She was so near her time of delivering, and she left her family and travelled with Joseph for the census. With no place to sleep, they both must have felt some fear.

The story of your nativity is filled with comfort and courage, for them and for us. Give us the strength we need and help us to see those around us who are in fear and need our support on this day. Amen.



## A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

'Let us allow ourselves to be guided by Mary this Advent, she who is mother, a mamma and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness.'

# Parish News

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve (Sunday 24 Dec)

9.30am Fourth Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass at St Anne's School Hall



9.00pm in the Church

### Christmas Day

9.30am in the Church

## Fr Kevin Flanagan's Funeral

At Sacred Heart Church, North Albury on

Thursday 28 December commencing

10.30am. Burial will be at Glenmorus Gardens Lawn Cemetery.

Please note that Sacred Heart carpark will be closed.

## Christmas Eve Family Mass

### St Anne's School Hall

### 6pm Sunday 24th

All children are invited to participate in this Mass coming dressed as Shepherds or Angels

## Choir Practice for Fr Kevin's Requiem

At the Church on Wednesday 27 December at 7pm. Singers welcome. Phone Val Hayes 6025 5904.

## Volunteers for Watering Roster

With the hot weather approaching rather quickly we need volunteers to water around the Presbytery and Church. Contact Lyn Hamilton on 0437 377 667 or 6040 5605 or email on: [lhhamilton.alb@gmail.com](mailto:lhhamilton.alb@gmail.com) to be part of a roster.

## Feast Days during the Week

Monday 25th December –Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday 26th December—St Stephen

Wednesday 27th December—St John

Thursday 28th December—Holy Innocents

Friday 29th December—St Thomas Becket

## 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.*





# Liturgy of the Word

*Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year B*

*Readings: 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1: 26-38*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



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

## Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## Reflection on the Readings

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

Luke's account of the Annunciation (and indeed much of the infancy narrative) focuses its attention on Mary. But what of Joseph? How does he react to the news that his betrothed wife is pregnant? By Jewish Law and tradition, Mary could well have been stoned to death if Joseph had denounced her. Even if Joseph allowed people to think that he was the father of her child, this would have caused an enormous scandal – a breach of the sanctity of the betrothal vow. However, foreshadowing the compassion of Jesus himself, Joseph acts purely out of compassion and continues with his marriage to Mary.

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form. (Greg Sunter)

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