

Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

330 Swan Street
North Albury
NSW 2640
02 6025 1516
www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd November / 4th November

Parish Administrator

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday & Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com

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

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS MASSES: NO MASSES WHILE FR MARTIN ON HOLIDAYS

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
on Wednesdays during November 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM (Not being held while Fr Martin is on holidays)

BAPTISMS—By appointment

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

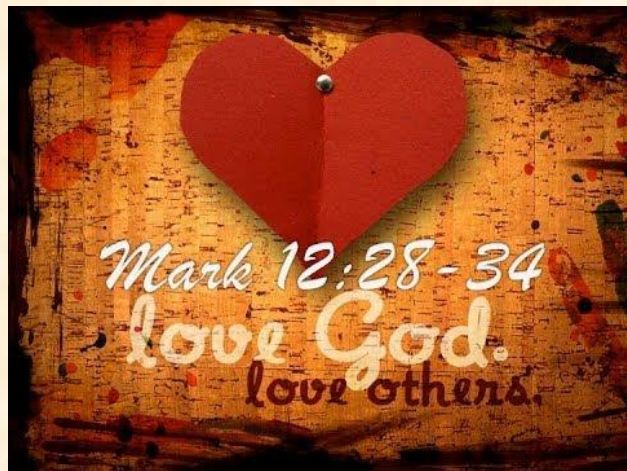
CHURCH STORES.

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Phone (03) 9882 3424



Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.' (Fr Michael Tate)

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bill Cummins, Sr Mary Crowe, Rita Anderson, Mac Terlikowski, Brian O'Keeffe, Mary Coulston, Bessie Stephenson, Betty Healy, Donald McInnes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Cruickshank, Lloyd Kennedy, Margaret Steele, Geraldine Steele, Jim Rosewarne, Margaret Corby, Agnes Black, Jim Thompson, Elsa Morton, Ceily Kirley, Mick Kirley, Tony Kirley, Patricia White, John Murray, John Cullen, John Cummins, Jan Ryc, Mavis Waser Baron Lethbridge, Valerie Scales, Msgr Pat Ford, Gary Fearne, Rosa Sargeant, Irene Berg, Frank Gain, Keith Barnett, Kathleen O'Rourke, Kathleen Grove, James Franklin, Ellen Neven, Fr Les Ring, Patrick Costello, Mary Drum, James Thompson, David McEachern.

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 November

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Virginia Mitsch Michael Byrnes Barbara Godde	Jane Murtagh Sr Carina Morton Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Lyn Hamilton	Pauline Willis Sue Hayhoe Kevin Kennedy
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Catherine Cutler & Judy Lindsay Val Hayes
Counters: Michael Byrnes		Cleaning Group: Group 1

Sat /Sun: 10th/ 11th November

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Kellie Gordes Pat Hickman Paula Waters	Gavin Dykes Cathy Nyhan Richard Parkinson
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Lindsay Pat Hopkins	Peter & Dianne Treacy Gemma Whitehead
Cantor Musicians	Catherine Cutler / Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon		Cleaning Group: Group 2

Prayer for Those Who Have Died

God, thank you for the special people in our lives who have died and we are remembering during the month of November.

Lord, those who die live in Your presence, their lives change but do not end.

I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ, Who died and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever.

For all the faithful who have died we pray, nor do we forget all who were good to us while on earth,

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Church tradition has always urged prayer for the dead, in particular by offering the celebration of the Eucharist for them."

Parish News

Weekday Masses:

Please be aware that while Fr Martin is on holidays during the month of November **NO** weekday masses will be celebrated at Sacred Heart North Albury. On each Wednesday 7, 14, 21, 28 November a liturgy of the word with holy communion will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church at the usual time of 9.30am.

Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be held on Saturday afternoons during Fr Martin's absence.

Vinnies Melbourne Cup Race Day

At Albury Racecourse on Tuesday 6 November at \$40 per head. Come and have a great day at the races and support the fantastic work that Vinnies do for Albury & surrounding areas. RSVP 30 Oct to Bob 0429 205 608 or Helen on 0427 295 217.

Parish Plenary Council 2020 Discussion Group

Our parish facilitator Catherine Cutler is intending to hold the following gatherings in our parish community to introduce and complete the plenary input process.

First meeting: Thursday **15 Nov** 7.30 - 9.00pm and Tuesday **20 Nov** 2.00—3.30pm

Follow up meeting: Tuesday **27 Nov** 2.00—3.30pm and Thursday **29 Nov** 7.30—9.00pm.

All meetings will take place in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Please contact Catherine on 0419 518 791 or email or phone parish office 6025 1516 to indicate your intention to attend.

November Book Of Life

November is traditionally the month to remember the Holy Souls. Our Book of Life will be displayed at front of Church during November. If you would like to add family members to this book there are sheets of paper and sleeves inside front of Book.

November Mass Envelopes are available at Church entrances if you wish to request a Mass or prayers for your deceased family members or friends.

Divine Mercy Devotion and Benediction

Every 4th Sunday at 3pm in St Patrick's Church, Albury.

We welcome back to our parish community over the next five weekends **Fr Bernie Thomas**. We are grateful to Fr Bernie who due to changed circumstances has generously agreed to celebrate Eucharist with our Sacred Heart parish community during this time.

Fr Martin will be on annual leave from Friday 2 November until Sunday 2 December.

If you require the urgent pastoral ministry of a priest you will need to contact Fr Joel Wallace, Fr Marco Killingsworth at St Patrick's Presbytery 6041 2588 or Fr John Fowles at Thurgoona 6043 2222. Parish office hours will remain as usual.

Our next **Parish Morning Tea** will be held this Sunday 4 November at the conclusion of our celebration of Eucharist. Thanks to the Deanshaw family group for helping out in this regard.

PLENARY COUNCIL - WHEN WE SPEAK TO EACH OTHER, WE CAN ALL LEARN

Pope Benedict, shortly before he resigned, warned us that 'the laity should not be considered as collaborators with the clergy, but as the people truly co-responsible for the life of the Church.'

Many lay people are freed and invigorated when they feel we clerics are genuinely listening and are inviting them to participate in an adult way. They love their Church and want to be involved and have their say. They have theological and pastoral insights that don't occur to us, the clerics.

The Plenary Council provides us with an opportunity and a process to draw close to one another, to share vulnerably and fully—people, priests and bishops—that will help us to become a listening Church and help develop a culture of relatedness, freedom, co-responsibility and hope.

~ Fr Noel Connolly SSC

The summer edition of **Australian Catholics** has arrived. The articles explore the many ways that people speak with God and experience God's presence in their lives. Please take home and distribute to a neighbour / family member a free copy.

Liturgy of the Word

Thirty-First Sunday of the Year—Year B

Readings: Deut 6: 2-6; Heb 7: 23-28; Mark 12: 28-34

Responsorial Psalm:



I love you Lord my strength

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,

and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

Generally, in the gospels, the scribes are shown as antagonistic towards Jesus and when we begin this passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style and often the question is related to a particular teaching from Torah. Here, the scribe approaches Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi, and poses a question just as he would to any other worthy teacher. He asks which of the commandments Jesus regards to be foremost. This could be an opening question to any teacher and one would expect it to be the start of a long conversation. Neither of the commandments Jesus quotes come from the Ten Commandments with which we are most familiar, but, rather, they come from other parts of Torah (the Law). His qualification of the first commandment – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength – is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another commandment – ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ The scribe agrees with Jesus’ teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice. This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be ‘not far from the kingdom of God.’

Jesus reminds us ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ There’s an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. When we ask ourselves how we would want to be treated it points us towards how we should treat others. What is summed up so simply by Jesus is a very tough ask!

Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn’t bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. Sometimes we can feel the way to express love for God is through demonstrating our love for other people in charitable or justice-focused actions. However, Jesus makes clear that the first commandment of all is the love of God with all our being – that God is worthy of love in God’s own right. Our love of God may inspire us to action for others, but the first step is loving God for who God is. (Greg Sunter)

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