



## *First Sunday of Advent*

*1st / 2nd December 2018*

### **Parish Administrator**

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### **Parish Office**

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday & Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 6025 1516

Email: [sacredheartna@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartna@gmail.com)

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### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAYS MASSES: This Week Tues 4 Dec**

**Xavier High School—9.05am**

**Mass of anointing—Mercy Place -11.00am**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am Church**

### **RECONCILIATION**

**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM (not available while Fr Martin on holidays)**

**BAPTISMS—By appointment**

**Preparation Course: 0411 883 661**

### **CHURCH STORES.**

**Religious gifts and supplies shipped overnight. Phone (02) 9233 2268.**

**[churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au](mailto:churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au)**

**PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA**

**Phone (03) 9882 3424**



The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

(Dianne Bergant CSS)

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Tony McNamara, Kit Clancy, John Grogan, Bill Cummins, Sr Mary Crowe, Mac Terlikowski.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gerry Harrington, Jack O'Rourke, Winifred O'Brien, Mary Mulquiney, Antonia Ramaekeres, Malcolm Nicholson, Angela Leber, Mary Willis, Carmel Glasgow, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Vera Coyle, Jane Hicks, Herb Norman, Jack Collins, Elizabeth Clancy, Brenda De Hennin, Peter Schnitzer, John Dyball, Bill Slattery, Michael Gleeson.

*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: 1st / 2nd December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Brian Waters	Sr Carina Morton
<b>Lector 1</b>	Virginia Mitsch	Cathy Nyhan
<b>Lector 2</b>	Paula Waters	Gavin Dykes
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Pat Hopkins Pauline Mulquiney	Frank Glennon Marjorie Serbinek Sue Hayhoe
<b>Cantor</b>	Margret & Ed Brown	
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	
<b>Counters: Brian &amp; Carmel Butts</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 5</b>

Sat / Sun: 8th / 9th December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Foley	Rosalie Martin
<b>Lector 1</b>	Ed Brown	Roy Thompson
<b>Lector 2</b>	Pat Hickman	Jane Murtagh
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Judy Lindsay Lyn Hamilton	Gemma Whitehead Richard Parkinson Trish Parkinson
<b>Cantor</b>	John Van Lint	Bernadette & Wendy
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	
<b>Counters: Michael Byrnes</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 6</b>

## 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?

## Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

“The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!”

# Parish News

## Fr John Frauenfelder 's 50th Anniversary

On 10th December Fr John celebrates 50 years of Priesthood. He was ordained in the Sacred Heart Church North Albury on 10th December 1968.

To recognise the event Fr John will celebrate the 9.30m Mass on next Sunday 9th December followed by morning tea in the Hall. A plate of goodies would be much appreciated for the morning tea.

A large card is available for you to sign or write a few words of appreciation for Fr John, at the back of the church.

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

With the start of Advent this weekend we will start collecting to support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Donations of gifts (unwrapped) suitable for children up to 12 years, \$20 Gift Vouchers, monetary donations or non-perishable food items would be most gratefully accepted. Please leave these gifts in the baskets provided at the entrances to the Church.

## Christmas Concert

Murray Conservatorium Choir will present its Christmas concert on Friday 7 Dec at Walla Lutheran Church 7.30pm; St Matthew's Albury on Saturday 8 Dec at 7.30pm and St John's Wodonga on Sunday 9 Dec at 2.30pm. The choir will be accompanied by an orchestra In Vivaldi's magnificent *Gloria*. There will also be carols by the choir and carols for the audience to sing. Tickets \$25; \$20 concession; Under 18 free.

## St Vincent de Paul

### Columban Calendars & Christmas Cards

**Are now available for sale at back of Church**

**Calendars x \$9 each**

**Pk of 10 cards x \$6**

## *Feast Days*

Monday 3rd Dec—St Francis Xavier

Tuesday 4th Dec—St John Damascene

Thursday 6th Dec—St Nicholas

Friday 7th Dec—St Ambrose

Saturday 8th Dec—Immaculate Concep-

*Thank  
You!*

Many thanks to Fr Bernie Thomas who has celebrated weekend Eucharist with us over the last month. His willingness to contribute to the life of our parish in this way is much appreciated.

## Outreach Visitation

It is planned to begin visitation of Parishioners who are ill, unable to come to Mass, bereaved, live by themselves etc in mid February 2019.

If you would appreciate seeing a friendly face or two, we would love to call on you in your home or nursing home. So that plans can be made can you please contact the Parish Office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9am to 2pm on 6025 1516. Please leave your name and phone number and preferred day for visitation.

## Outreach Group

A short meeting of the Outreach Group will be held after the next parish morning tea on the 9th December. If unable to be present please ring Barbara on 6021 7868.

## Our end of year mass for the life of Xavier High School

community will be celebrated this Tuesday 4 December. Our liturgy will commence at 9.05am with the blessing and dedication of the newly erected cross in the centre of the school. The design of the cross reflects the charism of both the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy and recognises their pioneer role and positive contribution to education in our local and diocesan communities. After the initial blessing / dedication our Eucharist will be celebrated in the Creative Arts Centre. All welcome to attend.

## Madagascar

St Anne's is putting on an end of year musical, Madagascar. Unfortunately Thursday night is sold out but there are still tickets available for Matinee's on Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 at 11am in St Anne's School Hall. Please contact the school office 6025 1281

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Sunday of Advent—Year C

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

Responsorial Psalm:



*To you O Lord, I lift my soul.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

## Reflection on the Readings

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

(Greg Sunter)

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