



First Sunday of Advent
30th November / 1st December 2019

Parish Clergy
Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office
Gemma Whitehead—Monday
Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday
9.00 am – 2.00 pm
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Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm
SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: This Week:
Tuesday: Xavier High School—Feast Day
Mass in Main hall at 9.30am
Mass of Anointing—Mercy Place Chapel at 11.00am
St Vincent de Paul—Members, volunteers and community Mass in Sacred Heart Church at 5.30pm.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday in Sacred Heart Church at 9.30am

RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM
BAPTISMS—By appointment.
Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



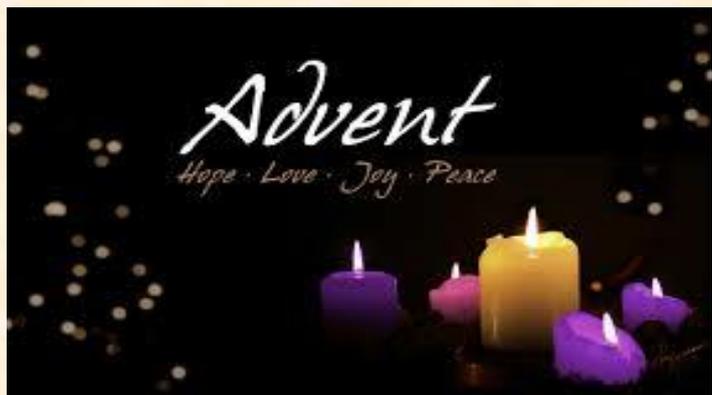
The Season of Advent is one of expectation, preparation and anticipation, - which has as its parallel the deep longing of the human heart.

In 1943 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, imprisoned by the Nazis, had this insight into the meaning of Advent: ‘A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.’ Bonhoeffer was executed by the Nazis in April, 1945.

Our prayer on this First Sunday of Advent is that during the coming year, as we relive the birth, life and death of Jesus, God will open our minds and hearts to a new understanding of his coming among us.

Random Acts of Kindness

Advent is a season of preparation and a time to be aware of others. In front of our Advent Wreath is a basket containing a card on which is an act of kindness. Please take one and during these days put this act of kindness into practice.



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ellen Hagan, Shane Fifield, Paul

McDonald, Sr Cabrini Knott, Br John Loth, Simon Harders, Frank Bowyer, Sue Churcher, Kevin Esler, Peter Freeman, Bernadette Hodda.

ANNIVERSARIES: Leesa Hammond, Margaret Power, Gerry Harrington, Anne Mitchell, Jack O'Rourke, Winifred O'Brien, Mary Mulquiney, Antonia Ramaekeres, Angela Leber, Mary Willis, Carmel Glasgow, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Vera Coyle, Jane Hicks, Herb Norman, Jack Collins, Elizabeth Clancy, Daniel O'Connor, Peter Schnitzer, John Robinson, William Mulquiney, John Dyball, Jane Waite, Louise Harvey, Michael Gleeson, Bill Slattery.

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: 30th November / 1st December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Colleen Day Sr Patricia Weekes Paula Waters	Sr Carina Morton Cathy Nyhan Rom Hayes
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Lyn Hamilton Anna Farrell	Sue Hayhoe Sue McLaurin Peter & Dianne Treacy Carmel Butts 2 volunteers
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon		

Sat /Sun: 7th December / 8th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Anthony Foley Ed Brown Kellie Gordes	Rosalie Martin Roy Thompson Lorraine Willis
Eucharistic Ministers	Anna Farrell Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	Gemma Whitehead Richard & Trish Parkinson Kevin Kennedy Fran Kernaghan Pamela McIntosh Ann McIntyre
Cantor Musicians	Margaret & Ed Brown Judy Foley	Catherine & Judy Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher		



Prayer for the lighting of the First Advent Candle

All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good, that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side.

May we listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah and resolve to walk always in the light of Christ.

We make this prayer through Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen



A 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."

Parish News



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Blake Madison Prendergast son of Peter & Astrid and Isla Lindsay Smith daughter of Calvin & Kate.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

This week with the season of Advent commencing we begin collecting unwrapped gifts for children, non-perishable food items or gift vouchers to support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. These donation can be placed in the baskets provided at the entrances to the Church over the next Sundays of Advent.

Envelopes will also be placed at entrances of the church.

THANK YOU

To Fr Bernie Thomas for his willingness to celebrate Eucharist with us with energy and insight. For his availability to help prepare Ellen Hagan's (Sr Anne's mother) mass of thanksgiving and for being the principal celebrant at her funeral. At the cemetery the heavens parted and we were bathed in magnificent sunshine.

To Fr Joel and Fr Marco from St Patrick's for conducting funerals at Sacred Heart during Fr Martin's absence.

To Sr Carina for her leadership during our liturgy of the word prayer services.

To Gemma & Fran for continuing to be the smiling and helpful face that many first see in our parish office.

To those who kept the garden and grounds alive and flourishing - particularly Barry Bowyer and Pete Whitehead. To Michael Byrnes for his ingenuity in fixing all sorts of maintenance problems inside and outside the presbytery.

To Sr Anne and Narelle for their attentiveness in setting up for weekend masses. To all those who continue to offer pastoral care to the sick and homebound through visitation.

To all those unnamed who continue in any way to offer prayer, hospitality, care and concern as part of the Sacred Heart family at North Albury.

Xavier High School

Our St Vincent de Paul Gift Giving and end of year Mass will take place in the main auditorium at Xavier High School Friday 13 December at 9.30 am.

All welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Murray Conservatorium will present its concert of carols and Christmas music on Friday, December 6 at Walla Walla Lutheran church, 7.30 pm;

Saturday, December 7 at St Matthew's Church Albury, 7.30 pm and Sunday, December 8 at St John's church Wodonga, 2.30 pm. Tickets: \$25 (\$20 concession); under 18 free, available from Cinema Centre or Murray Conservatorium.

Morning Tea

This Sunday after our celebration of Eucharist we will be sharing morning tea in our parish hall. Our thanks to the Xavier High School community for helping out today. All welcome.

Thanks to Ed Brown and the students and staff of Xavier for preparing and leading our celebration of Eucharist this Saturday evening 30 Nov.

At both masses this weekend our Yr 11 students (now yr 12) will offer a reflection on their immersion experiences from last term.

Music Ministers & Choir Practice

Music ministers and choir members are invited to attend a session on Tuesday 15th December at 7pm to look at a new Gloria and other hymns.

Will end session with a practice for the Christmas Eve mass for those who are available to help out. Contact Val Hayes 0422 953 771.

Funeral for Shane Fifield

Prayers will be offered for Shane in celebration of his life this Monday 2 December at 2.00pm in Sacred Heart Church. Please keep Louise, their children Clancy & Johnny, and Shane's parents and family in your prayers in these difficult days.

"The Way" - Advent Daily Reflection Booklet

*'May Jesus, who is **The Way**, be a lamp unto your feet and a light for your path as you journey towards the mystery of the Christmas miracle.'*

We have obtained a number of booklets from the Wollongong Diocese to provide an opportunity for us to be still each day and listen to God with the daily Advent reflections provided.

These booklets are free and are available at church entrances.

St Vincent de Paul

Columban Calendars & Christmas Cards

Are now available for sale at back of Church

Calendars x \$9 each

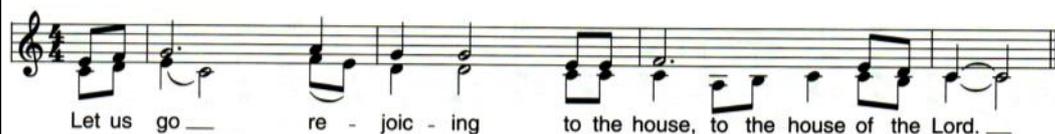
Pk of 10 cards x \$6

Liturgy of the Word

First Sunday of Advent—Year A

Readings: Is 2: 1-5; Rom 13: 11-14; Matt 24: 37-44

Responsorial Psalm:



Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

Today in the Church a new liturgical year begins, which is a new journey of faith for the People of God. And as always, we begin with Advent. The passage of the Gospel introduces us to one of the most evocative themes of Advent: the visit of the Lord to humanity. The first visit — we all know — occurred with the Incarnation, Jesus' birth in the cave of Bethlehem; the second takes place in the present: the Lord visits us constantly, each day, walking alongside us and being a consoling presence; in the end, there will be the third, the last visit, which we proclaim each time that we recite the Creed: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead". Today, the Lord speaks to us about this final visit, which will take place at the end of time, and he tells us where we will arrive on our journey.

The Word of God emphasizes the contrast between the normal unfolding of events, the everyday routine, and the unexpected coming of the Lord. Jesus says: "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away": so says Jesus. It always strikes a chord when we think about the hours which precede a great disaster: everyone is calm, and they go about their usual business without realizing that their lives are about to be turned upside down. Of course, the Gospel does not want to scare us, but to open our horizons to another, greater dimension, one which, on the one hand puts into perspective everyday things, while at the same time making them precious, crucial. The relationship with the God-who-comes-to-visit-us gives every gesture, every thing a different light, a substance, a symbolic value.

From this perspective there also comes an invitation to sobriety, to not be controlled by the things of this world, by material reality, but rather to govern them. If, by contrast, we allow ourselves to be influenced and overpowered by these things, we cannot perceive by these things, we cannot perceive that there is something very important: our final encounter with the Lord: this is important. That encounter. And everyday matters must have this horizon, and must be directed to that horizon. This encounter with the Lord who comes for us. In that moment, as the Gospel says, "Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left" (v. 40). It is an invitation to be vigilant, because in not knowing when he will come, we need to be ever ready to leave.

In this season of Advent, we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness. In order to do this, we must learn to not depend on our own certainties, on our own established strategies, because the Lord comes at a time that we do not imagine. He comes to bring us into a more beautiful and grand dimension. **(Pope Francis)**

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