



330 Swan Street
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www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com

Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

Christmas Day—25 December 2019

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Parish Administrator

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

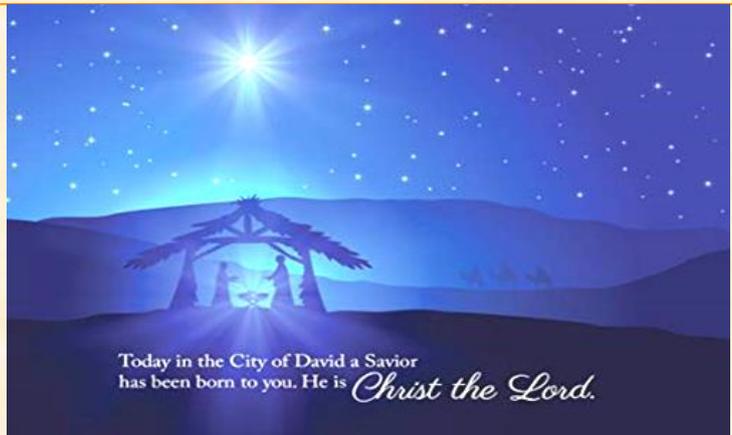
Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday & Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 6025 1516

Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com

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



Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS MASSES: This Week:

Friday 27 December 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

Dear Friends, as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas, let us hear again the message of the angels who announced Gods Good News for all people.

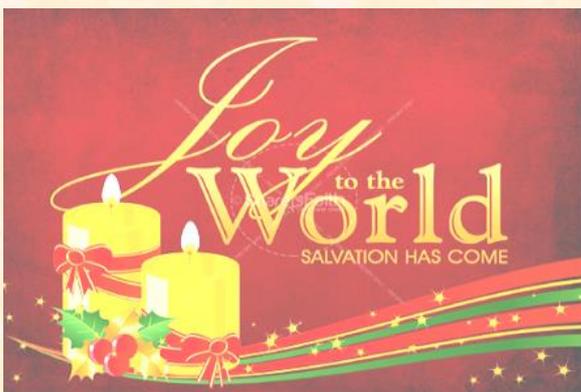
So let us read in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purposes from the first days of creation to the wonderful promises fulfilled in this Holy Child, and praise Him in our songs and carols.

But let us also remember to pray for the needs of the world—for peace and goodwill amongst all peoples, and for shared acts of justice, mercy and forgiveness.

We remember with respect the ancient peoples of this land, praying that reconciliation will continue to grow in the daily life of our nation.

And we pray especially for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed; for those sick in body or in mind; for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for the lonely and the unloved; for prisoners and refugees; the broken and injured and for all who are away from home and loved ones at this time.

We remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in hope and faith, recognising that we are one with them in this celebration of God’s gift to us at Bethlehem—Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Wishing you a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Elizabeth Flynn, Annette Boyle, Jim Burke, Angela Lynch, Marlene Mirani, Ellen Hagan, Shane Fifield.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Kevin Flanagan, Peter Gibbs, Ross Smith, Joan Krautz, Oswald Stenson, Annette Power, George Pugh, Norm Robinson Stan Deveney, Stanley Harrison, Frederick Mackay, Michael Dunn, Gavin SurrIDGE, Griff Rosser, Tom O'Rourke, Lyn Maloney, Frederick Lindsay, Robert Weissel, John Nenzl, Jack Galvin, Kevin Krautz, John Hallam, Barbara Kidd, Pat Smithenbecker, Jane Hill, Johanna Henry, Bernard Harper.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Concerned Catholics for Renewal-Reforming Our Church Together

Based on the model already existing within other dioceses a similar group has been formed within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. It's mission is to help create a gospel-centred Australian Church which is accountable, inclusive and transparent.

Getting Back in Mission available through Garratt Publishing is the formal submission of Catholics for Renewal to the Australian Plenary Council. In its forward Robert Fitzgerald (Former Commissioner, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse) writes, 'I hope and pray that the Plenary Council 2020/21 will be an opportunity for the Church in Australia to explore the evidence, engage in open dialogue and discern a new course for the Church. The time for resolute action is upon us. The time to govern out of hope not fear is now!'

A public forum is planned to be held in Albury on Thursday 20th February 2020 at 7.30-9.00pm at the Stanley Room Commercial Club.

Additional information is available on the website

www.concernedcatholicswagga.com

or www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au

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

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.

Merry Christmas



Parish News



We welcome you to our Christmas celebrations. Christmas provides us with a unique opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God's

love. That love finds its manifestation in us, our families and in our celebrating community. Christmas reminds us of the need to care for those who live on the margins of society - those who need to discover not our judgement, but God's mercy and hope. May this Christmas lead you to discover and share the peace and happiness which only God can give and which is reflected by our journey of faith.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Many thanks to those who have already contributed to this appeal especially through the liturgies at St Anne's Primary School and Xavier High School. This year a leaving collection will be held at all Christmas masses, the proceeds of which will be used by our local St Vincent de Paul Conference to help those in need over the Christmas holiday period. ***(If you have already contributed to this appeal or other charitable requests, we do not expect a further donation.)***

This collection provides the opportunity for those who have not already had the chance to share what we have with those who have little.

Heartbeat—Christmas Edition 2019

One Saturday night some months ago Karen Purtle took possession of the folder which held not simply the contents but also the sacred spirit of Heartbeat. I must admit that I was tired, my mind on other matters. I thought that probably nothing would come of it—how wrong I was. Thanks to Karen's passion and tenacity, the phoenix has risen from the ashes! The same authenticity, but with a renewed vibrancy and sense of purpose. So began the painstaking and methodical process of constructing flesh and bones around the vision. For let us remember that Heartbeat is not simply a magazine—but a journal of faith.

Thank you to Karen for her courage and editorial leadership, those involved in any way with proof reading, photography and layout, stimulating and gathering articles and the contributors themselves.

Free copies are available at all the church entrances. Digital copies can be downloaded from the parish website. Copies will also be made available at our various Christmas masses for the assembled multitude.

If you wish to be a part of the team that continues to nourish the life of 'Heartbeat' or have a creative suggestion or contribution for future editions please contact Karen Purtle bevispurtle@internode.on.net

Thanks to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

We welcome home to our local community many young women and men over the Christmas holiday season. You are a great blessing to the Church. May you continue to be aware of the presence of God's Spirit in you life's journey - a presence that is real, inspiring, challenging and comforting.

Alpha Course

Sacred Heart Parish intends offering the Alpha course in 2020. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Exploring faith is a journey—no pressure, no charge. People come on the Alpha course for many different reasons; some have never been to church and want to investigate whether God exists, others may have attended church and want to further explore the relevance of the Christian faith to their daily lives. Listen, learn, discuss and discover. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile. In an informal, friendly and open environment, lives can be transformed. For further information please view the parish website or contact Michael Regan mjregan68@bigpond.com

Plenary Council 2020

In recent days parishes have received an email from the office of Archbishop Christopher Prowse (Apostolic Administrator of Diocese of Wagga Wagga) indicating that our diocese will be sending a delegation of 5 people to the Plenary Council. This includes the Bishop and two members of diocesan church leadership. This leaves **2** delegates to be chosen across the lay faithful of the diocese.

Have you been part of the Plenary Council process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment? Do you feel called to express your interest in being a delegate from our diocese?

Expressions of interest to participate in the Plenary Council as a diocesan delegate need to be received at McAlroy House by 12.00pm 25 January, 2020.

Copies of the information sheet and the application form are available on our parish website, from the parish office or on the table at the Swan Street entrance to the church.

You may wish to encourage someone from our parish community to consider engaging in the selection process.

Christmas Day



Communal Prayer for Lighting the Four Candles of Advent

And the White Christmas Candle

Fr Martin: Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

Last Candle (Christmas Day) Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again, and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now)

All: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby, yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.