



Fourth Sunday of Advent
21st December / 22nd December 2019

Parish Clergy
 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: This Week
Outside masses on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated on Friday 27th December at 9.30am

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



Also on Monday 23 December we welcome into the community of the Christian faith through the sacrament of baptism Layla Anne Hastings daughter of Michael and Annalise.



Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

(Sr Dianne Bergant)

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.

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: 21st December / 22nd December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Jasmine Gordes Kellie Gordes Volunteer	Leanne Michael Roy Thompson Michael Stephenson
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Lindsay Lyn Hamilton Anna Farrell	Pauline Willis Peter & Dianne Treacy Marisa Hart Ann Marie Whiting 2 volunteers
Cantor Musicians	Catherine & Judy Judy Foley	Anne & Lachlan McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts		

Sat /Sun: 28th December / 29th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Kellie Gordes Sr Patricia Weekes Jasmine Gordes	Jane Murtagh Gavin Dykes Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers	Lyn Hamilton Pauline Mulquiney Jeneice Harding	Sue Hayhoe Richard & Trish Parkinson Gemma Whitehead Moiria Porta Noelene Cruise 1 volunteer
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Catherine & Judy Val Hayes
Counters: Michael Byrnes		



Prayer for the lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

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



Blessing Cards

At the entrances to the Church there are Blessing Cards for the Christmas Tree and the Christmas Meal. Please take these and use them in your homes.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

This is the last weekend for receiving gifts for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. These can be left in the baskets provided around the interior of the church. Thanks for your generosity in helping us to assist those in need in our community during the season Christmas.

Fr Kevin Flanagan—Second Anniversary of his death

The second anniversary of the death of Fr Kevin Flanagan parish priest of Sacred Heart for over 40 years occurs on Saturday 21 December. At both masses this weekend we will remember and give thanks for Kevin's gift of shared faith, friendship and pastoral leadership.

From Ganmain to Rome & Back

From Ganmain to Rome & Back, A Reflection on the life and priestly ministry of Archbishop Francis Carroll has been compiled by church historian Kevin Lawlor. A commentary on the book appears on page 17 of the December edition of 'Together'. Our parish has purchased two copies. These are available in the reading room and can be returned there after use.

Christmas Eve Mass—St Anne's School Hall—6pm

We are still looking for children, teenagers and families to be involved in our liturgy. If you wish to participate in any way contact Margie Brown brownm3@ww.catholic.edu.au or Jane Murtagh rmur5035@bigpond.net.au

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

We welcome into the community of the Christian faith through the sacrament of baptism Miles Elvis Jones and Edward Arran Jones the sons of Arran & Yasmin. Their brother Oscar has just completed year 1 at St Anne's.

Arran himself has asked to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults contains this fundamental statement concerning the intentions of the candidate:

'You would not seek baptism today unless you had already come to know Christ and wanted to become his disciple'.

The candidate is then asked three pivotal questions Have you listened to Christ's word and resolved to keep his commandments?

Have you shared our way of life and joined with us in prayer?

Have you done all these things with the intention of becoming a Christian?

To which the candidate replies 'I have'

Let us continue to support Arran through prayer in the continuing journey of his faith.

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.

St Vincent de Paul Columban Calendars & Christmas Cards

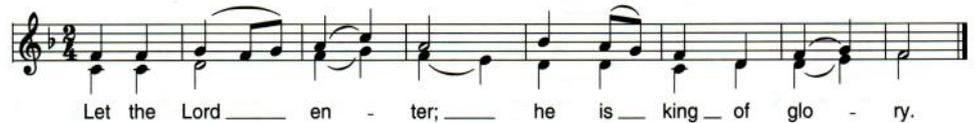
*Are now available for sale at back of Church
Calendars x \$9 each
Pk of 10 cards x \$6*

Liturgy of the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year A

Readings: Is 7: 10-14; Rom 1: 1-7; Matt 1: 18-24

Responsorial Psalm:



Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us..

Alleluia!

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Communal Prayer for Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: And with your spirit

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. **(A person lights the Candles of Hope, Peace and Love)**

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

From hope, peace and love grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. **(A person lights the Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy)**

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve – **6.00pm** Mass at St Anne's School Hall

(Liturgy adapted for families, children and teenagers)

9.00pm Mass in the Church

Christmas Day – **9.30am**