



*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*14th December / 15th December 2019*

**Parish Clergy**  
Fr Martin Cruickshank

**Parish Office**  
Gemma Whitehead—Monday  
Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday  
9.00 am – 2.00 pm  
Phone: 60251516

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**Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**  
**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAYS: This Week**  
**Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion 9.30am**  
**Thursday & Friday Mass 9.30am**

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



Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

( 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, Paul McDonald, Sr Cabrini Knott.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Jim Victory, Simone Wise, Sr Marie Duffy, Shaun Brady, Kent Van Every, Keith Groth, Michael Murphy, Geoff O'Brien, Wendy Murphy, Linus Drew, Irene Unger, Chris Thumpston, Ruby O'Keefe, Eric Low, Owen Drysdale, Len Syphers, Benjamin Orman, Fr Michael Buckdale, Kathleen Frauenfelder Marlene Clee, Nell Seymour, Harry Collins, Beryl Splatt, Norm Frauenfelder, Jason Black, Francis Henry, John Muldoon.

*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: 14th December / 15th December**

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b> <b>Lector 1</b> <b>Lector 2</b>	Nano Clancy Justin Clancy Brian Waters	Chris Lewis MACE Sisters Wendy McFerran
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Michael Regan Pat Hopkins Catherine Cutler	Carmel Butts Pamela McIntosh Mary Lefevre Kansas Michael Cathy Nyhan Sue Betts Sr Patricia Weekes
<b>Cantor</b> <b>Musicians</b>	John van Lint Judy Foley	Simon Goss Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Gordon Bryant		

**Sat /Sun: 21st December / 22nd December**

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



## *Prayer for the lighting of the Third Advent Candle*

As we light this Advent candle, may its flame be a symbol of hope; its warmth be a symbol of God's love for each one of us; and may it inspire us to live simply and generously, after the example of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you give to our lives in so many ways. Help us today and every day to be grateful, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing joy with others. We ask though Christ our Lord. Amen

## A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

*" The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!."*

# Parish News



*This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Silas James Boyd son of Michael & Tara.*

## 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. 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](mailto:bevispurtle@internode.on.net)

## Second Rite of Reconciliation

The second rite of reconciliation will be celebrated in our parish community this Tuesday 17 December at 6.00pm. An opportunity to receive and extend to others God's merciful love, healing and forgiveness. All welcome.

## Christmas Eve Mass—St Anne's School Hall

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

## Community Festival of Carols, Lessons & Readings

An ecumenical Advent and Christmas service of thanksgiving. St Matthew's Anglican Church on Sunday 15 December at 5.00pm. All welcome.

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Gifts for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal can be placed in the baskets at the entrances to the Church over the next week. Unwrapped gifts for children, non-perishable food items or gift vouchers would be most appreciated.

Envelopes are also available for monetary donations.

## 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. You can take another card each week.

## Music Ministers & Choir Practice

Choir practice for Christmas Eve mass to be held again on Tuesday 17 December following Reconciliation - approximately 7.15 pm. Contact Val Hayes 0422 953 771. We welcome anyone who would like to join our choir.

## Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors Roster for Christmas Masses

Please put your name down on roster provided (Swan Street entrance to church) if you are available for 6.00pm Christmas Eve Mass or 9.30am Christmas Day.

## Children's Liturgy Worksheets

Worksheets for both older and younger children based on the Sunday readings are available along with sets of coloured pencils at all the church entrances. These activities help the children to relate their lives to the call of Jesus and the gospel message.

## Anniversaries of Priestly Ministry & Service

The first anniversary of the death of Fr Jim Victory occurred last Monday 9 December. Jim's sister Kathryn and her husband Paul are members of our Sacred Heart Parish community. Fr Jim served as a priest in the outback towns and rural communities of Wilcannia-Forbes. In retirement he helped out at Sacred Heart, St Mary's Thurgoona and in many of our smaller communities.

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 that weekend we will remember and give thanks for Kevin's gift of shared faith, friendship and pastoral leadership.

## Beat The Heat!

Bottled water and clean face washers are now located in the long cupboard at the side of the confessional. Free to use at your convenience.

## 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

*Third Sunday of Advent—Year A*

*Readings: Is 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10; Matt 11: 2-11*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



Lord come and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

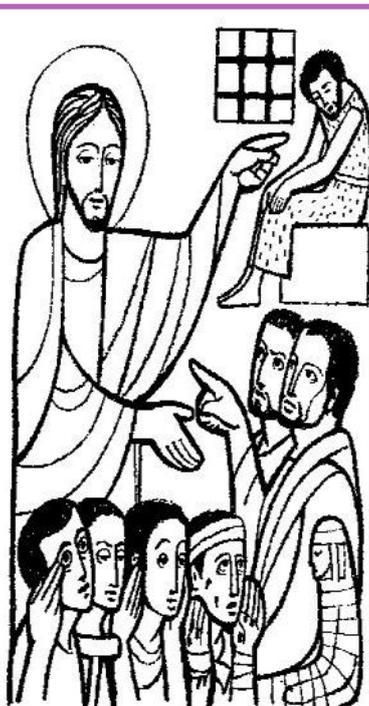
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

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## Communal Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle of Advent

**Leader:** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

*(A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace)*

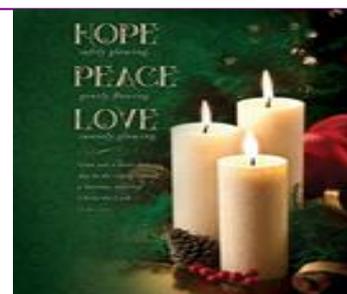
Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

*(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love)*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

**Leader:** Let us pray:

**All:** Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptised them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. **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

