



*First Sunday of Advent
28th / 29th November 2020*

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/>

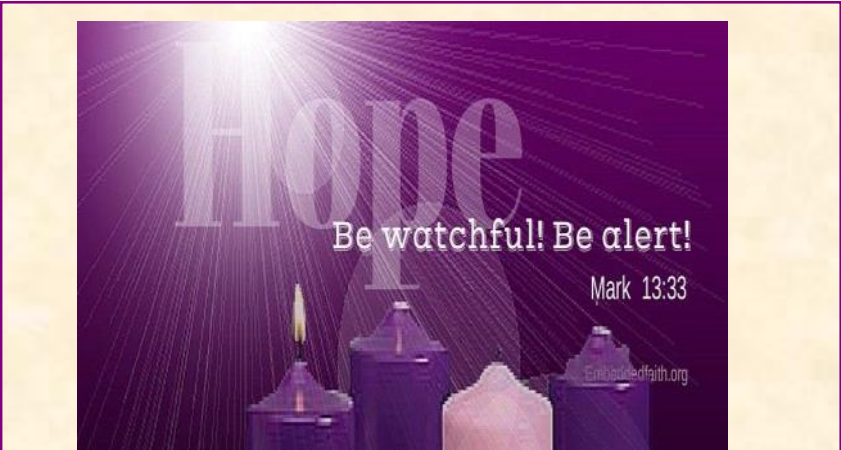
Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm
SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY: The only weekday mass this week will be Friday 4 December 9.30am

WELCOME

We welcome back across the border Fr Bernie Thomas to celebrate mass with us this weekend. We appreciate Bernie’s willingness to help out in our parish community.



As we begin another liturgical year, we focus on the coming of Christ. We wait for his coming in our own lives; we wait for his coming at Christmas; and we await his second coming.

In the **First Reading**, the exiles, freshly returned from Babylon, plead with God to return to them to help them rebuild their land. They are weary with waiting for him. The psalmist too pleads with God, ‘the shepherd of Israel’, to come once again to help, protect and show his power.

In the opening words of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul thanks God for all the graces they have received. He is confident that God will keep them faithful while they wait for the Lord Jesus Christ to be fully revealed (**Second Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, Jesus clearly warns his disciples to stay awake, to be on their guard, to be like the doorkeeper . . . ever alert, because he does not know when his master will return.

Let us enter this new season with confidence, knowing that the Lord will give us, and our world, the graces we need, because ‘God is faithful’.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Corry Van Lint, Jean Parker,

Margaret Liston, Margaret Wighton, Sandi McDonald, Trixie Stephens, Frances Nelson, Marie Thomas, Elaine Buckhorn, Sebastiana Lazzara, Lindsay Toole.

ANNIVERSARIES: Angela Lynch, James Burke, Leesa Hammond, Margaret Power, Gerry Harrington, Jack O'Rourke, Anne Mitchell, Winifred O'Brien, Lorrie Quigley, Sarah Caton, Br Trevor Kimble, Vera Coyle, Jane Hicks, Kathleen Berg, Daisy Hobdell, Elizabeth Clancy, Daniel O'Connor, Cecil Woodhouse, Peter Schnitzer, John Robinson, William Mulquiney, John Dyball, Jane Waite, Louise Harvey.

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

ADVENT

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent. Advent is the time in the church when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. The word Advent comes from two Latin words that mean "Coming Towards". We use this time to prepare ourselves in a special way to welcome Jesus. In our families, we prepare for Christmas by buying gifts, sending cards, decorating the tree and organising family celebrations. In the church we also prepare for Christmas.

The Advent wreath is a ring of evergreens with four candles, one for each week of Advent. Every part of the wreath reminds us of an important truth about God. The circle shape stands for the unending love of God, with no beginning and no end. The green leaves represent life and growth and hope. The candles represent Jesus, the light of the world.

The first candle is the Prophets' candle. The prophets prepared the people in the early days for the coming of the Messiah.

The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, which reminds us that Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem.

The third candle is the Shepherds' candle and reminds us of the visit of the shepherds.

And the last candle to be lit is called the Angels' candle. An angel announced to Mary that she was pregnant, and then angels announced His birth to the shepherds in the fields.

Prayer for Lighting the First Advent Candle The Candle of Hope



*God of Hope,
You call us to be
hope-filled people and to open up a
horizon of hope to all. As we light
this first candle on our Advent
wreath may we be filled with
everlasting hope and continue to
walk in your light. Help us to open
our hearts to others this Advent
season and to recognise the gift of
hope you have given us. Give us
the wisdom and courage to bring
the warmth of hope to those who
need it most. May your Spirit guide
us toward a world free from
poverty where everyone can enjoy
life and live it to the full.
We ask this in your name.
Amen.*

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."

Parish News

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH:

Fr Bernie: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Wreath is blessed with holy water)

COMMUNAL PRAYER (ALL): God of Hope, you call us to be hope-filled people and to open up an horizon of hope to all. As we light this first candle on our Advent wreath may we be filled with everlasting hope and continue to walk in your light. Help us to open our hearts to others this Advent season and to recognize the gift of hope you have given us. Give us the wisdom and courage to bring the warmth of hope to those who need it most. May your Spirit guide us toward a world free from poverty where everyone can enjoy life and live it to the full.

We ask this in your name. Amen

We will now listen to the Antiphon of 'Christ Be Our Light' while First candle of Advent is lit.

Parish Pastoral Council

The last meeting of the year for the Sacred Heart Parish Council will take place next Thursday 3 December at 6.00pm in the Presbytery. Any agenda items need to be referred to the Secretary, Karen Purtle: bevis-purtle@internode.on.net

Advent 2020 with Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy

Join me and people all around the world and Expect the Unexpected!

Sign up for a free daily email devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

Starting November 29th you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! Register now or for more info go to: <https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent>
Email: info@brucedownes.org

Vinnies Community Sleepout

The final figure for Trish Parkinson's Sleepout fundraiser is \$5,651.00. Many thanks to all who supported this. Trish Parkinson.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Christmas Cards—pk of 10—\$5

Columban Calendars—\$10 each

On Sale at back of church

Staff Appointments: St Anne's Primary School

Elizabeth O Carrigan the current Director of Schools for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga has announced that Mrs. Leanne Allibon has been appointed Assistant Principal and Mrs. Cassandra Jones Religious Education Co-Ordinator for 2021 and beyond.

Both Leanne and Cassandra are members of our parish community. Please continue to pray for them as they undertake these significant leadership roles.

Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020

The parish has once again purchased copies of the Advent / Christmas Daily Prayer Reflections produced by the Diocese of Wollongong. Inspired by the shepherds, Magi and Mary & Joseph this year's reflection book Adore provides a wonderful opportunity for us to take a quiet step out of our daily lives and refocus our attention on the Lord in adoration of what he has done for us through his Son.

If you would find this way of praying useful please take your free copy or distribute to someone confined to their homes or places of care.

Australian Catholics—Parish Edition—Summer 2020/21

Pilgrim Life—In his autobiography, St Ignatius Loyola describes himself as 'the pilgrim'. He considered his life as one long journey through which he sought to know, and become closer to God. What if we also viewed our whole lives as pilgrimages? How does that shape our life choices, our journeys and our encounters with others?

In this edition we explore how our life journeys - with all their twists and turns, joys and challenges - can inevitably lead us into a deeper relationship with God, if only we remain open to that possibility.

Please take and distribute your free copies.

UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk.

After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building.

Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient.

Eucharist

Holy Communion in the hand only.

Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.

No touching at the sign of peace.

No offertory procession.

No congregational singing.

No collection plates are to be used, but money/envelopes placed at collection points.

Face Masks

In public spaces and religious and social gatherings where social distancing is an issue it is recommended

Liturgy of the Word

First reading Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 79

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
Give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you, so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia , alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13: 33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.

It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: 'Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord