



330 Swan Street
North Albury
NSW 2640
02 6025 1516

www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com

Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord 24th / 25th December 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/>



Christmas means love

In recent months I may have hoped that Christmas would be the light at the end of the tunnel, marked by 'normal' festivities and gatherings. But for many, this may still not be the 'normal Christmas' we've longed for, even if the temporary lifting of restrictions enables us to be together with loved ones and to celebrate the birth of our Lord in church.

But however we feel, we can trust that our faithful God is always present with us and around us, even in this year of pandemic. Perhaps we've even found ourselves grateful to have a little more time than usual to sit quietly with the Lord, pondering some of the things we may once have taken for granted ... including the gift of simply being together with loved ones.

As we look back over 2020, let's ask God to show us anew how many of our ordinary daily human activities are linked with love ... love for God, for one another, and for the whole of creation.

With the Lord beside us, we try to notice some of the special gifts we've seen: the bravery of those working on the 'front line'; the kindness of neighbours or strangers; the gift of communication through technology; the hopeful news of a vaccine; and above all, the certainty that we are loved.

So we pray this Christmastide to know ever more deeply the truth of these words from the French song:

*It can be Christmas on earth every day, because
Christmas means Love.*

Mass Times

Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

6.00pm—Children's/Family Mass—Grounds of Xavier High School.

9.00pm—Sacred Heart Church

Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)

8.00am—Sacred Heart Church

9.30am—Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 26 December (Boxing Day)

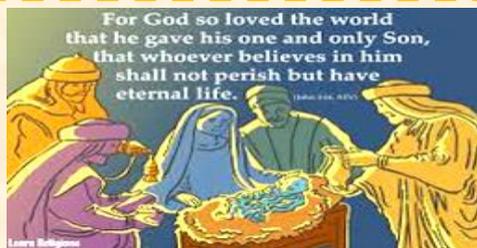
Vigil 6.00pm

Sunday 27 December (Feast of Holy Family)

9.30am

The only scheduled weekday mass is on Friday 1 January 2021 at 9.30am

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.15pm—5.45pm



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fran Cudmore, Dr Josef Hruz, Corrie Van Lint, Rita Clear, Jean Parker, Margaret Liston.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Kevin Flanagan, Nancy Gray, Jim Brooder, George Rossmann, Stanley Harrison, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Peter Rolfe, John Hallam, John Warford, Pat Smithenbecker, William Foo, Kit Telby, Bernard Harper, *Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

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.

QR CODE FOR OUTDOOR MASS

A specific QR Code (below) has been established for attendance at the 6.00pm Outdoor Mass. Information required: Name, Mobile number/email, Number of people in group/household then submit.

Usual manual means will also be available for recording required information.

Personal information is collected and retained securely, and will only be used for the purpose of contact tracing for Covid-19 purposes if required.



QR CODE FOR ALL OTHER CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve—9.00pm; Christmas Day—8.00am & 9.30am

Use the QR Code below. Diocese of Wagga Wagga Parish Attendance Register.

Details required: **Name, Mobile number/email; choose parish (North Albury); number in group/household then submit.**



Christmas Crib

Thanks to Marie & John Van Lint for the meticulous repair work on the figures which were re-discovered in the loft and now reside on the sanctuary. The vibrancy of the colours and the diverse hues are a reminder of the nature of our own Christmas journey.



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 Lighting the Christmas Candle

Holy child, you come as the true gift to a world full of presents. The shops are empty, the Christmas stockings are full, the Christmas trees could hardly shelter any more presents.

And yet, only one gift is necessary as you steal into our lives and offer your love.

As we light this candle to signify your arrival and to remind us that you are the light of the world, help us in the church and in the world to recognise that mysterious gift which you place in the crib at our feet.

Give us the grace to receive that gift and to be changed by it.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen.

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

“ Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger.”

Welcome

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.

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.

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.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading - Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as all rejoice at harvest time as all are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal-Father, Prince of Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the tree of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes
he comes to rule the earth **R**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia , alleluia!

**Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea to the town of David called Bethlehem since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all who enjoy his favour. The Gospel of the Lord