



*Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
9th/ 10th January 2021*

Parish Clergy
Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office
Gemma Whitehead—Monday
Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday
9.00 am – 2.00 pm
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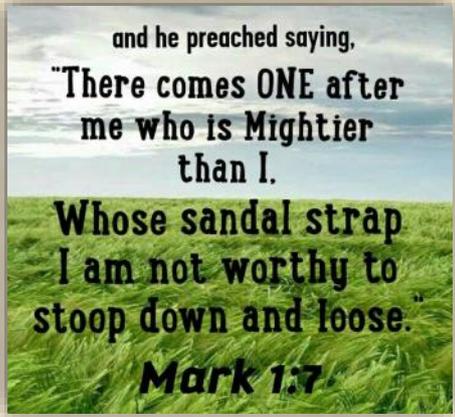
Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm
SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week
Wednesday 9.30am
Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

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



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bill Freestone, Grace Margaret McQuade, Pat Flynn, Dianne Brown, Allan Crothers, Jamie Nelson, Dr Josef Hruz, Corrie Van Lint, Rita Clear, Jean Parker, Margaret Liston.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Gill, Tony Iverson, Kathleen Lester, Kevin Murphy, Keith Hertzog, Raymond Fogarty, Albert Williams, Robert Watson, Ann Bellett Sr Monica Esler, Lynette Dosenko, Nola Toner, Katherine Wishart, Alma Putnam, Geoffrey Kimball, Marie Sullivan, John Whyte, John Packer, Michael Mullavey, Daren Fisher, Myrtle Westblade, Doris Hourigan, Frank Tracey, Leslie Maloy, Maria Kramer, Tom Drum, Joy Bruton.

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

Blessing Upon the New Year

Lord, at the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us.

May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes.

Set your way before us.

May all your plans succeed so that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

Amen

Prayer of Renewal

Jesus,
I am seeking more meaning in my life.
I seek happiness and peace for myself and my loved ones.
Little by little as I look back over my life,
I can see you have been calling me to yourself.
Sometimes in the special moments which I have experienced I have sensed your presence and your guiding hand through it all.
Help me not to be afraid as I resolve now to learn more about you and your Church and make you a larger part of my life.
Amen.

Thought for the Week

(Pope Francis):

“Baptism permits Christ to live in us, and to live united with him, in order to collaborate in the Church, each according to his or her own condition, to the transformation of the world.”



Parish News

Welcome

The Christmas season 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 New Year 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.

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 your life's journey - a presence that is real, inspiring, challenging and comforting.

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.

Sacred Heart Bank Account for Parishioner Deposits

Church Account Second Collection

Pays insurance and utility accounts. Covers all maintenance and pastoral/liturgical activities expenses.

Internet Transfer

Account Name: Sacred Heart North Albury Church Account

BSB: 066-789; **Account Number:** 100005574

Description: Surname & Envelop or Planned Giving Number

Presbytery Account First Collection

Pays for household expenses and Priest's Stipends.

Internet Transfer

Account Name: Sacred Heart North Albury Presbytery Account

BSB: 066-789; **Account Number:** 100005575

Description: Surname

REFLECTION

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their
flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart."

St Vincent de Paul North Albury wishes to thank the parishioners of Sacred Heart for their generous support of our Christmas Appeal. Together with The Rotary Club of Albury, our local schools and the community, St Clare's Conference have been able to assist 100 families with Christmas vouchers to the value of \$8,050 and approximately 170 children with toys and gifts.

On behalf of Vinnies I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas and may 2021 bring good health and happiness.

Trish Parkinson, President St Clare's Conference.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 55: 1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money come! Buy corn without money and eat and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend your money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy one of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways—it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world—our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness—since the Spirit is the truth—so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater and this is God's testimony given as evidence for his Son. The word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him and said;
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins
of the world.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'. The Gospel of the Lord.