



Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury, pays respect to the Wiradjuri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. We acknowledge with respect elders past, present and emerging.

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

13th / 14th March 2021

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 MASSES: This Week:

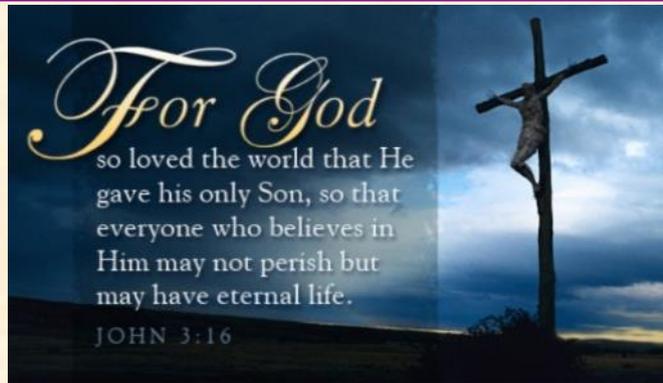
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



God's love for humanity is proclaimed throughout the liturgy this Sunday. The readings shed light on our story of salvation, and reflect the depth of eternal love that God expresses for all people.

The **First Reading** describes how, for centuries, prophets had proclaimed the truth at the heart of God's covenant with Israel. The people turned away from this wisdom. They became captives, not only to hostile invaders, but also to their sinful ways. But even though the hearts of the people turned away from God, God's love remained. In time this love would become flesh in the person of Jesus.

The **Psalm** is a song of lament and of deep longing for freedom from slavery and captivity. Following the long months of restrictions from the virus, we, too, truly know the pain of this loss and yearn for freedom.

In the **Second Reading**, Paul describes the depth of God's love and his understanding of the suffering of humanity. Paul explains how the incarnation, life and death of Jesus restore us all to the life we were always meant to live.

Today's **Gospel** links Israel's story of exile with the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus. The deep truth at the heart of God's covenant is revealed to Nicodemus, who represents the ancient knowledge and law of Israel. Jesus brings light and love to a meeting that takes place in darkness and ignorance.

Let us pray that our own hearts, and the hearts of all humanity, will turn towards the light of God's love. May we, in the way we live our lives, each make manifest God's love for the world.



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pat Peel, Allen Jenkins, Bert Gogoll, Myles Borg, Kath Duck.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Gill, Margaret Creek, Mel Murphy, Herbert Koucky, John Kane, Ivan Kruze, Robin Drewe, Assunta Ravenna, Dario Zanardo, Domenica Malez, Richard Ratajczyk, Joyce Corrigan, Adrian Shattock, Lisa Malone, Herb Doolan, Neville Bennett, Roy Hummerston Noel Duck, Wally Lane, Betty Lindner, Stella Sisley, Sylvester Graeber, Patrick Mullavey, William Hayes, Irene Hunt, Walter Kirley.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 13th . 14th March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Brian Waters	Ed Brown
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Cathy Nyhan
Lector 2	Colleen Day	Sue McLaurin
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding	Di Treacy
Cantor	John Van Lint	Bob Mathews
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Richard & Trish Parkinson (Sunday) Group 5		

Sat /Sun: 20th / 21st March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Jasmine Gordes	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Kellie Gordes	Rom Hayes
Lector 2	Justin Clancy	Roy Thompson
Eucharistic Ministers	Kaye Deanshaw	Sr Patricia Weekes
Cantor	Catherine/Judy	Simon Goss
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Diane & Greg Bartsch (Sunday) Group 6		



*This weekend we welcome into the community of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism: **Silvie Rai Robinson** child of Peter & Elizabeth.*

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

“...Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need.”

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 of St Patrick

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears
me.



Parish News

Notice to Choir Members (and other interested singers)

Because of current COVID restrictions we would like our choir members to indicate which of the Easter ceremonies they are available—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and / or Easter Vigil. Hopefully next week we will be able to advertise practice times. Please phone either Judy Foley on 0419 420 278 or Val Hayes on 0422 953 771 to indicate your availability. **PS** If you enjoy singing but can't at the present time because of current restrictions then the choir is the place for you.

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.

If the people attending a religious service will be singing in an indoor area then a max capacity of one person per 4 square metre rule applies and everyone attending the service must wear a face mask during the singing.

Therefore, until this regulation changes we will not engage in congregational singing.

However, up to 30 people may participate in an indoor choir in accordance with social distancing protocols.

Sacred Heart Footy Tipping Competition

Thanks to Heath Naughton who has agreed to coordinate this year's Sacred Heart AFL Footy Comp following the retirement of Brian Butts. Our revamped and revitalized Comp is ready to spring into action at the cost of \$1 a round = \$23 all up. We still have some contributor's funds when last years comp went into lockdown.

Please register your interest by contacting the parish office by phone/email, by adding your name to the sheet located at the Swan St entrance or by emailing Heath directly on heathnaughton@gmail.com

First round begins Thursday 18 March.

Lenten Discussion Groups

This year we are using ***It's All About Hope***. This year, author Chris Monaghan explores the theme of 'Hope', using prayer, a careful selection of readings, reflection and his own stunning personal photography.

Groups meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. All welcome to participate and attend as you are able.

Prayer for

Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love, Source of all hope and good things; You call us in love, to share in the work and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to be confident and joyful in serving those around us, so that through us, the world may catch a glimpse of the love you have for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to everyone that we encounter in our parish community, at home, at work and in our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we can recognise and thank you for all the good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

World Day of Prayer—Report

Thanks to the organizing committee comprising Judy Lindsay, Paula Waters and Margaret Bryant for assembling the liturgy for the World Day of Prayer which was hosted by Sacred Heart last Friday. The liturgy was prepared by the Christian women of the republic of Vanuatu. A cheque for \$895.00 raised through contributions to the offering basket has been sent to the Bible Society to assist with their practical projects.

Heartbeat

It is intended to produce an Easter edition of our parish journal. All articles, photos and reports need to be sent to **Karen Purtle by 14 March**. Karen's email: bevis-purtle@internode.on.net

Project Compassion 2021

Aspire not to have more, but to be more

Oscar Romero

Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

Project Compassion brochures, boxes and envelopes are available at all church entrances. Please donate as generously as is possible.

WANTED: Three bedroom house wanted to rent for family of 6 needed before 15 April. Family has a very good rental record and current house is being sold. Contact presbytery on 6025 1516 or Tony on 0438 402 499.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the second book of Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 136

Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you.

By the rivers of Babylon,
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R**

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said
'one of Zion's songs.' **R**

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,,
if I prize not Jerusalem,
above all my joys! **R**

A reading from the of Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2: 4-10

God loves us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3: 14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he or she has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world, men and women have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear their actions should be exposed; but the one who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what that person does is done in God. The Gospel of the Lord.