



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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent 25th / 26th March 2023

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank Parish Priest

Parish Office 9am-2pm

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

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Bank A/c Details for Parishioners wishing to Direct Deposit into our Church A/c (2nd Collect) BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 10000 5574; Ref No: Please contact Office for a number.

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

Live-streaming on Sunday 9.30am Mass by accessing our website.

WEEKDAYS: Wednesday & Friday 9.30 am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM



We give thanks for all the people who fill our lives with love. We pray for all those who do not feel loved, especially those yet to appreciate the depth of God's love.

Project Compassion Story—Fifth Week of Lent

Over the last few weeks we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. There have been stories from Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Nepal and First Australians. Through your generosity, Caritas Australia is able to support partners in 18 different countries. These are all people who, not unlike Lazarus, are longing to be unbound and set free. The Gospel calls us to believe in the Life to which Jesus invites us; that Life is built on justice and compassion.

When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their brother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life" he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does. Today's Psalm reminds us 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.'

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy is offered in Sacred Heart parish community each second and fourth Sunday during school terms.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Joseph Ratcliffe, Margaret Mary Brown (Melbourne), Kevin Freeman

ANNIVERSARIES: Inge Husz, Gavin Feltwell, Garry Rake, Robert Nichols, John Gale, Michael Bereza, Charles Borg, Robert Killelea, Bep Van Kerke Oerle, Billie Walsh, Robert Grealy, Mary Scott, Delma Mullavey, Catherine Caton, George O'Neill, Patti Crozier, Harry Flood, Geraldine Grimson, Noel Duck, Darryn Graeber & Kevin Lester. *Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

Thanks, Fr Bernie Thomas

Gratitude is expressed to Fr Bernie Thomas for once again coming to the rescue during my most recent COVID experience. His willingness to help out with weekend masses, as well as receiving Kay into the church and ministering the sacrament of baptism was of great pastoral support. Thanks also to those who provided comfort food, medical assistance and kept the ship afloat during my journey out of COVID.

Lenten Prayer

Loving God,
as a thank you for the mystery of unconditional love made palpable in the life and love of your Son, we thank you for the clear witness of his absolute trust in you that leads Him forward.

Grace us, his disciples, with similar trust that we also might allow your Spirit to transform our deaths into life for many.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 25th / 26th March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Justin Clancy Adrian Mitchelhill Paula Waters	Xavier Youth Mass
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Judy Lindsay	Carey Menz-Dowling Gemma Whitehead Pamela McIntosh
Cantor	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Xavier Youth Mass

Counters: Wendy McFerran & Lachlan McIntyre

Sat/Sun: 1st / 2nd April

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Colleen Day Michael Byrnes Sr Carina Morton	Cathy Nyhan Brigita Serbinek Gavin Dykes
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Pat Hopkins	Narelle Naughton Trish Parkinson Sue McLaurin
Cantor Musicians	Catherine Cutler/Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Ann & Lachlan McIntyre Val Hayes

Counters: John Dowling & Carey Menz-Dowling

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage: Bishop Mark Edwards will be the main Celebrant at the Marian Hills Shrine on Divine Mercy Sunday - 16th of April. Includes: 11am Confessions - 12.30pm Mass - 1.30 BYO lunch - 2.30 Eucharistic Procession/ Adoration/Divine Mercy Chaplet. See poster in the church: 6503 Hume Hwy, Kyeamba: Manuela Tetley 0420933829 or Fr. Bradley Rafter 0449129270

Easter Choir Practice

There will be no practice Thursday 30 March. If members could come early on the days for a quick practice beforehand.

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

" Jesus' act of raising Lazarus shows the extent to which the power of God's grace can go, and, thus, the extent of our conversion, our transformation ."

Parish News

Easter Ceremonies/Mass Times 2023

Holy Thursday (6 April) - 6.00pm

(Please note change of time)

Good Friday (7 April) Stations of the Cross in Sacred Heart Church 10.30am . Hot cross buns in hall afterwards.

The Lords Passion 3.00pm

Easter Saturday Vigil (8 April) 6:00pm

Easter Sunday (9 April) 9.30am

Second Rite of Reconciliation

The Second rite of Reconciliation including the opportunity for individual confession will be offered in our parish community this Thursday 30 March at 6.00pm here at Sacred Heart.

The liturgy will be designed around our Year 4 students participating in the sacrament for the first time and their families.

However, there will be sufficient priests present to hear adult confessions as required.

All welcome to participate in this important sacrament of healing and forgiveness.

Lenten Discussion Group

The concluding parish Lenten discussion group in this cycle will be held Tuesday 28 March at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Please note there will be NO gathering on Thursday.

Diocesan Newspaper Together—March Edition

The March Edition of the diocesan Newspaper 'Together' has arrived. Of particular interest is the text of Bishop's Address, at the launch of the Charter for Catholic Education in our diocese (page 2-3). What is the Synod of Synodality (page 4-5). The text of the Bishop's Lenten Pastoral Letter (page 6-9). Parish News from Sacred Heart North Albury (page 21). Please take & distribute our free copies.

BONSAI UNDER LIGHTS—Fundraising Event for Murray Concert Choir

Come and join us for a beautiful, unique display of Albury's largest collection of bonsai, accompanied by the soothing sounds of the Murray Concert choir and a display of botanic artwork. Friday 31 March, with performance \$20 entry, includes wine and cheese.

Saturday 1 April, bonsai and art display only \$10 entry. 7.30pm—10.00pm. Valibo Nursery, 534 Urana Road Lavington. Entry via Barneys Rubble. Day time viewing 10.00am—3.00pm, gold coin donation.

To Ponder

In our readings, death and rising from the dead take many forms. In Ezekiel, death is akin to hopelessness, and resurrection is its reversal—the infusion of hope into an exiled, suffering community. For Paul, resurrection is linked to righteousness and new life with Christ through the death of sin. And in the Gospel, the raising of Lazarus is a literal, physical return to life from death, and with a shift from mourning to celebration. Consider the areas of death in your own life and in the world around you—those spaces of hopelessness, brokenness, and mourning. What spaces need new life, and what would resurrection look like in those spaces? Finally, Jesus calls Lazarus to “come out” from the tomb, and Lazarus responds. Jesus both calls us and hears our cries for help. He embraces us in our suffering, lifts our burdens, and beckons us to come out from the areas of death and sin in our own lives. Spend time in prayer with Jesus this week. Call to him, be honest about what burdens you, and listen for his call to “come out” and be set free.

Youth Mass

Our youth mass for this term organised by Xavier staff & students will take place this Sunday 26 March at 9.30am.

All welcome!

Morning Tea in the hall afterwards provided by Xavier High School.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION—Confirmation 2023

As Bishop Mark will be overseas attending World Youth Day our usual date for Confirmation has been brought forward. Confirmation for Catholic candidates usually in Yr 6 and beyond will take place on **Friday 23 June at 6.00pm** in Sacred Heart Church.

Parents of possible candidates not attending St Anne's Primary School are asked to contact our parish office by email or phone so that you can be informed of the process for preparation.

Parent/Student Reflection and Information Evening

Thursday 11 May 6.00pm in St Anne's School Library.

Please note change of date!

Confirmation Commitment Masses—Feast of Pentecost—Saturday 27 May 6.00pm; Sunday 28 May 9.30am.

Confirmation Preparation Day—Thursday 15 June—School Hours—St Anne's Primary School.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION—First Holy Communion (Yr 4 & beyond)

Weekend of Saturday/Sunday 26th & 27th August at 6.00pm and 9.30am

Parent/Student Information and Reflection Evening

Thursday 27th July at 6.00pm St Anne's School Library.

Commitment Mass—Weekend of 5th & 6th August 6.00pm and 9.30am.

Parish Morning Tea next Sunday 2 April 2023

Please bring a plate to share if you are able. All most welcome.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you and you will live and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this—it is the Lord who speaks. **The word of the Lord**

Responsorial Psalm 129

(When the Psalm is sung, the words will vary slightly but the meaning remains the same.)

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness;
for this we revere you.. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman count on the daybreak
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity **R**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11: 3-45(Short Form)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death but in God's glory and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he learned that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother will rise again,' said Jesus. Martha said 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God that one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said. 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb; it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.
The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!