



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.

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord 24th / 25th December 2023

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank Parish Priest

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/>

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.

Presbytery A/c BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 100005575

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

Priest: In the silence of this night / day we celebrate the tiny hope of birth in Jesus, our Christ. As we wonder what this birth means to us, we recall all that we have found on the way to Bethlehem.

We remember the candles of hope, peace, love and joy we have shared in the sacred story. These lights shine brightly as the story of Christmas begins.

Each of the Advent Candles are now lit:

The Light of Hope (candle is lit)

The light of Peace (candle is lit)

The light of Love..... (candle is lit)

The light of Joy (candle is lit)

Now, as the shepherd worship and the cattle low we sing with the angels that God has come into the world. We join in that song, singing; 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Christ candle is lit

ALL: We light the Christ candle to celebrate and thank you for sending the Christ Child to be Emmanuel, God among us. We join the chorus of angels with our glad tidings and great joy. God has been made real, God has come close. Holy God we rejoice in your presence and pray for wonder and delight. We live in HOPE, we pray for PEACE, we share your LOVE as we are filled with JOY. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Greg Scott, Buster Upshall, Betty

Lindner, Pat Spokes, Tony Grace, Kathy Sartori, David McGrath, Helen Gardner, Jenny Corcoran, Anthony McLeod-Nibbs, Terry Walsh, Patricia Sheridan, Margaret Gaynor, Craig Dunkerley.

ANNIVERSARIES: Yvonne & Jim Rosewarne, Jason Rosewarne, Mary O'Neill, Fr Kevin Flanagan, Jed Oftana, Nancy Gray, George Rossmann, Stanley Harrison, Tyson Baczynski, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Peter Rolfe, John Hallam, John Warford, Pat Smithenbecker, Bob Purtle, William Foo, Kit Telby,
Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE & THE HOLY LAND

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat /Sun: 30th / 31st December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Narelle Naughton
Lector 1	Paula Waters	Kay Morrell
Lector 2	Kaye Deanshaw	Sue McLaurin
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Pauline Mulquiney	Marisa Hart Di Treacy Eamonn Buckley
Cantor	Judy Lindsay	Lachlan McIntyre
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters:		

Sat / Sun: 6th / 7th January 2024

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Ed Brown
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Adrian Mitchelhill	John Dowling
Eucharistic Ministers	Adrian Mitchelhill Justin Clancy	Trish Parkinson Moiria Porta Fran Kernaghan
Cantor	John van Lint	Bernadette, Helen and
Musicians	Judy Foley	Wendy
Counters: Judy Warren & Michael Byrnes		

Christmas Prayer

Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season
may new hope and joy flood our spirit
whenever we watch babies and young children playing
May a new energy delight our hearts
whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq
May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off
whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us
May the hospitality of our hearts expand
whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays
May we experience love and appreciation
whenever we spy our reflections in the mirror or pool
May we find ourselves to be images of God
whenever we put our feet up for leisure
May the humble presence of the Incarnate One companion us
whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world
May the Christ child draw us into unity
Amen

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."



Parish News

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.

A Christmas Prayer

God of many happy returns, thank you for finding a home among us,
For drawing us all to the side of your manger where we share your arrival

With smelly creatures and simple shepherds.

Christmas is a busy time, often burdened with crazy expectations.

There is no such thing as a perfect family.

Emotions can be raw.

Give us a few quiet moments today to light a candle for you and place it on that modest cake we have made with our lives, where you bring light.

On we that live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. Amen

(From Michael McGirr 'Doorways into Hope & Joy')

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Dear friends, as we gather to celebrate the festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may understand its deeper meaning. Let us hear, in words and music of God's good purposes and the sharing of hope in times of trouble.

In these challenging times when nations and peoples are divided and families isolated, let us rejoice in the words and music that remind us that God is with us and we are not alone. As we recall the themes of Christmas we affirm God's good intention for all people and his unconditional love for all creation.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for our faith communities that together we may show forth the light of the love of God for all people.

And we pray especially for the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed; for those sick in body or in mind; for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for the lonely and the unloved; for prisoners and refugees; the broken and injured and for all who are away from home and loved ones at this time.

We remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in hope and faith, recognizing that we are one with them in this celebration of God's gift to the world at Bethlehem and rediscovered in the simplicity and wonder of human life and love.

Christmas Collection

One collection will take place at all masses on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day at the conclusion of the Prayers of the Faithful. For those wishing to donate electronically our 'tap and go' device is located at the car park entrance of the church and at Xavier outside the main entrance door.

Your generous contribution helps sustain the life and pastoral outreach of our parish community.

Fr Kevin Flanagan—Anniversary of His Death

The sixth Anniversary of the death of Fr Kevin Flanagan, parish priest of Sacred Heart for over 40 years occurred on the 21 December. We continue to remember and give thanks for Kevin's gift of shared faith, friendship and pastoral leadership.



This week we welcome into the community of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

James Anthony Watt

Son of Nicholas & Georgia



A Christmas Blessing

May the forgiving spirit of Him

to whom we dedicate this season

prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom, worshipping as they see fit, loving others.

May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme in our world and in our hearts.

Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Isaiah 9: 1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen 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 men rejoice at harvest time, as men 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

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

***Response: 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 trees 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

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 Jesus Christ. 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 the 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 a 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.