



330 Swan Street
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www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com

Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

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 Holy Family 30th /31st 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

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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:

Monday (New Year's Day) 9.30 am

Tuesday—Mercy Place Chapel 2.00 pm

Includes sacrament of anointing (Negative RAT test required before entry)

Wednesday & Friday 9.30 am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.



HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS,
MARY
AND JOSEPH

Reflection on the Readings

In the first reading from Genesis God tells Abram “fear not Abram, I am your shield”... and Abram put his faith in the Lord. Sarah and Abraham had a child. A promise was made and fulfilled...and the fulfillment of this promise changed the history of salvation.

In our Gospel today, another couple receives a promise and that promised is also fulfilled. Mary and Joseph bring their child to the Temple for they were obedient and followed the law of Moses: “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord.” They didn’t have the resources to offer a lamb, so they offered “the sacrifice of a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. The promise made to the righteous and devout Simeon and the prophetess Anna were also fulfilled! Simeon will not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord... He received more than what was promised! Not only did he see the consolation of Israel, not only did he see the Christ, but he took him into his arms and blessed God!! Now he can die in peace, for his eyes saw God’s salvation! A promise was made to Mary: a sword shall pierce her heart... and the promised was later fulfilled.

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was on Him.

Luke 2:40



knowing-jesus.com

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, Craig Dunkerley.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Flanagan, John Gill, Ross Smith, Susan Lally, John Gawen, Dawn Robison, Eileen Howard, Kerry Mildren, John Cronin, Miroslav Student, Daniel Darcey, Brian O'Donoghue, Bert Coyle, Trish Carmody, Peter McKee, Catherine Glennon, Joan Doughoney, Bob Purtle, Peter Liepins, Veronica Fagg, Badea Ghosn, Fred Owen, Agnes Armstrong, Frank Lacey, Barbara Robertson, Catherine Weldon, James Whitehead, Noel Frauenfelder.

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

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 Musicians	Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Lachlan McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Anne Gordes & Lorraine Willis		

Sat / Sun: 6th / 7th January

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 Musicians	John van Lint Judy Foley	Bernadette, Helen and Wendy
Counters: Judy Warren & Michael Byrnes		

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"The family is important, and it is necessary for the survival of humanity. Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family, whether we like it or not, is the foundation".

Prayer for the New Year

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed.

Let us keep the God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day.

Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May our year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon us and bestow upon each of us a bright, healthy and peaceful new year. Amen

Parish News



We welcome you to our New Year celebrations. This 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. As we prepare to enter a New Year we are reminded 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 2024 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 big thank you to all who helped prepare and participated in any way in our Christmas Masses. Our liturgies are always enhanced by those who share their musical giftedness. We are so fortunate that our 6.00pm Christmas Eve family mass at Xavier and our two masses in Sacred Heart had the benefit of live carols, melodious voices and vibrant musical instruments.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ALL: We light the Christ candle to celebrate and thank you for sending this 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

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')

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

TO PONDER:

We often call today's feast an "idea" feast, for it can be a deeply challenging one to integrate into the diverse reality of what "family" is today. Our readings clearly recognise that the experience of any family life is not utopian. The readings themselves are rooted in historical contexts of suffering and struggle in family as well as community. And they do not promise familial joy, as we see with the prophecy made to Mary that a sword will "pierce" her as a mother. Yet these readings do contain inspiration and consolation. They tell us that we are not alone in experiencing life's brokenness, but they simultaneously call us to continue to work toward the ideals of love and unity, beginning with what is at the core of our daily lives: our families.

St Clare's Conference Christmas Appeal

Thanks to your generosity an abundance of food was donated to provide hampers for Christmas. Cash donations also amount to \$1,595 which will be used locally.
Columban Calendars are still available at the cost of \$10 from the table at the Mate Street entrance.

Celebration of First Eucharist

Congratulations to Sophie Roslyn Payne and Georgia Belle Kendrick the grand daughters of John & Carey Menz-Dowling who receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion this Sunday 31 December. May the reception of First Eucharist provide food for their journey of faith and life.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 104

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

Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
Make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **R**

Be proud of his holy name,
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **R**

Remember the wonders he has done,
His miracles, the judgments he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R**

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham when put to the test offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;

now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2: 22-40 (Shortened version)

When the day came for them to be purified, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ... Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him... Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus he took him into his arms and blessed God and he said: 'Now, Master you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' ... When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required they went back to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.