



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.

First Sunday of Advent 2nd / 3rd 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 9.30am Mass by accessing our website

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Tuesday Mercy Place Chapel 2.00pm Includes sacrament of anointing. Negative RAT test required before entry.

St Vincent de Paul mass 5.00pm

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

CHILDRENS LITURGY:

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

Advent Season—Children's Liturgy will extend to first three weeks of Advent. This will take place on Sunday 3, 10 & 17 December.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle—Candle of Hope.

Priest: Our expectation begins now.

We begin our journey, like Joseph and Mary. We cannot see the way ahead. We cannot know what hope will come but we trust God to journey with us, beckoning along with the prophet..... 'O House of Israel, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.'



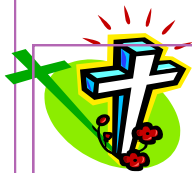
This is our hope as we light the first candle of Advent.

First Candle is lit

ALL: We light this candle to remember what was promised and to dream about what could be. We light this candle full of hope because we know the days are surely coming as we have seen signs of God's hope. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus may we see signs of your hope in the midst of so much uncertainty. 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: Jenny Corcoran, Anthony McLeod-Nibbs, Patricia Sheridan, Margaret Gaynor, Terry Walsh (Griffith), Pat Whitty, John Keogh, Craig Dunkerley, Libby Kennedy, Jan Dzwigol, Kelley & Ray Gabriel.

ANNIVERSARIES: Angela Lynch, James Burke, Leesa Hammond, Margaret Power, Gerry Harrington, Jason Farrell, Susan Guy, Jack O'Rourke, Winifred O'Brien, Joff Hutchinson, Mary Mulquiney, Antonia Ramaekeres, Malcolm Nicholson, Angela Leber, Mary Willis, Carmel Glasgow, Msgr Hatswell, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Vera Coyle, Jane Hicks, Herb Norman, Jack Collins, Brenda De Hennin, John Dyball, Jane Waite. *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: 2nd / 3rd December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Catherine Cutler	John Dowling
Lector 2	Paula Waters	Samuel Serbinek
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Justin Clancy	Moiria Porta Pamela McIntosh Mercedes Goss
Cantor	Brian Waters	Bernadette, Helen and
Musicians	Brigita Serbinek	Wendy
Counters: Richard & Trish Parkinson		

Sat / Sun: 9th / 10th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Justin Clancy	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Colleen Day	Cathy Nyan
Lector 2	Kaye Deanshaw	Liz Phegan
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Pat Hopkins	Di Treacy Eamonn Buckley Trish Parkinson
Cantor	Brian Waters	Bob Mathews
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Diane & Greg Bartsch		

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and darkness,
send you Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people walking in darkness yet seeking the light.
To you we say 'Come Lord Jesus'
Amen.
(Henri Nouwen)

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."



Parish News

TO PONDER:

Isaiah expresses a reality affirmed by our second reading: our relationship with God begins with God; God first turns toward us, calls us, and strengthens us or keeps us “firm”. Yet both texts also recognize our responsibility in a mutual relationship with God, which Jesus calls us to in the Gospel through the idea of “seeing” or being “alert”. Our readings invite us to ponder this mutual relationship, particularly our responsibility to hear and respond this Advent season.

How might we be mindful of God each moment, making space to “wake up” to God in our lives, in the needs of our community, and in the world around us?

St Clare’s Conference Christmas Appeal

With Christmas approaching and the demand for our services increasing, we again ask for your support with donations of gifts, cash donations or food items. These will be distributed to members of our local community who are in need.

Baskets will be placed at the doors of the Church during December.

St Matthew’s Special Christmas Service

We warmly invite you to attend our special Christmas Community Service—*‘Songs of Hope and Prayers for Peace and Goodwill’*.

Featuring Melinda Schneider, Paul Gibbs, the Lux Alba Chamber Choir and St Matthew’s Choir this event promises to be a memorable celebration of the Christmas season.

At St Matthew’s Albury Sunday 17 December commencing at 5.00pm. RSVP Dec 13 to: office@stmatthewsalbury.com

Australian Catholics

The Summer edition of Australian Catholics has arrived. In this edition many musicians talk about why singing in church and at school liturgy events and the awe-inspiring occasion of performing before 1.5 million young people and Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Lisbon is so important.

Please take your copy from entrances to church.

Invitation to attend the December Men’s Breakfast - LADIES WELCOME

On Saturday 9th December 2023.

St James Hall, Cnr Schneider & Heriot Streets, Lavington. Come early for tea / coffee. Grace at 8.00 a.m. Cereals / Hot food. A Carol or two. A Quiz or two. Gifts / Prizes.

BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Cost: Donation - \$10.00+ per person recommended. (50 % of breakfast donations will be forwarded to Leprosy Mission). Enquiries/bookings: SMS to 0427 706 756; or email: bandjames@yahoo.com.au
RSVP by 1st December please

December Morning Tea—Farewell for Gavin & Jo Dykes & Family

Morning tea will be at the conclusion of our celebration of Eucharist today.

This occasion will provide us with an opportunity as a Parish Community to farewell Gavin & Jo and family who will be moving to Murwillumbah in the new year. Everyone is invited to attend this gathering hosted by our Pastoral Parish Council.

INVITATION

All parishioners are invited to a farewell evening for Mr Gavin Dykes at the Commercial Club, Albury on Friday 8 December from 6.00—8.30pm. Nibbles provided. Drinks at bar prices.

RSVP by Friday 1 December by placing your name and how many attending on the list provided at the back of church and Swan Street side entrance or contacting the office.

INVITATION

*St Francis Xavier Centre—Grand Opening
And Mr Gavin Dykes Farewell*

On Monday 11 December from 10.00—11.30am at St Francis Xavier Centre. Morning tea provided.

RSVP by Thursday 7th December by placing your name and how many attending on the list provided at the back of church and Swan Street side entrance or contacting the office.

Advent Reflection Resource—With Expectant Hearts

Explore more deeply what it means to allow God to come to birth in us through prayer and reflection with the booklet *“With Expectant Hearts”*. This booklet provides a daily scripture reading, reflection, prayer and reflection questions. Please take a copy available at all church entrances.

Another Advent Resource—Prepare for Christmas

Join me and people all around the world for a free Daily Devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

Starting 3rd December, you'll receive a short inspirational video each day filled with real life stories and practical ways to help you in your prayer and spiritual journey. I find, “You don’t become what you hope to become. You only become what you do.” What will you do this Advent? *The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes*
Register here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent/>
For more information, email: info@brucedownes.org

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Murray Concert choir will present *Christmas Around The World* on: **Friday 8 December** at Walla at 7.30pm.
Saturday 9 December at St Matthew’s at 7.30 pm.
Sunday 10 December at St John’s Wodonga at 2.30 pm.
Tickets are \$25 (\$20 concession).
See posters at church doors.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord. You are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 79

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

Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**



A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to the disciples: “Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!
The Gospel of the Lord.