



*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 Advent 23rd / 24th 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](mailto: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: (Outside of Christmas Day)

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

### RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

### CHILDRENS LITURGY:

Children's liturgy will resume in our parish community in early February 2024



### *Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle of Love*



**Priest:** As we gather this day we feel

love in the explicable and the

extraordinary. We celebrate the

wonder of what could be just as Mary sang: 'My soul

magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his

servant.' It is with this love that our souls unite to magnify

the good news so full of blessing in the lighting of this fourth

candle of Advent, the candle of love.

### **Fourth Candle is lit**

**All sing Christ be our light.**

**ALL:** We light this candle to celebrate our love, joy and

peace for the world. Like Mary, we might hesitate and be

cautious with our praise but when we remember what God

has done we can only sing with joy and love. Eternal God,

who magnifies each of us, surprise us with your love, joy

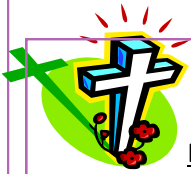
and peace in these last days before Christmas. Warm our

hearts to feel the joy and peace of your presence in our lives

and in our world. 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:** Fr Kevin Flanagan, Ellen Keane, Jed Oftana, Nancy Gray Jim Brooder, George Pugh, George Rossmann, Norm Robinson, Stanley Harrison, Michael Dunn, Gavin Surrige, Griff Rosser, Lyn Maloney, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, John Nenzl, Jack Galvin, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Kevin Krautz, Peter Rolfe, John Hallam, Jill Fox, Barbara Kidd, John Warford, Pat Smithenbecker, William Foo, Kit Telby, Johanna Henry, Bernard Harper.

*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: 23rd / 24th December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Justin Clancy	Bede Hart
<b>Lector 1</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill	Brigita Serbinek
<b>Lector 2</b>	Michael Byrnes	Tammy Robertson
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Anna Farrell Jeneice Harding	Carey Menz-Dowling Sue Betts Cathy Nyhan
<b>Cantor</b>	John van Lint	David Hicks
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Anne Gordes & Lorraine Willis		

**Please put your name down on roster provided if you can help with either Christmas Eve Mass (9pm) or Christmas Day (9.30am)**

Sat /Sun: 30th / 31st December		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill	Narelle Naughton
<b>Lector 1</b>	Paula Waters	Kay Morrell
<b>Lector 2</b>	Kaye Deanshaw	Sue McLaurin
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Michael Regan Pauline Mulquiney	Marisa Hart Di Treacy Eamonn Buckley
<b>Cantor</b>	Judy Lindsay	Lachlan McIntyre
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b>		

### **Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):**

*"As we admire Mary for her response to God's call to mission, we ask her to help each of us to welcome God's plan into our lives with sincere humility and brave generosity."*

## Advent Prayer to Mary

*May Mary help us to open the doors of our hearts to Christ, Redeemer of humanity and of history; may she teach us to be humble, because God looks upon the lowly; may she enable us to grow in understanding the value of prayer, of inner silence, of listening to God's Word; may she spur us to seek God's will deeply and sincerely, even when this upsets our plans; may she encourage us while we wait for the Lord, sharing our time and energies with those in need. Mother of God, grant that the God-who-comes will find us ready to receive the abundance of his mercy. May Mary prepare us all to joyfully welcome Christ's coming.  
Amen*



# Parish News

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Both the 6.00pm family mass in the Xavier Centre and the 9.30am Christmas Day mass in Sacred Heart Church will be live-streamed.

### Christmas Eve (Sunday 24 December)

**6.00pm—St Francis Xavier Centre (hall) Xavier High School.** Entry via Currawong Street, Curlew Crescent (bus bay area) or Fallon Street.

Our liturgy is specifically designed for children and teenagers. If you are interested in helping out with the liturgical components, especially music and readings, please contact Ed Brown: [browne@ww.catholic.edu.au](mailto:browne@ww.catholic.edu.au) ASAP.

**9.00pm—Sacred Heart Church**

### Christmas Day (Monday 25 December)

**9.30am—Sacred Heart Church.**

If you are available to help out as a musician or choir member at either of these two celebrations please contact Val Hayes on 0422 953 771.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** - For 9.00pm Christmas Eve Mass is at 10.00am Saturday 23rd December.

Singers Welcome—Contact Val Hayes 0422 953 771.

## Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers & Commentators

A roster is provided for you to put your name down if you can help with either Christmas Eve Mass (9pm) or Christmas Day Mass (9.30am). Swan Street entrance.

## Christmas Blessing Cards

On the tables at the back of the Church and near the door at the Swan Street

entrance are various cards:

- Blessing for the Christmas Tree
- Blessing for the Christmas Meal
- Christmas Prayer

Please take and use in your homes now and at Christmas time.

## St Clare's Conference Christmas Appeal

Thanks to your generosity an abundance of food has been donated to provide hampers for Christmas. Cash donations also amount to \$1,400 which will be used locally. Columban Calendars are still available at the cost of \$10 from the table at the Mate Street entrance.

## 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.



## TO PONDER:

Behind our first reading lies a deep yearning for God's continuing presence through the firmness of David's line and the creation of a stable "house" or temple for God. This ancient yearning becomes our yearning. As Christians, we believe that Christ has already broken into this world and transformed it. We believe Christ is everywhere. Yet this can be difficult to see. We are so close to Christmas, to Christ in our midst, to Beauty incarnate through the brokenness and instability of the world, to power and promise within the fragility of a baby's body. In preparation for Christmas, this is a week to meditate on the remarkable, mysterious cycle of our faith, and on what incarnation means for us tangibly in our lives, in the pain and beauty of our world.

"Aren't there annunciations of one sort or another in most lives?" wrote Denise Levertov. Most go unnoticed; we do not often receive visits by great angels. Yet the scene between Mary and Gabriel points to us, toward our own process of understanding, openness, and willingness to become pregnant by the Spirit, despite the risk of pain or danger. This liturgical season invites us to practice consenting to God in heart and mind, to become a bearer of Christ like Mary.

## Empowering Youth in Rural Peru

Thanks to your support, young people in rural areas of Moquegua are developing skills to grow their entrepreneurial spirit to help drive change in their communities. The cognitive, emotional and practical skills taught are helping students to come up with creative solutions for community-based problems, as well as providing them with alternative ways to improve their living conditions through entrepreneurship.

The project works with students, whilst providing training for teachers and information for parents to support students in their learning.

*On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, raising approx. \$33,600. A great effort from many, many people! From 2001 till now the total raised is \$519,650. There was great excitement as we exceeded the half of a million dollars! Well done all!*

*It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today. Sr Helen Sr Helen Saunders for Sisters of St Joseph.*

**Used stamps can be left in the container on the table at the Mate Street entrance. Alternatively, old or unwanted stamp albums can be left at the presbytery during office hours.**

## 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.

# Liturgy of the Word

## **First reading: Book of Samuel**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and your are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm 88**

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

***Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the  
heavens. **R**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **R**

## **A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen . The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too; your kinswomen Elizabeth, herself has conceived a son in her old age.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord let what you have said be done to me.' said Mary. And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.