



*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.*

## Second Sunday of Advent 9th / 10th 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:

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

Wednesday 10.30am (Gift Giving and end of year mass at Xavier High School.)

**Venue:** St Francis Xavier Centre

### 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 this Sunday 10 & 17 December.

### Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

**Priest:** When so much feels uneven and unsteady, we push into the wild possibility that change will come. We imagine the peace how the world might shift in the hope John the Baptist dares us to dream.



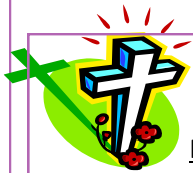
'A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' It is in this wild possibility that we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace.

### **Second Candle is lit** **Sing Christ be our light.**

**ALL:** We light this candle in search of your peace. We look forward to the days when all the paths are straight but for now we seek your comfort. Prince of Peace, you came to us in the innocence of an infant. Comfort us when the world feels too rough. Give us the courage to seek those in unlikely places, as together we work towards your peace. 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:** Tony Grace (Fr Andrew's father),

David McGrath, Kathy Sartori, Helen Gardner, Jenny Corcoran, Anthony McLeod-Nibbs, Patricia Sheridan, Margaret Gaynor, Terry Walsh (Griffith), Pat Whitty, John Keogh, Craig Dunkerley, Kelley & Ray Gabriel, Neville Gabriel.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Jim Victory, Shaun Brady, Ernest Elias, Imelda Phegan, Michael Murphy, Geoffrey Jervois Snr, Irene Unger, Lillian Clear, Len Syphers, Maria Klauss, Gerarda Van Dijk, George McShane, Nell Seymour, Charlotte Roberts, Lucy Freeman, Nell Martin, Jason Black, Francis Clancy, Noreen Low, Louis Dimitrievic, Ray Corrigan, Leslie Beach, Peter Guthrie.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## ROSTERS

### Sat / Sun: 9th / 10th December

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

### Sat /Sun: 16th / 17th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Colleen Day	Ed Brown
<b>Lector 1</b>	Justin Clancy	Lorraine Willis
<b>Lector 2</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill	Roy Thompson
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Kaye Deanshaw Adrian Mitchelhill	Sr Patricia Weekes Sue McLaurin Pamela McIntosh
<b>Cantor</b>	Judy Lindsay	Ed, Margie, Heath & Don
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	
<b>Counters:</b> Margaret Brown & Moira Porta		

## Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

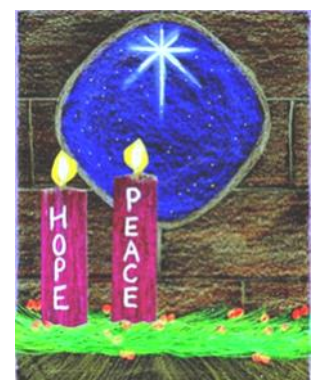
"During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ, when he will return at the end of time , preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him."

## 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*

## 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)



# Parish News

## TO PONDER:

"Comfort, give comfort to my people," begins Isaiah. Our readings are grounded in hope. They speak to communities who are waiting for God to break in and transform their worlds. In Isaiah, God speaks as a lover to Israel while preparing a road to bring the exiled people home. Second Peter promises that God will create a new heaven and earth after waiting patiently for the people's conversion. As we ponder these readings, we might ask ourselves: *What we are waiting for right now? How are we in need of comfort and hope?*

## 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. If you intend making a monetary donation please put your donation in the envelope provided and place it in the collection basket.

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

## 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.

## 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](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)

## 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.

## Thank You! Fr Bernie Thomas

Gratitude is extended to Fr Bernie Thomas for his willingness to celebrate Eucharist with us while Fr Martin was enjoying holiday leave. Thanks also to those who assisted with pastoral outreach, liturgical requirements and administrative duties during this time.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

### 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. This mass live-streamed 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.

## St Francis Xavier Centre—Grand Opening

*And Mr Gavin Dykes Farewell*

This Monday 11 December from 10.00—11.30am at St Francis Xavier Centre. Please enter via the school office in Fallon Street. Morning tea provided.

## 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](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Murray Concert choir will present *Christmas Around The World* on:

**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.

## Catholic Mission 'Thank You'

Catholic Mission and the people in great need that we support are grateful for your generosity and your prayers. Catholic Mission received \$1989.25 for the World Mission Month Appeal from Sacred Heart Parish.

As St Teresa of Calcutta said "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

May the wonder of the first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessings and the peace of Jesus' presence be with you always! *Jane Plum, Diocesan Director.*

## Together

Our diocesan newspaper for the month of December has arrived. Please take a copy from church entrances.



# Liturgy of the Word

## First reading: Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm 84

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

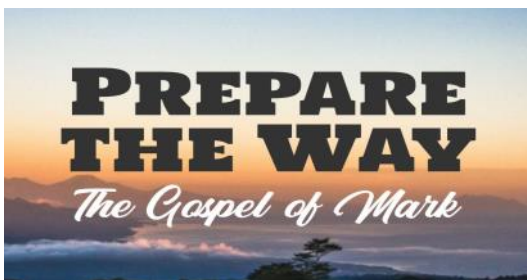
**Response: Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace.  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **R**



## A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace. The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God

Alleluia!

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1; 1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin and he lived on locusts and wild homey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’ The Gospel of the Lord.