



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.

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

16th / 17th 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

WEEKDAYS: This Week:

Tuesday - Mercy Place Chapel 2.00pm

Mass of Anointing & Christmas Service.

(Negative RAT test required before entry.)

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

CHILDRENS LITURGY:

Due to circumstances beyond our control no children's liturgy will be offered this Sunday.

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

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle of Joy



Priest: We come to together in the joy of God's love. We have often felt so misunderstood and even unloved, but today we marvel in the joy that begins in God. We celebrate this joy in the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

'They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces for the Lord will be with them.'

Third Candle is lit

All listen or sing Christ be our light.

ALL: We light this candle to celebrate your joy that unites all people. We pray that all people might experience this kind of joy that surpasses all understanding. Loving God, pour into our hearts this day the light of your joy warming us to one another, enlightening our understanding of others and revealing the joy that guards our hearts and minds. 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: Betty Lindner, Pat Spokes, David

McGrath, Helen Gardner, Jenny Corcoran, Anthony McLeod-Nibbs, Patricia Sheridan, Margaret Gaynor, Terry Walsh, Craig Dunkerley.

ANNIVERSARIES: Leo Keane, Jed Oftana, Sr Therma MACE, Sr Marie Duffy, Peter Gibbs, Kent Van Every, Keith Groth, Joan Krautz, Oswald Stenson, Geoff O'Brien, Wendy Murphy, Annette Power, Linus Drew, Stan Deveney, Frederick Mackay, Chris Thumpston, Ruby O'Keefe, Tom O'Rourke, Eric Low, Owen Drysdale, Frederick Lindsay, Benjamin Orman, Fr Michael Buckdale, Kathleen Frauenfelder, Marlene Clee, Jane Hill, Harry Collins, Beryl Splatt, Norm Frauenfelder, Francis Henry.

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: 16th / 17th December

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

Sat /Sun: 23rd / 24th December

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

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 invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world. It is the desire of many people tormented by hunger, by injustice and by war. "

Parish News

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 is 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 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.

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

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.

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.

Together

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

TO PONDER:

Sunday is "Gaudete Sunday" (*Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin). At the heart of Advent is the joy of anticipation: Isaiah's rejoicing in the promise of God's justice alive in the world, 1 Thessalonians' call to a life of rejoicing, John the Baptist's promise of Christ's coming, and Mary's song of praise as our responsorial psalm. Our readings invite us to consider how we can cultivate joy in this Advent season and in all seasons of our lives.

What is the true source of your joy?

Our readings also prompt us to full awareness that we are all called to live into the trust that the Messiah is coming to break into and heal our world. This means *active waiting*, living out the promises in our readings and working toward justice as our response to the inevitability of divine return.

What does this "active waiting" mean in your life?

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.

Columban Calendars are available at back of church after masses this weekend; or from Vinnies Care & Support Centre, Mate St North Albury. Cost \$10 each (please have correct change).

If you want a calendar and cannot get to these venues you can phone Lyn Hamilton on **0437 377 667**.

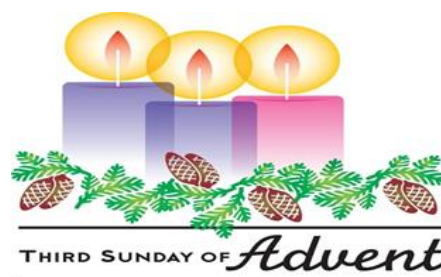
Advent Resource—Prepare for Christmas

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



Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Luke 1

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

Response: My soul rejoices in my God

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

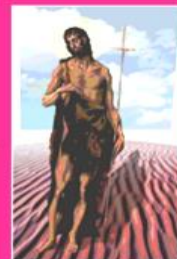
A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Third Sunday of
Advent
John 1:6-8, 19-28

*There stands among
you – unknown to
you – the one who is
coming after me.*



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ and not Elijah and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal - strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising. The Gospel of the Lord.