



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.

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
3rd / 4th February 2024*

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 9.30 am Mass by accessing our website

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Monday: Xavier High School opening Mass 9.15am
Xavier High School Centre. All welcome

Tuesday: Mercy Place Chapel 2.00pm. Includes sacrament of anointing.

Negative RAT test required before entry.

No weekday Mass Wednesday or Friday

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.



This weekend the readings invite us to look more deeply into the experience of human suffering. It is only through Christ that our pain and despair can and will be transformed. Just like the suffering people in today's Gospel, we all long for Christ. It is through prayer that our yearning will be fulfilled.

Job (First Reading) expresses total despair at the great losses that he has experienced; he seems overwhelmed by the frailty of life. The suffering in our world today perhaps makes it easy to relate to his sentiments. The Psalm, however, is like an antidote to the howls of loss that Job exclaims. It speaks of healing for broken hearts and minds; of wounds being bound and tended by our loving God, whose wisdom extends across a universe that he knows and loves intimately.

In the Second Reading, Paul writes of how his own experience of Christ and the Gospel impels him to share the Good News with others. He feels that he is like a slave to the Gospel, and is happy to accept this role. Today's Gospel portrays the early days of Jesus's healing ministry in Galilee. After praying with the community in the synagogue, Jesus responds with compassion to all the sick and suffering people who are brought to him. He begins his days in prayerful solitude and is drawn by a desire to bring his Good News to as many people as possible.

Let us pray for the grace to respond with wisdom and compassion to the suffering and needs of our time. May we centre our lives in prayer and by the grace of God be determined like St Paul to bring the Good News to our broken and hurting world.

**Miracles,
Prayer &
Preaching**

Mark 1: 29-39

Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Louisa (Lou) Grownewegen, Wilga Jones, Norma Lawlor, Kevin Rodgers, Stephen Harris, Noel Scott, Kevin Quirk, Greg Scott, Buster Upshall, Betty Lindner.

ANNIVERSARIES: Julie Yonson, Lilian Nicholl, Kath Dowling, Chum Day, Alan Gray, Sadie Berkley, Michael Bourke, Ada Duncan, Dorrie Hore, Brendan Dodd, George Dalahunty, Sr Patricia Marcella, Sr Carmella Nesbitt, Les Bright, Les Bingham, Max Butts, Fr Jim Clarke, Josie Favell, Beryl McBrien, Wayne Boyd, Ben Damhuis, Kevin Hartley, Joan Bruton, Richard Noel Hickey, Martha Moscher, Peter Urosevic, Ivan Hanrahan, Stephen Kirley, Alice Shanahan, John Gogoll, Charles Bowen.

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



This week we welcome into the community

of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Elliott Sage Steward
son of Paul and Nerae

Angus Richard Jones
son of Alex and Sarah

Harrison Nicholas Anstee
son of Luke and Shantelle

Flynn James Schultz
son of Taylor and Racheal

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 3rd / 4th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Sue McLaurin
Lector 2	Justin Clancy	Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers	Kaye Deanshaw Pat Hopkins	Cathy Nyhan Fran Kernaghan Narelle Naughton
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters/John van Lint Judy Foley	Lachlan McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Gordon Bryant & Laurie Moylan		

Sat / Sun: 10th / 11th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Kaye Deanshaw	John Dowling
Lector 2	Michael Byrnes	Samuel Serbinek
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Volunteer	Di Treacy Moira Porta Sr Patricia Weekes
Cantor Musicians	John van Lint / Brian Waters Val Hayes	Heath Neville Ashleigh Donaldson
Counters: Jane Togher		

Parish Prayer

God of Love,
Source of all hope and good things;
You call us in love, to share in the
work and ongoing life of our Sacred
Heart Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us
to be confident and joyful in serving
those around us, so that through us,
the world may catch a glimpse of
the love you have for each one of
us.

Make us instruments of your love to
everyone that we encounter in our
parish community, at home, at work
and in our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that
we can recognise and thank you for
all the good things you have given
us.

Each day may we come to know you
more clearly,
love you more dearly and follow you
more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity. Prayer is nothing more than lifting our hearts or minds to God. God, the Eternal Present, is at all times beckoning us towards deeper union with him. "



Parish News

TO PONDER:

We only read from Job twice in our three-year Sunday cycle (both times in Year B; see the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time). This is unfortunate, for Job is a theological masterpiece in its bold exploration of the incomprehensibility of suffering. As humans, we will never fully understand suffering, says Job. Some readers find this message consoling; others find it disturbing. As you ponder the question of human suffering with Job, consider your own emotional response. Is it comforting for you to know that Scripture openly asks these kinds of questions? Or is it unsettling?

Job's struggles and questions are balanced in today's readings by the reality of a God who heals and transforms. In the responsorial psalm, we read that God heals the brokenhearted and binds their wounds (Ps 147:3). We also see this healing presence in Jesus's ministry. His final words in the Gospel reading describe his purpose: to bring his message of salvation to as many people as possible, to transform as many lives as possible. Paul also describes his mission to preach the saving message of the gospel.

Suffering is a real and unavoidable part of this world. Yet there is something beyond this reality. We are called to remember this and to be witnesses to this message—like Paul and Jesus—to bring healing and consolation into the world around us.

LENTEN GROUPS

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 14 February. Once again it is our intention of offering Lenten discussion groups as a way of enhancing our personal and communal faith.

We intend gathering on a Tuesday (begins 13 February) in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm. If you would like to participate in this group please add your name to the list at the Swan Street entrance or contact our parish office by email / phone.

If you wish to lead a group in your home or at another time / venue please let us know and we will organize reflection material for you.

"A Resurrected Life" - Daily Reflections for Lent will be available for collection next weekend.

SACRED HEART PARISH MORNING TEA

Our monthly morning tea resumes on Sunday 4 February at the conclusion of our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist. A special invitation is extended to those who are new to our parish, to those moving or returning to our local area. You are most welcome to be involved in the life and ministries of this faith community.

For the faithful regulars, please make an effort to introduce yourself to a new face.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE—personnel appointments

Fr Reece Beltrame has been appointed Spiritual Director at Vianney College w.e.f. 14 January 2024.

Fr Henry Ibe has been appointed as Dean of the Murrumbidgee Deanery.

SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS

St Anne's Primary School

We welcome Samantha Sheather to St Anne's as our new religious education co-ordinator.

Cassandra Jones has decided to return to full time teaching in the classroom. Our gratitude is expressed to Cassie for the gentle, innovative and meticulous manner in which she has approached all her endeavours with children, staff and parents.

Xavier High School

We welcome Nicole Morton who returns to Xavier as Principal having served as Principal of St John's College Dubbo for the last three years.

Executive Appointments for 2024

Acting Assistant Principal—Shinead Kilroy

Acting Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator—Mary Jane Boyd

Acting Religious Education Co-Ordinator—Ed Brown

Eamonn Buckley concluded his time as Assistant Principal at Xavier last week. In a few weeks time he takes on the position as Principal for Borinya Community Partnership in Wangaratta.

Borinya is a specialist setting school for students who have fallen through the educational cracks and who require additional support across a number of areas.

Eamonn's calm temperament and willingness to engage young people where they are in order to encourage learning and affirm their goodness ideally suits him for this challenging position.

We wish Eamonn well as he embarks upon this new leadership journey.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy returns during our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist next Sunday and then on the second and fourth Sunday during school terms.

It continues to be an innovative way of enabling children to meet Jesus, developing and sharing their faith at their own level.

If you would like to join the adult team please contact Genn Hamam email: genwhelton@hotmail.com

SACRED HEART READING ROOM

Gratitude is expressed to Sr Anne Hagan and Brigita Serbinek for the many hours spent cataloguing and re-organizing the resources in the reading room located near the Mate Street entrance.

You are most welcome to take any of the material provided for personal or communal use.

Please do not dump reading material or other resources you wish to relocate. Before making donations please contact Sr Anne or Fr Martin.

Sacred Heart Parish is a child safe community. We provide the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable People:
<http://safeguarding.wagga.Catholic.org.au>

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Book of Job

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 146

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

Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due. **R**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
And brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **R**

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R**

Gospel Acclamation:

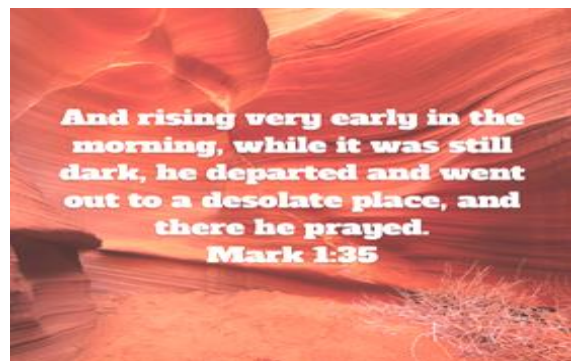
**Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness.
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me. I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all people in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straight away. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils. The Gospel of the Lord.