



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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 28th / 29th December

Sacred Heart Parish is a Child Safe Community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Parish Clergy:

Fr Martin Cruickshank—Parish Priest

Fr Norman Banzuela (OSJ) Priest in Residence

Parish Office 9am-2pm

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday & Friday

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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: Name # Please contact Office for a number

Presbytery A/c BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 10000 5575

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable People:

<https://wagga.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-people/>



REFLECTION ON FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Now that Christmas Day itself has passed, I may find it easier to spend some 'quality time' with the Lord. I come to quiet in my own way and consider that today is the feast of the Holy Family. I pause. What images come to my mind? Mary, Joseph and Jesus . . . or maybe my own family or families in general? Some may be weeping, others laughing. I ponder. What is the root cause of their mood? For some it might be self-inflicted, for others the result of someone else's actions. I speak with the Lord and entrust them all to him.

When I am ready, I read the familiar story. I may find that it resonates with me as I recall anxious moments I spent looking for children . . . my own, or others for whom I was responsible. Or maybe I reflect on Jesus and his conversation with his parents. What strikes me? Jesus behaving like a typical teenager . . .? Mary and Joseph's apparent lack of understanding . . . or something else? Perhaps I just stay with keywords that speak to me particularly today: 'submissive', 'wisdom', 'favour', for example. As I leave this time of prayer, I thank the Lord for being with me and commend all families to God's care.

Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.

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:

Wednesday (New Years Day) 9.30am

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 at 9.30am mass during school terms.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

Our parish bible study group is held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the parish hall. We will resume in February 2025.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Katica Mejak, Rhonda McCormack, Peggy Gallagher, Anne Munk, Bob Hilton, Lloyd Charter, Phillip Wise, Mike Egan, Ray Allen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Kevin Flanagan, Ross Smith, Sally Lally, Eileen Howard, Nancy Gray, Dawn Robison, Miroslav Student, Bert Coyle, Trish Carmody, Peter McKee, Daniel Darcey, Brian O'Donoghue, Matthew Gunning, Joan Doughenev, Catherine Glennon, John Warford, Badea Ghosn, Frank Lacey, Agnes Armstrong, Catherine Weldon, Bob Purtle.

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: 28th / 29th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Adrian Mitchelhill	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Jan Skinner	Bethany Carey
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Hopkins Pauline Mulquiney	Fran Kernaghan Trish Parkinson Moira Porta
Cantor Musicians	John van Lint/Brian Waters Judy Foley	Damien Parkinson Val Hayes

Counters: Gordon Bryant & Laurie Moylan

Sat / Sun: 4th / 5th January 2025

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Jan Skinner	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Colleen Day	Sue McLaurin
Lector 2	Michael Byrnes	Mary Hunt
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Kaye Deanshaw	Sue Betts Pamela McIntosh Dianne Treacy
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters/John van Lint Judy Foley	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):

"It is hope that leaves peace and joy inside, regardless of what happens outside. It is hope that has strong roots, which no storm of life can uproot," It is hope that, says St. Paul, 'does not disappoint'



This weekend we welcome

into the community of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Imogen Reese Holman

Daughter of Luke and Rebekah

Parish News

Welcome

We welcome you to our celebration in the season of Christmas. This season provides us with a unique opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God's love. That love finds its manifestation in us, our families and in our celebrating community. Christmas reminds us of the need to care for those who live on the margins of society - those who need to discover not our judgement, but God's mercy and hope.

May this Christmas season lead you to discover and share the peace and happiness which only God can give and which is reflected by our journey of faith.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to live and share your faith within our Sacred Heart Parish community. A special mention needs to be made for those who walk that extra mile so that we might continue to proclaim Christ's presence in our midst with sure and certain hope. Your efforts are much appreciated and valued.

Parish Christmas Day Lunch

About 48 people gathered to celebrate Christmas Day lunch in our Parish Hall. Gratitude is extended to everyone who donated their time, food, culinary skills and financial assistance.

A special thanks to Marjorie Serbinek and the organizing team for planning and co-ordinating this parish event. Dishes and other serving items used on the day can be collected from the hall after mass this Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ALL: We light the Christ candle to celebrate and thank you for sending this Child to be Emmanuel, God among us. We join the chorus of angels with our glad tidings and great joy. God has been made real, God has come close. Holy God we rejoice in your presence and pray for wonder and delight. We live in **HOPE**, we pray for **PEACE**, we share your **LOVE** as we are filled with **JOY**.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

A Christmas Prayer

God of many happy returns, thank you for finding a home among us,

For drawing us all to the side of your manger where we share your arrival

With smelly creatures and simple shepherds.

Christmas is a busy time, often burdened with crazy expectations.

There is no such thing as a perfect family.

Emotions can be raw.

Give us a few quiet moments today to light a candle for you and place it on that modest cake we have made with our lives, where you bring light.

On we that live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. Amen

January Morning Tea – Change of Date

Our January morning tea will now be held after our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist on **Sunday 12 January** in our parish hall. This gives us an opportunity to farewell Fr Norman Banzuela who will join the parish community of Sacred Heart Griffith as an assistant priest in the following week.

If possible, please bring something to share.

St Clare's Conference Christmas Appeal

Thanks to your generosity an abundance of food and gifts have been donated to provide hampers for Christmas. Cash donations will be used locally.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

In these challenging times when nations and peoples are divided and families disconnected, let us rejoice in the words and music that remind us that God is with us and we are not alone. As we recall the themes of Christmas we affirm God's good intention for all people and his unconditional love for all creation.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for our faith communities that together we may show forth the light of the love of God for all people.

And we pray especially for the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed; for those sick in body or in mind; for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for the lonely and the unloved; for prisoners and refugees; the broken and injured and for all who are away from home and loved ones at this time.

We remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in hope and faith, recognizing that we are one with them in this celebration of God's gift to the world at Bethlehem and rediscovered in the simplicity and wonder of human life and love.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: From the first book of Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however did not go, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord . As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 24

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

Response: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy,
to God, the living God. **R**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **R**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
Give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **R**

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us. The Word of the Lord

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord;
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-51

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parent knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and men. The Gospel of the Lord