



*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 21st / 22nd 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

**Phone: 02 6025 1516**

**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: 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/>

### **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:**

**Tuesday—Christmas Eve 6pm (Xavier High School Hall) & 9pm (Sacred Heart Church)**

**Wednesday—Christmas 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.

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Lighting of the fourth*

*Advent Candle*

*Candle of Love*



**Priest:** Advent is a time of hope and expectation as we both remember and anticipate. The fourth candle represents the message of God's love that the angels proclaimed at Christ's birth. Love is central to the Christmas story, including Mary's love for her son, the love of the Shepherds and Magi for Jesus and God's love for the world.

*Fourth Candle is lit*

All: Sing chorus of "Christ be our Light"

**All:** We light this candle as a reminder of the imminent arrival of Jesus, who teaches us what it means to love and how to practice it each day. Remind us that your love for us is unconditional and unending. Give us the wisdom we need to love well, the mercy to forgive ourselves when we fail to meet our own and others expectations and the hunger and desire to open our lives to the gift of your perfect love.

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Katica Mejak, Rhonda McCormack, Eliza Nicholson, Rosalind Smith, Peggy Gallagher, Anne Munk, Bob Hilton, Lloyd Charter, Leigh Torrissi, Phillip Wise, John Raines, Bernard Hore, Joan Quick, Mike Egan, Ray Allen, Peter Treacy.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Fr Kevin Flanagan, Ellen Keane, Peter Gibbs, Joan Krautz, Oswald Stenson, Annette Power, George Pugh, Norm Robinson, Stan Deveney, Stanley Harrison, Frederick Mackay, Michael Dunn, Gavin Surridge, Griff Rosser, Tom O'Rourke, Lyn Maloney, Frederick Lindsay, Robert Weissel, John Nenzi, Jack Galvin, Kevin Krautz, Jill Fox, John Hallam, Barbara Kidd, Pat Smithenbecker, Jane Hill, 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: 21st / 22nd December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Justin Clancy	Cathy Nyhan
<b>Lector 1</b>	Xavier Clancy	Sue McLaurin
<b>Lector 2</b>	Paula Waters	Margy Brown
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Anna Farrell Colleen Day	Gemma Whitehead Mercedes Goss Marisa Hart
<b>Cantor</b>	Lachlan McIntyre	David Hicks
<b>Musicians</b>	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
<b>Counters:</b> Gemma Whitehead		

### Christmas Eve (9.00pm) Tues 24/12

**Commentator:** Colleen Day  
**Lectors:** Kaye Deanshaw & Jan Skinner  
**Eucharistic Ministers (3)**  
Anna Farrell, 2 more volunteers please

### Christmas Day (9.30am) Wed 25/12

**Commentator: (1)** Volunteer  
**Lectors: (2)** Volunteers  
**Eucharistic Ministers: (3)** Volunteers

**Please put your name down on list provided Swan Street side of Church if you are available for any of the Christmas masses.**

### 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

## Farewell, Mr Michael Gallagher

Michael Gallagher has completed his term as the Principal of St Anne's Primary School. Assuming the role after the retirement of our long serving Principal, Bede Hart, Michael's deep faith, authentic integrity, educational expertise and ability to relate to staff, parents and most importantly the children of St Anne's has earned him respect and confidence in his leadership.

We are grateful to Michael for guiding our school community through challenging times particularly when faced with the sudden illness and subsequent death of his mother, Peggy, last month.

We wish him every blessing and a safe return home to the northern beaches of Sydney where his family resides.

## 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.

## Gospel of Luke – Reflection

As I prepare to pray, I give time to slowly becoming aware of my body. I relax and breathe gently. I allow the conviction of God's presence, in and around me, to flood my being. I ask the Spirit to pray within me. When I'm ready, I take up the text and read it slowly a couple of times. At one level, it is the simple meeting of two pregnant women.

I imagine the scene and quietly watch it unfolding before me. What strikes me most about what I see? And why is that? I look at Elizabeth, see the thrill on her face as her baby moves within her; her joy at meeting Mary; her spiritual insight in seeing her cousin as the 'mother of her Lord'. Do I find small echoes of any of this in my life?

I consider Mary, arriving to help with the ordinary chores of life, but caught up in a unique moment of blessedness. How does this speak to me? I ponder the deep bond between the two women: their joy, their pride in carrying their precious children, but also their humility, and their consciousness of touching the divine in all their humanity. I may see this encounter as a contemplative moment. I remain silent before them. I speak to the Lord, expressing how I feel. I pray for all pregnant women as I end my prayer.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

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 (Tuesday 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.

9.00pm – Sacred Heart Church

### Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December)

9.30am – Sacred Heart Church.

## Fr Kevin Flanagan – Anniversary of His Death

The seventh Anniversary of the death of Fr Kevin Flanagan, parish priest of Sacred Heart for over 40 years occurs this Saturday on the 21 December. We continue to remember and give thanks for Kevin's gift of shared faith, friendship and pastoral leadership.

## REFLECTION

Christ is coming! The readings this weekend are full of an expectation. God's promise through Micah is fulfilled in the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith. In the **First Reading**, Micah proclaims that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem and lead his flock back to their land in peace. The Psalm is a plea to the Shepherd of Israel for this return, and for the sending of the Messiah, the chosen one.

The **Second Reading** from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasises the fact that the Christ who redeemed us took on a human body, like ours.

The **Gospel** helps us gather all these themes: obedience to God's will; faith in his promises; and especially faith in the Incarnation – Jesus our Saviour, already becoming flesh in Mary's womb.

May we journey through these last days of Advent in Mary's company, so that Christ may be born in us.

## St Clare's Conference Christmas Appeal

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

## Parish Christmas Day Lunch

At the time of printing we have 60 people who have indicated their intention to participate in Christmas Lunch in our Parish Hall on the 25 December from 12 noon. Thanks to all those who have volunteered to provide food, monetary donations and the gift of their time and energy in setting up for and helping in the kitchen on the day.



# Liturgy of the Word

## **First Reading:** From the prophet Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from them on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm 79**

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

**Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
Shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
Look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord;  
may his will for me be done.

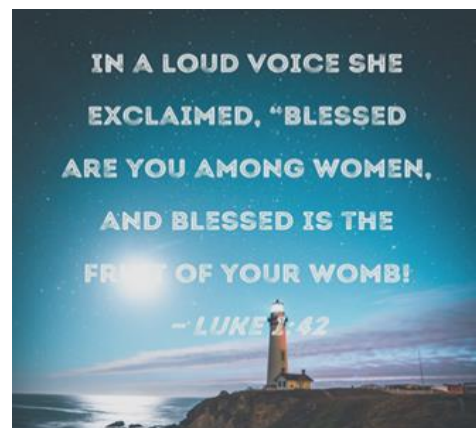
**Alleluia!**

## **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ

The word of the Lord.



## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-44**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord.