



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 7th / 8th 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/>

Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the second

Advent Candle

Candle of Peace



Priest: The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. Often called the Bethlehem Candle, this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Candle of Hope, this second candle recalls that after all the division, destruction and dispersion of the Kingdom in the Old Testament, there might be peace on earth—Jesus is coming and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we light the second candle of Advent we pray for peace in our world, in our hearts and in our lives.

Second Candle is lit

All: Sing chorus of "Christ be our Light"

All: May we be in our world today a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all those we encounter.

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 & 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 continues every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the parish hall.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rosalind Smith, Peggy Gallagher, Anne Munk, Bob Hilton, Lloyd Charter, Leigh Torrisi, Phillip Wise, John Raines, Bernard Hore, Joan Quick, Mike Egan, Ray Allen, Peter Treacy.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Jim Victory, Ernest Elias, Imelda Phegan, Marie Carter, Geoffrey Jervois Snr, Jason Farrell, Susan Guy, Joff Hutchinson, Lillian Clear, Maria Klaus, Malcolm Nicholson, Gerarda Van Dijk, George McShane, Msgr Hatswell, Charlotte Roberts, Lucy Freeman, Nell Martin, Francis Clancy, Noreen Low, Brenda De Hennin, Louis Dimitrijevic, Ray Corrigan, Lesley 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.

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: 7th / 8th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Jan Skinner	Nicole Morton
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Xavier High School
Lector 2	Mary-Jayne Boyd	
Eucharistic Ministers	Kaye Deanshaw Pat Hopkins	Fr Martin Fr Norman Fr Bernie Fr Paul
Cantor	Brian Waters/John van Lint	Heath Neville & Ashleigh
Musicians	Judy Foley	Donaldson
Counters: Lachlan McIntyre & Wendy McFerran		

Sat / Sun: 14th / 15th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Kaye Deanshaw	John Dowling
Lector 2	Volunteer	Mary Hunt
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Michael Regan	Dianne Treacy Sr Patricia Weekes Carey Menz-Dowling
Cantor	Judy Lindsay	Ed, Margie, Heath & Don
Musicians	Judy Foley	
Counters: Carey Menz-Dowling & John Dowling		

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and darkness,
send your 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)



Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Mass Times 2024

Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24 December)

6.00pm Xavier High School Hall

9.00pm Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December)

9.30am Sacred Heart Church

Roster for Christmas Eve (9pm) & Christmas Day (9.30am) is available for you to put your name down on the table at Swan Street entrance.

Parish News

From Fr Martin

Gratitude is extended to Fr Norman and Fr Bernie for exercising their priestly ministry in our parish community during my absence. Being in command does not seem to have gone to Fr Norman's head! He experienced the joy of dealing with people at the door at all times of day and night. He was able to deal with a range of issues with sensitivity and compassion.

I thank Fr Bernie for his wise counsel and pastoral care of the dying and their families and for conducting funeral liturgies with empathy and respect. Our parish secretaries, Gemma and Fran, are a source of great blessing to our community not only by the administration duties they perform (often beyond scheduled hours) but for the people they are.

St Clare's Conference North Albury Christmas Appeal

With Christmas approaching and the demand for our services increasing, we again ask for your support with donations of gifts (unwrapped) suitable for children to the age of 12 years; cash donation or festive food items. These will be distributed to members of our local community who are in need. Baskets will be placed at the doors of the Church during December.

Baskets have been placed at the doors of the church.

Please put all cash donations in an envelope marked (St V de Paul Christmas Appeal) and place on one of the collections during mass. **DO NOT PLACE MONETARY DONATIONS IN THE BASKETS.**

Parish Pastoral Council

The last meeting of our Parish Pastoral Council for 2024 takes place this Thursday 12 December at 6.00pm in the Parish Hall.

All agenda items need to be referred to the council Secretary Marjorie Serbinek: m4serbinek@gmail.com by Monday 9 December.

Parish Christmas Day Lunch

Our Parish Christmas Day lunch will be held in our parish hall from 12 noon—3pm. This lunch provides an outreach to those parishioners who otherwise might be alone on that day.

If you would like to join us for lunch on that day and have not already done so please add your name to the list at the Sacred Heart window area of the church or contact the presbytery during office hours.

There is also a list to put your name and phone number down for anyone wanting to donate food or drinks or who may be able to help prepare and decorate the hall,

Alpha Survey

Alpha is about making our faith meaningful and building our Parish Community. To help us decide a direction for our 2025 Parish Alpha program we are conducting a survey and would love your feedback. There are forms available at all entrances to the church for you to fill out and place in the box provided at back of the church.

Parish Morning Tea This Sunday

As already announced Ed Brown has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the 2024 school year.

Always an active parishioner here at Sacred Heart we have an opportunity to give thanks for his faith filled service to the teaching profession during our celebration of Eucharist this Sunday 8 December at 9.30am. Morning tea to follow in our Parish Hall.

Advent Prayer Resource—Hope Reigns

As we embark on the journey of Advent, *Hope Reigns* will help us clarify our vision, so that we can welcome anew the wonder of the Christ child who brings heaven to earth and opens the door to the extraordinary gift of life everlasting, the fullness of life for which we long.

Please take a free copy available at entrances to the church which can be used for personal or group reflection.

Australian Catholics—Bringing Faith to Life

The summer edition of Australian Catholics is available at all entrances to the church. Please take a free copy.

Men's Breakfast—North Albury/Lavington

Saturday 14 December from 7.45am at Sacred Heart Parish Hall Mate Street, North Albury. *End Of Year Wind Up with a Christmas Quiz*. Cost: donation, funds raised to support Religious Education in State Schools.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Murray Concert Choir will present its Christmas concert at St Matthew's on Saturday 7 December at 7.30pm and at St John's Wodonga on Sunday 8 December at 2.30pm.

SINGERS NEEDED FOR 9.00PM CHRISTMAS MASS

Anyone is welcome to join our choral group. A practice will be held on Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. If you can't make that date you are still welcome to join us on Christmas Eve. We also need Musicians to sing at the Christmas Day mass. Please contact the Presbytery if you are available.

Gardening Squad

Thanks to Heath Neville and his band of Yr 9 helpers from Xavier High School, volunteers or seconded, for working in the presbytery garden last Thursday afternoon in the humid heat. Once again, we are able to ascertain where the rose bushes are actually located.

Gratitude is also extended to Michael Regan and Hugh Pinter for ensuring that the restored lawn in the memorial garden and at the car park side of the church continues to grow luxuriously.

Parish Invitational Brochure

This is a resource we can all hand out to people who might like to come and join us for mass or any of our parish ministries mentioned.

It also has the Christmas mass times but can be handed out all year round! We hope you have someone in mind to invite, and through our community, into a relationship with Jesus.

Brochures are available at all entrances to the church.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: From the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

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: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,

it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of

song, carrying their sheaves. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God. 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 Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice cries in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. The Gospel of the Lord