



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 Baptism of the Lord

11th / 12th January 2025

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/>



Today marks the end of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It heralds the beginning of Jesus's public mission: the work of teaching, preaching and healing. God's great love and mercy offer salvation to all through Jesus, by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, God proclaims Jesus as his beloved Son at his baptism in the Jordan. St Luke draws our attention to the descent of the Holy Spirit while Jesus is at prayer.

The First Reading offers hope and joy. God has seen his people repent and will bring them home across the desert. He is both their defender and their shepherd, who gathers, guides and nourishes.

The image of God gathering and nourishing is echoed in the Psalm. The Lord renews with his Spirit all who look to him. St Paul (Second Reading) tells us it is entirely due to God's mercy, love and compassion that we are offered salvation; not for anything we have achieved. God's loving kindness is revealed through 'the cleansing water of rebirth' and renewal with the Holy Spirit in Christ.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the gift of baptism. We remind ourselves that the words spoken at Jesus's baptism also apply to us. We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God, called to make known the love of God to all we meet. Let's pray this week, and in the weeks ahead, for whatever grace God feels we need to help us.

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 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: Esther Fair, Lucia Fornasiero, Fr Tony Loth, John Hogan, Richard Toole, Shaun Sutcliffe, Katica Mejak, Rhonda McCormack.

ANNIVERSARIES: Norma Lawlor, Kath Duck, Tony Iverson, Kathleen Lester, Raymond Fogarty, Ann Bellett, Bill Cromarty, Gregory Sutherland, Nola Toner, Geraldine Krautz, Marianna Kalenikovs, Geoffrey Kimball, Marie Sullivan, John Whyte, Gertrude Heppner, John Packer, Michael Mullavey, Daren Fisher, Doris Hourigan, Frank Esler, Leslie Maloy, Tom Drum.

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: 11th / 12th January

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Justin Clancy Xavier Clancy Shinead Kilroy	Bede Hart Narelle Naughton Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Volunteer	Gemma Whitehead Mercedes Goss Marisa Hart
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters/John van Lint Val Hayes	Bernadette, Helen and Wendy
Counters: Richard & Trish Parkinson		

Sat / Sun: 18th / 19th January

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Colleen Day Paula Waters Catherine Cutler	Cathy Nyhan Hugh Pinter Samuel Serbinek
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Pauline Mulquiney	Sr Patricia Weekes Pamela McIntosh Carey Menz-Dowling
Cantor Musicians	Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Bob Mathews Val Hayes
Counters: Diane & Greg Bartsch		

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):

" We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."



Parish News

**Extract From: Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen
Bishop of Parramatta**

Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church. 2025

Pope Francis reminds us that the Church cannot be fully itself without involving everyone as co-responsible for its life and mission.

The time has come for Church leaders to engage in an energetic communal search with the faithful in their dioceses if they want to be bold and creative in the task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities.

We are all learners in this new way of being Church. There is a certain sense of vulnerability on the part of the ordained as we learn to adopt a more collaborative, humble and listening style of leadership. Many of the laity themselves are accustomed to deferring to their pastors and hence are more comfortable with being simply passive. But this would not lead to effective mission and better outcomes. It is the responsibility of the clergy not simply to exercise the authority of the ordained but also to encourage the co-responsibility of the faithful. Similarly, it is integral to the baptismal consecration for the laity to participate in the mission of the whole Church. In this way, the culture of mutual discernment, consensus and decision-making can lead us, the ordained and laity, to the strengthening of our common mission.

Jesus told his disciples that new wine must be poured into new wineskins. The way of being Church that the Holy Spirit has inspired us to embrace necessitates a collective conversion. The clergy will need to learn to listen to the *sensus fidei* and the laity will need to take responsibility as agents of evangelization. Together, we commit ourselves to the task of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit. If synodality is a truly constitutive dimension of the Church, then the sense of the faithful must be given expressions in a way that witnesses to the dynamism of communion and inspires all ecclesial decisions.

We have great challenges ahead of us as we form ourselves into the new wineskins capable of containing and sharing Christ the new wine. However, we also have the assurance of the Lord who promised to be with us always to the end of time. This consciousness, deepened by our lived experience of the synodal Church, has been the inspiration for the vision and theme of our pastoral plan: "Behold, I am with you always". (Matthew 28:20)

Encouraged by this promise and strengthened by the encounter with Jesus, let us rise to walk the journey of participation, communion and mission. Let us plough the fields for the seeds of the synodal Church to grow and bear fruit. Let us spread the good seeds and be champions of synodality in our respective environments. Let us pray that we may grow through chaos and uncertainty in order to be more aligned with God's purpose. May Mary who listened to God's Word and acted in sync with the Holy Spirit accompany us on the road of discipleship and witness. May Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first canonised saint intercede for us as we endeavor to embody the Gospel for our times just as she did for hers in trusting, generous and prophetic ways.

FR NORMAN'S FAREWELL

Paalam (Goodbye)

Salamat at nawa'y pagpalain ka ng Diyos

(Thank you and may God bless you)

Having completed his parish pastoral placement with us, Fr Norman will take up a permanent assignment with his compatriot Fr Neale as assistant priests in Sacred Heart Griffith in the coming week.

Having lived on my own for the past twenty five years, Norman has had to learn to live with my idiosyncrasies and inconsistencies over the last four months. Gratitude is extended to Norman for the pastoral care he has offered to many through the exercising of his priestly ministry.

Certainly, his collaborative, humble and listening style of leadership has been much appreciated. A special thanks to those who have invited Fr Norman into their homes and to all for extending hospitality and welcome during our celebration of the Eucharist.

Please join us for morning tea at the conclusion of mass this Sunday, as a sign of our appreciation for Fr Norman's ministry of service to our Sacred Heart Parish Community.

Formation In Faith

In the Bible in a Year podcast, Fr Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Catholic Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection and prayer along the way.

Find out more about the Bible in a Year and how to listen at: ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear

Some paper copies of the programme are available for collection on the table near the car park entrance.

A similar guide is available to explore the Catechism of the Catholic church at: ascensionpress.com/ciy

Farewell Lucia Fornasiero—Rest in God's Peace

Lucia was born on 26th May, 1915 in the small Italian village of San Daniele del Friuli. She came to Australia during the summer bush fire season of 1938, a week after marrying her husband Emilio (d:1970). They had 7 children: John, Michael, Maria, Peter, Paul (dec), David (dec), Christine (dec).

Lucia's earthly life ended at the gate of a New Year, 31 December 2024. Lucia was a strong woman of active and vibrant faith. May the trust she always put in the Lord lead her safely home to enjoy her heavenly reward.

In a particular way thanks is extended to Sr Carina for visiting Lucia each week so that she could receive the nourishment that participating in the Eucharist provides.



*This weekend
we welcome
into the com-
munity of the*

Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Mac John James Phegan son of James and Holly

Lottie May Phegan daughter of Thomas and Merryn

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: From the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all humankind shall see it. for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 103

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

Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R**

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. **R**

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. **R**

All of these look to you,
To give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. **R**

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.
The Gospel of the Lord.