

Sacred Heart Parish

NORTH ALBURY

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 Nativity of the Lord

24th / 25th December 2025

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

Parish Office 9am-2pm

Gemma Whitehead—Monday 7 Wednesday

Fran Kernaghan— Friday

Phone: 02 6025 1516

Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

Bank A/c Details for Parishioners wishing to Direct Deposit: Church A/c: BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 10000 5574 Ref No: Please contact Office for a number or add your surname & initial.

Presbytery A/c: BSB: 066 789; A/c No: 100005575

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable People:

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

Mass Times

Friday December 26 (Boxing Day) 9.30am

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

Live-streaming on Sunday 9.30am Mass by accessing our website.

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.



Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

Fr Martin:

In the expectation of this Christmas Eve night / In the excitement of this Christmas Morning we light these candles, the candle of everlasting hope, of proclaimed peace, of overflowing joy, of abundant love as a sign that no matter the circumstances of our lives we know that we are not alone.



Advent hope moves us

Advent love leads us

Advent joy stirs us

Advent peace stills us that we might recognise the presence of Emmanuel, God with us now.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle. (Candle is lit)

All:

May the flame of this candle remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and if we follow him, we will never walk in darkness but will have the true light of life.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gabrielle Ceberano, Frances

Walsh, Caine Nichols, Sr Aileen Wailes, Clare Packer, Matthew Borg, Carolyn Wenke, Maureen Rourke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Shaun Brady, Fr Kevin Flanagan, Ellen Keane, Nancy Gray, Jim Brooder, George Pugh, George Rossmann, Norm Robinson, Stanley Harrison, Michael Dunn, Tyson Baczynski, Griff Rosser, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, John Nenzl, Jack Galvin, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Kevin Krautz, Peter Rolfe, Jill Fox, John Hallam, Barbara Kidd, John Warford, Pat Smithenbecker, Bob Purtle, William Foo, Kit Tilby, 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.

ROSTERS

Christmas Eve 9.00pm (Wed 24 Dec)

Commentator: Colleen Day

Lectors: Jan Skinner & Patricia Weekes

Eucharistic Ministers: Anna Farrell, Kaye Deanshaw & Sue Betts

Singers: Parish Choir & volunteers

Christmas Day 9.30am (Thur 25 Dec)

Commentator: Roy Thompson

Lectors: Brigit Serbene & Volunteer please

Eucharistic Ministers: Moira Porta, Gemma Whitehead & volunteer please

Musician: Bernadette O'Donnell

Sat / Sun: 27/28 December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Catherine Cutler	Brigit Serbene
Lector 2	Xavier Clancy	John Dowling
Eucharistic Ministers	Jan Skinner Pat Hopkins	Sue Betts Marissa Hart Sandra Temple
Cantor	Judy Lindsay	Ed, Margie & Heath
Musicians	Judy Foley	

Counters: Gemma

Thought for the Week (Pope Leo):

"One cannot love God without extending one's love to the poor."

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE &

THE HOLY LAND

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

Christmas Prayer

Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season

May new hope and joy flood our spirit
Whenever we watch babies and young children playing

May a new energy delight our hearts
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq

May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off

Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us

May the hospitality of our hearts expand
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays

May we experience love and appreciation

Whenever we spy our reflections in the mirror or pool

May we find ourselves to be images of God

Whenever we put our feet up for leisure
May the humble presence of the Incarnate One companion us

Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world

May the Christ child draw us into unity
Amen



Parish News

Welcome

We welcome you to our Christmas celebrations. Christmas 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 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.

Bondi Memorial Prayer

*We cry out to you, O God,
in shock and grief in the wake of the violence at
Bondi Beach.*

*Hold in your eternal love the people who were
killed.*

*Surround their families and friends with compassion
in the depths of their sorrow.*

*Hold in your care the survivors, the injured, and all
who witnessed the attacks.*

*Guide the authorities responsible for investigating
what happened, and how to prevent such devasta-
tion from ever happening again.*

Have mercy on all who are afraid.

Give courage.

Have mercy on all who are in grief.

Give comfort.

Have mercy on all who are in pain.

Give healing.

*Stir up Australians of all faiths and none, to stand in
solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters.*

*Make us builders of a community where everyone
has safety, and dignity, and peace. Amen*

Parish Christmas Day Lunch

At the time of printing we have about 30 people from our parish community who have indicated their intention to participate in Christmas Lunch in our Parish Hall on 25 December from 12 noon. Thanks to all those who have volunteered to provide food or offered monetary donations. Thanks to Natalie Osborne and the staff at St. Anne's Primary School for providing gifts for the participants and for setting up and decorating our hall in preparation for this communal celebration.

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.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Dear friends, as we gather to celebrate the festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may understand its deeper meaning. Let us hear, in words and music of God's good purposes and the sharing of hope in times of trouble.

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.

St. Clare's SVDP Conference Christmas Appeal

Thanks to your generosity on abundance of food and gifts that have been donated to provide hampers for Christmas. We are particularly grateful to the staff, students and families of Xavier Catholic College for continuing to support this response to local need so enthusiastically and positively.



Liturgy of the Word

First reading : Isaiah 9: 1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders: and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty -God, Eternal-Father Prince –of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice ad integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 95

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

Response: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes.
he comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **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 Jesus Christ. 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. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good news and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2: 1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for the census of the whole world to be taken. This census—the first—took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea to the town of David called Bethlehem since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all who enjoy his favour.' The Gospel of the Lord.