



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 6th / 7th 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 & Wednesday

Frances Kernaghan 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:

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 will commence again in February 2026 every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the parish hall at 7.00pm.

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.



Parish Community

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mons. Frank Marriott, Aileen Wales (Sr Michael), Fr Frank Moloney, Clare Packer, Matthew Borg, Carolyn Wenke, Maureen Rourke, Margaret Esler, Annette Maloney, Molly Hopkins, Michael Dunkerley, Frank Glennon and Pat Boyd.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eliza Nicholson, Rhonda McCormack, Betty Lindner, Fr Jim Victory, Imelda Phegan, Marie Carter, Geoffrey Jervois Snr., Jason Farrell, Susan Guy, Joff Hutchinson, Mary Mulquiney, Lillian Clear, Maria Klauss, Malcolm Nicholson, Angela Leber, Gerarda Van Dijk, Carmel Glasgow, Msgr Hatswell, Charlotte Roberts, Lucy Freeman, Nell Martin, Jack Collins, Francis Clancy, Noreen Low, Brenda De Hennin.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.



This weekend we welcome into the community of the Christian church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Winston Castillo Kernaghan
son of Daniel and Nina

Jude James Morrison
son of Jed and Alice

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 6th / 7th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Bede Hart
Lector 1	Nicole Morton	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Jan Skinner	Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers	Catherine Cutler Anna Farrell	Trish Parkinson Sr Siony Narelle Naughton
Cantor Musicians	Margy Brown Val Hayes	Heath Neville Ashleigh Donaldson

Counters: Jane Togher & Brian Fealy

Sat / Sun: 13th / 14th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Justin Clancy	Cathy Nyhan
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Lorraine Willis
Lector 2	Catherine Cutler	Mary Hunt
Eucharistic Ministers	Patricia Hopkins Colleen Day	Belinda Shelton Fran Kernaghan Pamela McIntosh
Cantor Musicians	Ann McIntyre Judy Foley	Bernadette, Helen and Wendy

Counters: Diane & Greg Bartsch

Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

"Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, 'The poor you will always have with you' also promises the disciples: 'I am with you always'.

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'



Parish News

TO PONDER:

Our readings call us to the barren, desert spaces of our hearts. They invite us to repentance, which in Hebrew means a literal turning back or return to God and in Greek means a transformation of thought and action (metanoia). In many ways, genuine repentance means returning to who we really are; it means becoming *real*. This return, this becoming, can only happen in the internal, quiet space of self-emptying that allows us to receive God. This Advent season, follow the call into the desert.

No matter the noise around you, the responsibilities and commitments, allow John the Baptist to guide you to your internal desert, to make space for inner quiet, to be transformed or re-grounded into who you really are.

Parish Christmas Day Lunch

Our Parish Christmas Day lunch will be held in our parish hall on Christmas Day 25 December from 12 Noon—3.00pm. This lunch provides an outreach to those parishioners and their families and friends who otherwise might be alone on that day or at a loose end. Currently we have about 25 people who have indicated their willingness to participate in this gathering.

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 Swan Street entrance or contact the presbytery during office hours.

As with last year we are looking for donations of food and other Christmas items—particularly roast vegies, salads and desserts. Again your desire to contribute in this way can be noted by adding your name and the intended provision to the list at the Swan Street entrance or by contacting the parish office by phone or email.

From Fr Martin

I thank Fr Bernie Thomas for his continued willingness to exercise his priestly ministry in our parish community with vibrancy, dedication and prayerfulness. We are grateful to Fr Bernie for his good humour, wise counsel, reflective and challenging homilies. His pastoral care of the dying and their families and the conducting of funeral liturgies with genuine empathy and respect is much appreciated.

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.

Gratitude is extended to all those who helped out in any way during my holiday absence, particularly the setting up for mass and keeping the garden alive.

Parish Pastoral Council

The last meeting of our Parish Pastoral Council for 2025 takes place this Thursday 11 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 8 December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

You are most welcome to join the St Anne's Primary School community for Christmas Carols performed by the children in St Anne's School Hall on Tuesday 9 December from 6.00pm—7.00pm. The guest compere has been practicing his lines and jokes for weeks!

Traditional Lessons and Carols will be held in St Matthew's Anglican church this Sunday 7 December from 5.00pm. All welcome.

The Murray Concert Choir are holding *A Classic Christmas* at St Matthew's Church on Saturday 6 December at 7.30pm and Galvin Hall, Wodonga on Sunday 7 December at 2.30pm. Tickets \$25 or \$20 Conc. All welcome.

Parish Morning Tea—Sunday 7th December

Mass as usual at 9.30am followed by our monthly morning tea. Liz Johnston retires as the principal of St Patrick's Albury at the conclusion of the school year.

For many years Liz worked as a teacher, vice principal and principal at St Anne's Primary School. Today we have an opportunity to thank her for her contribution to Catholic Education for over 30 years in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in prayer, worship and communal hospitality.

Diocesan Newspaper—'Together'

The November edition of Together has arrived and is available at all entrances to the church. Please take a copy.

Australian Catholics

The summer edition of Australian Catholics has also arrived so please take a copy from church entrances.

Simbang Gabi 2025

7pm each evening from 15-23 December 2025 at St Augustine's Church, 55 High Street, Wodonga VIC 3690
Simbang Gabi is a treasured Filipino tradition that gathers the community in joyful hope and prayer as we await the birth of the Saviour. We would be delighted to welcome parishioners from across our region as we celebrate together.

Choir For Christmas

Seeking singers for the 9.00pm Christmas Eve mass. We are having one quick practice on Thursday 18 December at 5.00pm. All welcome.

Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Mass Times 2025

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24 December)

6.00pm Xavier Catholic College Hall

9.00pm Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Day (Thursday 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.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1—10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 7

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

Response: *Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and the poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **R**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **R**

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4—9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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 Matthew 3:1—12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: 'A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.'

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the River Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you repent, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' The Gospel of the Lord.