



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 HOLY FAMILY 27th/28th 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

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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/>



REFLECTION ON FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

While Sirach and Colossians focus on the *internal* dimensions of family life, Matthew focuses on *external* challenges. The Gospel makes two powerful points: First, the ancient world was marked by immense insecurity, and the family (not the government or social programming) was the nucleus that provided social security, stability, and support.

Second, Jesus was born into a poor refugee family. The Holy Family also disrupts the nuclear family structure: Joseph was a foster father; Mary conceived a child outside of marriage.

Today's feast day is a reminder that families take many forms and can be spaces of struggle—physical, emotional, and spiritual.

Yet it is precisely in these struggling spaces where Jesus dwells. This reality is a comfort when we are struggling and a call to love and care for all people as family, especially those most in need of our support.

As we pray discerningly with these readings, what are the timeless elements that challenge us to growth today?

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Wednesday & Friday—9.30am

Thursday—New Years Day—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: Margaret Graham, Gabrielle Ceberano, Frances Walsh (Peter Whitehead's sister), Caine Nicholls, Mons. Frank Marriott, Sr Aileen Wailes, Clare Packer, Matthew Borg, Carolyn Wenke, Maureen Rourke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Kevin Flanagan, Lucia Fornasiero, Jed Oftana, John Gill, Ross Smith, Nancy Gray, Dawn Robison, Jim Brooder, George Rossmann, Stanley Harrison, Tyson Baczynski, Miroslav Student, Bert Coyle, Trish Carmody, Scott Larkin, Robert Weissel, Maddison Palmer, Peter McKee, Matthew Gunning, Bill Ryan, Peter Rolfe, John Hallam, Catherine Glennon, John Warford, Joan Dougheney, Pat Smithenbecker, Bob Purtle, William Foo, Kit Telby, Barbara Robertson.

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:

Lainey Nora Hatton
daughter of Corey and Kaylee

Eve Maree Mackie
Ava Mae Mackie
Ivy Grace Mackie
daughters of Kye and Emma

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 27th/28th December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Catherine Cutler	Brigita Serbinek
Lector 2	Xavier Clancy	John Dowling
Eucharistic Ministers	Jan Skinner Patricia Hopkins	Sue Betts Marisa Hart Sandra Temple
Cantor Musicians	Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Ed, Margie and Heath
Counters: Gemma Whitehead		

Sat / Sun: 3rd/4th January 2026

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Michael Byrnes	Bede Hart
Lector 1	Colleen Day	Kay Morrell
Lector 2	Adrian Mitchelhill	Mercedes Goss
Eucharistic Ministers	Anna Farrell Kaye Deanshaw	Moirra Porta Sr Siony Pamela McIntosh
Cantor Musicians	Anne McIntyre Judy Foley	Damien Parkinson Val Hayes
Counters: Margaret Brown & Moira Porta		

Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo's January prayer intention is that the Word of God be a nourishment for our lives and a source of hope.

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.



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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light this candle, the Christ candle, as a sign of everlasting hope, of proclaimed peace, of overflowing joy, of abundant love, to remind us that no matter the circumstances of our lives, we know that we are not alone. May the Word made flesh dwell within us, may his light guide our path, may his presence be our peace this day and always.

Amen

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 devastation
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.*

January Morning Tea

Our January morning tea will be held after our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist on **Sunday 4 January** in our parish hall. If possible, please bring something to share.

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.

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.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 3:2-6, 12-14

The Lord Honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins. The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 127:1-5

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

Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord;
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I called my son out of Egypt.*

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.