



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.

Third Sunday of Advent 13th / 14th 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 9.30am Mass by accessing our website.

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Monday 12.15pm—Yr 6 Graduation Mass

Wednesday 9.30am

**Friday 9.30am—Includes Sacrament of Anointing
(Shared morning tea after mass)**

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle



Priest: We come to together in the joy of God's love. We have often felt so misunderstood and even unloved, but today we marvel in the joy that begins in God. We celebrate this joy in the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

'They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces for the Lord will be with them.'

Third Candle is lit

All listen or sing:

Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow.

Gently surrounding us, a new birth of hope.

Watch - ing, wait - ing, awak - ening a new birth of hope.

ALL: We light this candle to celebrate your joy that unites all people. We pray that all people might experience this kind of joy that surpasses all understanding. Loving God, pour into our hearts this day the light of your joy warming us to one another, enlightening our understanding of others and revealing the joy that guards our hearts and minds.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Parish Community

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Frances Walsh, Caine Nichols, Mons. Frank Marriott, Sr Aileen Wailes, Clare Packer, Matthew Borg, Carolyn Wenke, Maureen Rourke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Jim Victory, Katica Mejak, Shaun Brady, Leo Keane, Sr Therma MACE, Sr Marie Duffy, Ernest Elias, Kent van Every, Keith Groth, Michael Murphy, Geoff O'Brien, Wendy Murphy, Irene Unger, Chris Thumpston, Ruby O'Keefe, Eric Low, Owen Drysdale, Len Syphers, George McShane, Marlene Clee, Nell Seymour, Harry Collins, Beryl Splatt, Norm Frauenfelder, Jason Black, John Muldoon, Lesley Beach.

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:

Pryce Matthew Buchanan

Laika Michael Buchanan

Kelvy Harry Buchanan

Children of Ryan and Imogene

ROSTERS

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 Dianne Treacy Pamela McIntosh
Cantor Musicians	Ann McIntyre Judy Foley	Bernadette, Helen and Wendy
Counters: Diane & Greg Bartsch		

Sat /Sun: 20th / 21st December

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Jan Skinner	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Adrian Mitchelhill	Liz Phegan
Lector 2	Kaye Deanshaw	Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Anna Farrell	Sr Patricia Weekes Fran Kernaghan Sue McLaurin
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters/John van Lint Judy Foley	Bob Mathews Val Hayes
Counters: Richard & Trish Parkinson		

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 dark-
ness yet seeking the light.
To you we say 'Come Lord Jesus'
Amen.



Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

"To hope is to participate: this is a gift that God gives us... No one saves the world alone. Not even God wants to save it alone: He could, but He does not want to, because together is better."

Parish News

Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Mass Times 2025

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24 December)

6.00pm Xavier Catholic College Hall

Entry via Currawong Street or Curlew Crescent (bus bay area) or Fallon Street.

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.

Sacrament of Anointing

The Sacrament of Anointing will take place during our celebration of Eucharist this Friday 19 December at 9.30am. Through the sacrament of anointing, Christ strengthens those who are afflicted by illness and those who are weakened by age. Morning tea to follow in our parish hall. If possible please bring something to share.

The next sacrament of anointing at Mercy Place will take place Tuesday week 23 December in the Chapel at 2.00pm during our celebration of the Eucharist.

All welcome to attend.

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.

TO PONDER:

The call to “rejoice” (Latin *Gaudete*) at the heart of Advent highlights the importance of joy in our faith lives. But what is joy? For the believer, it is not a superficial feeling of happiness dependent on life’s circumstances, but a deep well-spring of hope and trust in God. Isaiah’s prophetic oracle imagines the joy of a people who trust that God will bring them home while restoring and healing all life. Our Gospel applies Isaiah’s imagery to the messianic period and to Jesus’s acts of healing. Both readings are set within historical periods of great suffering and social inequity, yet they call readers to take the longer view, trusting in God’s ultimate salvation, as echoed in today’s responsorial psalm. As you pray with the readings this week, ponder and savour this message of joy. How do you experience this wellspring in your life?

Diocese of Wagga—2025 Parish Mass Attendance Count

First four weeks of November - Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury:

Week 1:	95/140	Total: 235
Week 2:	105/162	Total: 267
Week 3:	92/168	Total: 260
Week 4:	98/169	Total: 267

Car Security

Please ensure that your car is securely locked when attending weekend or weekday mass, otherwise you may lose it or valuable items.

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.

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.



Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers, like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 145

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

Response: Lord, come and save us

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
Who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
The Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just
But thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God from age to age. **R**

A reading from the Letter of James 5:7-10

Be patient, sisters and brothers, until the Lord's coming.

Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, sisters and brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, sisters and brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord..

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11: 2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? Someone wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.