

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 in Ordinary Time—Year A 24/25 January 2026

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:

Monday (Australia Day) 9.30am

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.



The readings for this third week of Ordinary Time deliver a promise of hope, joy and light to those living in darkness. The prophet Isaiah reflects on how the Lord brought hope and unity to places of profound and enduring conflict. The joy his love brings is abundant and contagious. (**First Reading**) The themes of light and salvation underpin the **Psalm**. We are reassured that if we remain firmly fixed on the Lord, we have nothing to fear.

Paul (**Second Reading**) echoes this message to the community in Corinth. He urges them to address the divisive hierarchies and cliques that have emerged and to be reunited in the knowledge that God invites every person to be united in his love. In the **Gospel**, Matthew recounts the very beginning of Jesus's ministry and the appointment of his first disciples. We witness the simplicity of his methods: he meets us where we are at; sees and values us for who we really are; and invites us to abandon old habits and ways that weigh us down so that we can truly follow him.

As this new year begins, we ask for God's grace and guidance to celebrate and reconcile our differences so that we may share in his abundant love.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Anne Maginnity, Peter Hickey, Jacqui Fornasiero, Barbara Gladman, June Toole, Terry Coelli, Terry Grazules, Marie Neville, Stephen Wilson, Margaret Graham Gabrielle Ceberano, Frances Walsh, Matthew Borg, Carolyn Wenke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Smith, Bernard Weiss, Lillian Hancock, Myles Borg, Royce Boyd, Bryan Palmer, Ada Pertile, Mary McPherson, John Briggs, Kevin Houlihan, Jack Whitty, Frank Douba, Kevin McAlroy, Joan Cruikshank, Brian Lane, Emilio Fornasiero, Hilda Joynson, Peter Carroll, Norman Lane, Mary Miglionico, Reginald Scammell, Tim Berkley.

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: 24th / 25th January		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Michael Byrnes	Natalie Osborne
Lector 1	Adrian Mitchelhill	Margy Brown
Lector 2	Paula Waters	Brigiita Serbinezek
Eucharistic Ministers	Jan Skinner Kaye Deanshaw	Dianne Treacy Sue Betts Narelle Naughton
Cantor Musicians	John van Lint Brian Waters Judy Foley	Bob Matthews Val Hayes
Counters:	Gemma (Wednesday this week)	

Sat / Sun: 31st January / 1st February		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Jan Skinner	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Mary-Jayne Boyd	John Dowling
Lector 2	Michael Byrnes	Mary Hunt
Eucharistic Ministers	Catherine Cutler Anna Farrell	Mercedes Goss Carey Menz-Dowling Pamela McIntosh
Cantor Musicians	Ann McIntyre Judy Goley	Bernadette, Wendy and Helen
Counters:		

Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

"Let us ask the Lord... for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow".

A Prayer for Our Country

God of all nations,
We pray for our country, Australia.
We give thanks for all the blessings we receive from this ancient and mysterious land.

We are grateful for the Indigenous people who took time over thousands of generations to learn her ways and share them with wisdom.

We stand humbly before the storms and fires that leave us speechless.

Our hopes are stirred by the millions of kind and decent people who enliven our community, seldom seeking the limelight, always responding to the needs of others, regardless of who they may be.

These people are our future.

We know, Lord, that the new year finds us in a fragile place.

We pray earnestly for your grace to find the right direction, the one that leads to dignity and justice for us all.

May your Holy Spirit work with us to heal divisions, dissolve anger, open our ears and draw us into compassion.

May we rediscover the gifts of common good, commonwealth and common sense.

May we, like your Son, seek to serve, not to be served.

In 2026, and for all ages.

Amen

– Michael McGirr



Parish News

TO PONDER:

Jesus calls people who have something to leave behind. In rapid succession, he calls his first disciples, and they abandon their families and occupations to follow him. Jesus is also calling us, asking us to examine our own lives for that which prevents us from following him freely, that which can be left behind. This could be a job, a half-hearted commitment to faith, or perhaps a passive acceptance of social structures that degrade the dignity of the human person. Maybe it is attachment to our own opinions that feed divisions in our families, communities, and church. Each day is an invitation to search our hearts and let go of that which contradicts our baptismal callings in order to hear him and follow freely.

The psalmist longs for God, seeking to “gaze” upon God and “dwell in the house of the Lord / all the days” of his life. Can you feel this longing? Like the psalmist, we often experience God most intimately in our churches, where the Real Presence resides in the tabernacle. Yet we also experience God intimately through our sacred Scriptures. Today is Sunday of the Word of God, a reminder that we dwell with God not only in sacred buildings but in the sacredness of God’s word. By meditating upon the written word, we encounter *the Word*, who greets us “with great love” and “speaks” intimately with us. As you pray with the readings this week, ponder the role of the Scriptures in your life. How are they—or how might they become—a refuge, a place to experience and communicate with God?

Parish Morning Tea

Our February morning tea will take place next Sunday 1st February at the conclusion of our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist. New comers and all parishioners are invited to join us to share conversation and companionship. If possible please bring something to share.

Parish Pastoral Council

The first meeting of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council for 2026 will take place on Thursday 5 February in the Parish Hall at 6.00pm. Any agenda items to be discussed in general business need to reach the Secretary, Marjorie Serbinez m4serbinez@gmail.com by Monday 2 February.

St Vincent de Paul Society North Albury Fundraiser Trivia Night Saturday January 31 @ 7.30pm Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Tickets \$10 per person with Teams of 6-8 or individuals welcome.

BYO food and drinks

All proceeds going to assist local people experiencing hardship or homelessness.

Further enquiries phone Liz 0423 064 823

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is offered in our parish community on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month within our celebration of 9.30am Eucharist during School Terms.

This provides an opportunity for primary school age children and pre schoolers to reflect on the gospel message and strengthen their relationship with Jesus through activities suited to their age level.

We continue to seek parents and parishioners who are willing to support Genn Hamam and Louise Fifield in their catechist role. If you are able to help out in any way please contact Genn Hamam genwhelton@hotmail.com or the parish office by email.

The parish also provides children's activity sheets based on each weekend's gospel for younger and older children. These are located along with containers of coloured pencils on the shelves at the entry to the church.

CONGRATULATIONS Brian Butts!

AMV4 as an entity no longer exists. Captain Harper and Butsy have disappeared into the vault of television archives. But at 90 years of age Brian Butts continues to illuminate our parish community with wisdom, integrity, faithfulness and good humour. We thank both Brian and Carmel for their loving and generous commitment to both their own and our parish family. Thank you Brian for the example of discipleship you provide by following the way of Jesus with gentle strength and genuine kindness.

Brian, may the Adelaide Crows not go out in straight sets in 2026 and may one of your many racehorses finally win a race. Every blessing for the birthday celebrations.

Wild Goose Series Continues

Our gatherings in the hall continue for 2026 every first Tuesday of the month at 10.00am in the Parish Hall and begins this Tuesday 3 February. For those who have participated in Alpha or anyone who is interested in sharing their faith in fellowship with others are very welcome to attend.

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors Roster

Our next roster is being drawn up for the months of February March, April and May 2026. Please contact the parish office by email of your non-availability or if you wish to become a Lector or Eucharistic Minister.



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

Bailey Travis Clare
son of Travis and Rachel

Hailey Elizabeth Clare
Logan Dale Clare
children of Jarrod and Phoebe

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a 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. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 26

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

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life,
before whom shall I shrink? **R**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all the slogans that you have, like, 'I am for Paul,' 'I am for Apollos,' 'I am for Cephas.' 'I am for Christ.' Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News and not to preach that in terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light: on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men and women.' And they left their nets at once and followed him

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.