



*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.*

## *The Baptism of the Lord 10/11 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](mailto: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/>**

### **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

Today we celebrate the feast of Baptism of Jesus, which might seem strange. I remember an old Bishop getting up to preach on this feast when I was at school; "we don't know why Jesus was baptised," he began, "but thank God he was!" Funnily enough I cannot remember anything else about the sermon, but it did make me wonder why the perfect one needed a baptism of forgiveness. In Matthew's account in today's Gospel, we are presented with the great Advent Saint, John the Baptist. He recognises that the request of Jesus is totally unusual: Jesus should be baptising him! The incarnation shows that the God life does not follow the same rule book. Incarnation proves that we have not always done things 'this way'! Today we are presented with the sense of 'expectancy' which is so typical of this time of year. We are excited to think of the new possibilities that we might be able to share. If you are like me, then you realise all the wonderful opportunities that we wasted in 2025, and we pray that 2026 will be so much better. With the people of Judea, we can share a sense of excitement and potential.

Today is that challenge for each of us to be equally involved in the life of the world. Sadly, there are those Christians who can only see the world as some sort of evil place that we should have nothing to do with. With such an attitude, Church then becomes some sort of sanctuary, a 'spiritual Disneyland' where we can escape to on a Sunday. Genesis, the very first book of the bible reminds us of the GOODNESS of creation. We are called to share that goodness with those we meet during this week.

### **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:**

**No Masses this Week**

**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:** June Toole, Terry Coelli, Terry Grazules, Marie Neville. Stephen Wilson, Margaret Graham, Gabrielle Ceberano, Frances Walsh (Peter Whitehead's sister), Matthew Borg and Carolyn Wenke. **ANNIVERSARIES:** Norma Lawlor, Kath Duck, Brian Mawson, Tony Iverson, Kathleen Lester, Keith Hertzog, Raymond Fogarty, Albert Williams, Robert Watson, AnnBellett, Sr Monica Esler, Bill Cromarty, Lynette Dosenko, Nola Toner, Katherine Wishart, Geraldine Krautz, Alma Putman, Marianna Kalenikovs, Geoffrey Kimball, Marie Sullivan, John Packer, Michael Mullavey, Daren Fisher, Doris Hourigan, Frank Esler, Frank Tracey, Lelie Maloy, Tom Drum & Joy Bruton. *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:*

**Augustus Reginald Fisher**

*Son of Glen & Miranda*

**Charlie Thomas Kevern**

*Son of Shaun & Bridgette*

## ROSTERS

**Sat / Sun: 10/11 January 2026**

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b> <b>Lector 1</b> <b>Lector 2</b>	Justin Clancy Jan Skinner Michael Byrnes	Ed Brown Narelle Naughton Samuel Serbinek
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill Volunteer please	Gemma Whitehead Mercedes Goss Volunteer please
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Brian Waters John van Lint Catherine Cutler	Heath Neville Ashleigh Donaldson

**Counters:** Judy Warren & Michael Byrnes

**Sat / Sun: 17/18 January 2026**

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b> <b>Lector 1</b> <b>Lector 2</b>	Adrian Mitchelhill Xavier Clancy Kaye Deanshaw	Cathy Nyhan Roy Thompson Bethany Carey
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Pauline Mulquiney Justin Clancy	Belinda Shelton Trish Parkinson Sue McLaurin
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Bernadette, Wendy & Helen

**Counters:** Barry Pickett & Bernie Seaton

## Blessing upon the New Year

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year,  
I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I  
speak be filled with encouragement and  
goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they  
create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet,  
may the journeys I walk be led by your  
Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your  
goodness, your kindness and your lead-  
ing.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us.

May we make a difference in this world,  
for your glory and purposes.

Set your way before us.

May all your plans succeed so that we  
may reflect your peace and hope to a  
world that so desperately needs your  
presence and healing. Amen.



## Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

Dear friends, let us continue to have faith in the God of peace: let us pray, and show solidarity with the peoples who suffer because of wars.

# Parish News

**Extract From: Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen  
Bishop of Parramatta**

**Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church.**

Pope Francis reminds us that the Church cannot be fully itself without involving everyone as co-responsible for its life and mission.

The time has come for Church leaders to engage in an energetic communal search with the faithful in their dioceses if they want to be bold and creative in the task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities.

We are all learners in this new way of being Church. There is a certain sense of vulnerability on the part of the ordained as we learn to adopt a more collaborative, humble and listening style of leadership. Many of the laity themselves are accustomed to deferring to their pastors and hence are more comfortable with being simply passive. But this would not lead to effective mission and better outcomes. It is the responsibility of the clergy not simply to exercise the authority of the ordained but also to encourage the co-responsibility of the faithful. Similarly, it is integral to the baptismal consecration for the laity to participate in the mission of the whole Church. In this way, the culture of mutual discernment, consensus and decision-making can lead us, the ordained and laity, to the strengthening of our common mission.

Jesus told his disciples that new wine must be poured into new wineskins. The way of being Church that the Holy Spirit has inspired us to embrace necessitates a collective conversion. The clergy will need to learn to listen to the *sensus fidei* and the laity will need to take responsibility as agents of evangelization. Together, we commit ourselves to the task of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit. If synodality is a truly constitutive dimension of the Church, then the sense of the faithful must be given expressions in a way that witnesses to the dynamism of communion and inspires all ecclesial decisions.

We have great challenges ahead of us as we form ourselves into the new wineskins capable of containing and sharing Christ the new wine. However, we also have the assurance of the Lord who promised to be with us always to the end of time. This consciousness, deepened by our lived experience of the synodal Church, has been the inspiration for the vision and theme of our pastoral plan: "Behold, I am with you always". (Matthew 28:20)

Encouraged by this promise and strengthened by the encounter with Jesus, let us rise to walk the journey of participation, communion and mission. Let us plough the fields for the seeds of the synodal Church to grow and bear fruit. Let us spread the good seeds and be champions of synodality in our respective environments. Let us pray that we may grow through chaos and uncertainty in order to be more aligned with God's purpose. May Mary who listened to God's Word and acted in sync with the Holy Spirit accompany us on the road of discipleship and witness. May Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first canonised saint intercede for us as we endeavor to embody the Gospel for our times just as she did for hers in trusting, generous and prophetic ways.

## 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

## To Ponder

In our readings, power is expressed through gentleness and compassion. The psalmist describes God's awesome power unleashed in nature. The psalmist describes God's awesome power unleashed in nature. This is the power that flows through all prophetic witnesses, including the servant in our reading from Isaiah. We see God's power in the servant's strength of character and in his tireless pursuit of justice. Yet his actions are gentle, peaceful and compassionate. The same qualities also come to life in Jesus. Like that of the servant, the power that courses through Jesus manifests in gentleness and compassion, symbolised by the descending dove at his baptism. His baptism sets him on a path to "fulfill all righteousness" and bring the world into right relationship with God. Through our baptisms, we also become God's servants, called to walk gently and generously with strength of character and fierce commitment to justice. How is God calling you on this path today?

## Murray Garden Pick up Roster

### *New volunteers urgently needed*

We would like to thank Meg and Kelly for their support in picking up our Parishioners from Murray Gardens. As they are no longer available to help, we need more volunteers willing to go on a roster to collect Murray Gardens parishioners Sunday morning to attend 9.30am Mass. If you would like to volunteer please contact the Parish office via phone or email.

## Parish Christmas Day Lunch

About 30 people gathered to celebrate Christmas Day Lunch in our Parish Hall.

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.

Gratitude is extended to everyone who donated their time, food, culinary skills and financial assistance.

A special thanks to Marjorie Serbinek in her planning and co-ordinating role of this parish event.



# Liturgy of the Word

## First reading     Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 28:1-4, 9-10

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

**Response:** *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R**

The God of glory thunders.  
in his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
the Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever.. **R**

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ—but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus was about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

This is the Word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Alleluia!**

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave it to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.