



330 Swan Street  
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**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 Epiphany of the Lord 3/4 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**

**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/>



### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Fr Martin:** The three stories of Herod, the wise ones, and the holy family together demonstrate the way things are in the world. The Magi, Joseph and Mary represent those who obey the signs of promise and look for a new order. Alternatively, Herod stands for the powerful who seek to maintain control through cynicism, cruelty and oppression. What was true then is true now. We continue to need visions of a new way of being kinder, more compassionate, more respectful, more harmonious as individuals and as a nation.

Where there is the darkness of hatred, we pray:

**Jesus, Be born in us, be born in our world**

Where there is the darkness of fear, we pray:

**Jesus, Be born in us, be born in our world**

Where there is the darkness of hopelessness, we pray:

**Jesus, Be born in us, be born in our world**

**(Christ Candle is Lit)**

**All:** May the star of Bethlehem, which was the guiding light to the Magi bring peace, happiness and love to all our lives as we begin the journey of a New Year.

### **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:**

Tuesday Mass of Anointing Mercy Place Chapel 2pm

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. 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:** Terry Coelli, Terry Grazules, Marie Neville, Stephen

Wilson, Margaret Graham, Gabrielle Ceberano, Frances Walsh (Peter Whitehead's sister), Matthew Borg and Carolyn Wenke.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Lucia Fornasiero, Derek LeFevre, Noel Scott, Patrick Togher, Brian Rolfe, John Sykes, Susan Lally, Eileen Howard, Kerryn Milden, John Mamouney, John Cronin, Daniel Darey, Brian O'Donoghue, Peter Liepins, Veronica Fagg, Badea Ghosn, Myrtle Westblade, Fred Owen, Agnes Armstrong, Frank Lacey and Maria Kramer.

*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:*

**Matthias Reginald Birthisel**  
Son of Mackayla & Mason

## ROSTERS

**Sat / Sun: 3/4 January 2026**

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

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

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

## Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

"Through his eyes — first as a child, then as a young man and as an adult — the Father's love reaches us and transforms us."

## 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 to 2026

We welcome you to our New Year celebrations. This season 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 worshipping community. As a parish community may we grow this year in appreciation of the many blessings we enjoy and share them gladly with our less fortunate neighbours and those in need. May we continue to be an open, caring, inclusive and welcoming parish community.

## To Ponder

Today's feast day links revelation with light. In Isaiah, God's glory radiates over and through Jerusalem, and the Holy City becomes a manifestation of God's "shining radiance." In the Gospel, the star in the night guides foreigners as they travel to worship Jesus. These readings use light to underscore the meaning of today's feast of the Epiphany, a word that means both "radiance" and "manifestation" (from the Greek *epiphaneia*). Today, we celebrate God's manifestation and radiance through Christ as both a historical event and a continuous act. The feast day is one of celebration, but it is also a signal to stop and pay attention to where and through whom God manifests today. It is also a reminder that today we are called to be God's light, God's revelation in the dark spaces.

## 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 vol-

## January Morning Tea

You are most welcome to join us for our first morning tea of 2026. This will take place this **Sunday 4 January** at the conclusion of our celebration of Eucharist in our Parish hall. In our parish hall. If possible, please bring something to share.

## 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 Serbene in her planning and co-ordinating role of this parish event.

## To Ponder

Epiphany signifies unity through Christ. Our readings describe the expansion and inclusion of God's revelation to all people as one diverse body. In Ephesians, unity is the deepest "mystery" of God's revelation, and Jews and Gentiles are depicted as coheirs, co-partners and co-body members. In Matthew, the first people to recognise Jesus are foreigners, travellers who have come from afar to revere him. Similarly, in Isaiah, all people travel to Jerusalem to revere God. In our deeply divided world, unity is a radical concept. It is also the call and challenge of Epiphany as God's true desire for us. As we near the end of the Christmas season, are you ready to commit to this Epiphany.

## 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.*

# Liturgy of the Word

First reading      **Isaiah 60: 1-6**

Arise, shine out Jerusalem for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look around: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.      The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm Ps71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13**

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

**Response:** *Lord every nation on earth will adore you.*

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

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts,  
shall pay him tribute..  
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him  
gifts,  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. **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**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant, king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way. The Gospel of the Lord.