



330 Swan Street
North Albury
NSW 2640
02 6025 1516
www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com

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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 14th / 15th February 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)

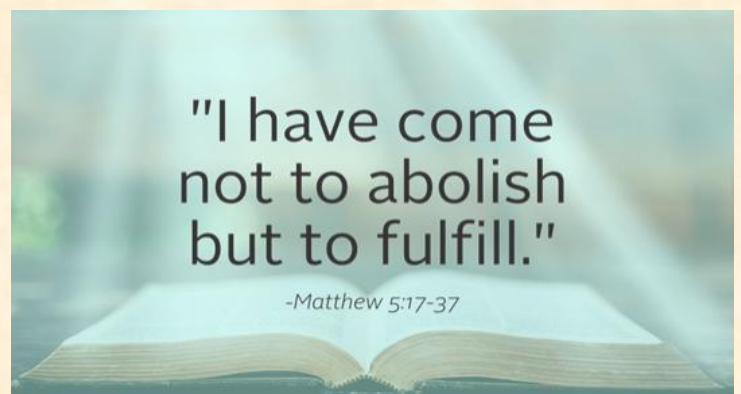
BSB: 066 789; **A/c No:** 10000 5574;

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/>



This Sunday, our readings invite us to consider God's laws and true wisdom. Our attitude may depend on whether we respond to God's law of love, or see it only as a legal imposition.

In the **First Reading**, Ben Sirach underlines how God has given us loving guidelines, but it is entirely up to us as to how we respond. God has also given us the gift of free will.

The **Psalmist** praises God's law: we will experience happiness as we seek God and follow in his ways.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) points out that true wisdom comes from God. Only the Spirit of God can reach the depths of all things.

St Matthew, in the **Gospel**, describes the relationship between the Law of Moses and the more radical vision of Jesus. Jesus has not come to abolish the Law but to complete it.

During this week, as we strive, with God's grace, to follow his law, may we be inspired by the example of so many who surround us.

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:

Wednesday (Ash 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. **During Lent our bible group is joining with the Lenten discussion group to be held in the hall on Tuesdays night at 7.00pm**

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Catherine Murphy, Gwen Rowe, Peter Baker, Michael Hoare, Margaret Gawen, Anne Maginnity, Peter Hickey, June Toole, Marie Neville Matthew Borg.

ANNIVERSARIES: Arthur and Pat Scott, Max Vogel, Mary Keane, Richard Kennedy, Angela Muntz, Val Garland, Eileen James (Keogh), Vin Griffiths Snr Hubert Newhauser, Noel Flanagan, Pauline Blissett, Drago Hanzic, Jane Student, James Mallay, Claude Gilson, Des Healy, Keith Clancey, John Evans, Jack Gilbert, Monica Bayley, David Rodgers, Barney Frauenfelder, Kylie Evans, Ena Gale, Catherine McCormack, Connie Murphy, Peter Rothe, Matthew Hartwig, Stephen Ratcliffe, Eileen Duck, Maurice Higgins.

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: 14th / 15th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Nicole Morton	Margy Brown
Lector 1	Kaye Deanshaw	Sue McLaurin
Lector 2	Xavier Clancy	John Dowling
Eucharistic Ministers	Catherine Cutler Anna Farrell	Cathy Nyhan Moirra Porta Eamonn Buckley
Cantor Musicians	Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Bernadette, Helen and Wendy

Counters: Gemma

Sat / Sun: 21st / 22nd February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Adrian Mitchelhill	Natalie Osborne
Lector 1	Ben Clancy	Sr Patricia Weekes
Lector 2	Jan Skinner	Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers	Shinead Kilroy Nicole Morton	Belinda Shelton Sue Betts Pamela McIntosh
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters/John van Lint Judy Foley	Damien Parkinson Brigita Serbinek

Counters: Margaret Brown & Moira Porta

PRE LENTEN PRAYER

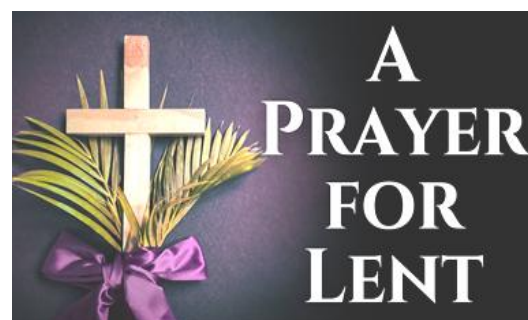
*God of goodness and mercy,
Hear my prayer as I prepare to begin
another Lenten journey with you.*

*Let me be honest with myself as I
look into my heart and soul
noticing the times I turn away from
you.*

*Guide me as I humbly seek to
repent and return to your love.*

*May humility guide my efforts to be
reconciled with you and live forever
in your abundant grace.*

*Transform me this Lent and give me
the strength to be a living sign of
God's infinite welcome and a source
of hope in a world
yearning for healing and unity.
Amen.*



Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

On the Law of the Heart: The teaching highlights that Jesus came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it by focusing on the interior intention rather than just external actions, warning against "murderous attitudes" of hatred and calling for absolute truthfulness in speech ("Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes'").

Parish News

TO PONDER:

"Open my eyes," the psalmist prays, "that I may consider / the wonders of your law." The *wonders* of your law. This phrase is worth pondering. "Law" is *tora* in Hebrew, meaning "teaching" or "Torah." For the psalmist, God's Torah is wondrous. What does this mean to us? Christians often have an uneasy relationship with the Old Testament laws. The old stereotype is that they are harsh regulations that oppose Jesus's law of love, but the reality is that the laws come from the eternal Law, the heart of our merciful God, and they are guideposts to draw us back to God. In Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), the Torah is the path to life and true wisdom.

As you pray with these readings, what does it mean to you to "open your eyes" to the "wonders" of God's law?

LENTEN GROUP

Our Parish Lenten discussion group begins this Tuesday 17 February at 7.00pm in our Parish Hall.

The early church devoted itself to coming together as a community in the temple and in their homes. This Lent, we encourage you to consider joining us to reflect on the journey of our individual and communal faith.

Small groups are intended to be places of connection and relationship, so invite your friends and family, but also keep in mind those who could benefit from being involved in a positive environment of faith, hope and love.

All welcome.

Project Compassion 2026—Unite Against Poverty

Our God is a constant source of hope and healing, offering grace to bring the human family together in love.

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia presents us with stories from Tanzania, Bangladesh & Fiji. There is also a special focus on our increasingly important work helping with humanitarian emergencies, such as in Gaza. All these stories feed a faith that does justice. When mass ends with the command to, '**GO**', these are some of the places to which we are sent.

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available for collection at all our church entrances. Please give as generously as you are able.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors/Commentators Roster

Thanks to those who have indicated their willingness to carry out these important liturgical ministries on a roster basis from February—May 2026.

Hard copies of the roster are available for collection at the Swan Street entrance or through accessing your email.

Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering online in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026 Time: 7 pm-8:30 pm
02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

The Season of Lent 2026

The Season of Lent begins with our commemoration of Ash Wednesday on 18 February. Mass will be at the usual time of 9.30am in the Sacred Heart Church, which includes the distribution of the blessed ashes.

To assist with our Lenten pilgrimage the parish has once again purchased copies of the booklet produced by the Brisbane Archdiocese, this year titled 'The Journey Home'. It can be used for personal prayer or group reflection. Free copies will be available at the usual places in church for collection from next weekend.

There are also a number of free online resources available which include **The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes** - Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://brucedownes.org/lent2026>

For more info go to: [BruceDownes.org](https://brucedownes.org)

From Jesuit & Ignation Spirituality in Australia you can also subscribe free to:

<https://book.venue.life/pch/register/lent-2026-i-am-light>

Register to receive two and a half minute daily video prayers with specially curated images and music.

Also from Loyola Press 'Living Lent Daily' which provides a framework for a Lent that will lead to a deeper relationship with Christ. Go to: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily/>

If you have access to other helpful free Lenten prayer resources please let us know by email so that we can share this treasure with all in our parish community.

Lent calls us to be attentive to those who journey with us, especially the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. Our acts of closeness and welcome, whether through a word of encouragement, a gesture of hospitality or practical assistance are signs of Christ's presence among us.

Lent also challenges us to take concrete steps to create a world that reflects God's justice and mercy. Together, let us seek practical ways to make our communities fairer and kinder, by advocating for dignity, sharing resources and standing alongside those whose voices are often unheard. Each small act of generosity and compassion draws us nearer to the reign of God for which we long. This Lent let us be a living sign of God's infinite welcome and a source of hope in a world yearning for healing and unity.

What can I fast from that allows me to turn my focus away from myself and turn towards God and others?

What can I positively do that unites me with other Christian believers in the journey from Lent to Easter that reflects God's justice and mercy?

Let us walk together to welcome, to serve and to love without limit.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 15:15—20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 118

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

Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **R**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6—10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17—37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Again you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.