

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.

First Sunday of Lent 21st / 22nd 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/>

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:

FRIDAY ONLY 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. This coming week only it will be on Wednesday 25 March.

This Lent, we travel through some of the great stories of Scripture: the man born blind, the woman at the well and the raising of Lazarus. They are big stories of deep change in the lives of people who are stuck in their thoughts. How can we also confront indifference and make things better?

Our faith asks us to put retribution and anger in the dustbin of history. Its depths include the call to unite against poverty, so that we can be the peacemakers of whom Jesus spoke.



First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Stephen Neville, Catherine Murphy, Gwen Rowe, Peter Baker, Michael Hoare, Margaret Gawen, Anne Maginnity, Peter Hickey, June Toole, Marie Neville, Matthew Borg. **ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret & George Azzi, Margot Murray, Pat & Arthur Scott, Jan Hodge, Mary Corrin, Robert McIntosh, Sr Jean Murray, Fr Gerry Iverson, Ethel Herberette, Savina Patten, Megan O'Donoghue, Margaret Morgan, Alexander Irvine, Colin Watson, Arnold Russell, Marie Mulligan, Alan Boswell, Harry Bevan, Jack Gilbert, John Drewe, Roy Mee, Hazel Richardson, Noreen Coyle, Marilyn Pullen, Nancy Flynn, Lazio Rhedey, Dinny Grentell, May Jones, Glen McConville, Agnes Lane, Aileen Sheahan. **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:

Elkie James Dore

Koa Boston Dore

Children of Mathieu and Belinda

ROSTERS

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 Serbinezek
Counters:	Gordon Bryant & Laurie Moylan	

Sat / Sun: 28th Feb / 1st March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Volunteer
Lector 1	Shinead Kilroy	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Volunteer	Samuel Serbinezek
Eucharistic Ministers	Kaye Deanshaw Anna Farrell	Sr Siony Trish Parkinson Volunteer
Cantor Musicians	Ann McIntyre Catherine Cutler	Margie, Ed and Heath
Counters:	Jane Togher & Brian Fealy	

Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

“A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight, but only women and men to love is the Church that the world needs today.”

PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER

God of all love,

We remember that on the night before he died Your son, Jesus, prayed that his friends 'may all be one.'

Yet we see so much division in the world. War, conflict, violence and hatred must all distress you.

Millions of people suffer when they don't have peace and respect.

They lack the necessities of life: food, water, health, education and security.

We pray that we may all
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

May our support for **Project Compassion** be a sign to ourselves and others, of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we pray in Jesus' name,
Amen.



Parish News

TO PONDER:

"Against you only have I sinned," prays the psalmist (51:6). In Hebrew and Greek, "sin" can be defined in many ways: as a false step, a stumbling or slippage, a missing of the mark, or a slight turning away. These definitions suggest that sin is often subtle. Temptations to sin or "stumble" often happen by manipulating the truth slightly, as the serpent and the devil do in Genesis and in the Gospel. In its extreme, sin can also lead to "death" (Paul's term), a permanent fracturing of our relationship with God. Sin and repentance are, therefore, very personal, ultimately playing out between ourselves and God, as our psalmist understands well. Lenten disciplines can help us to understand how sin works in our lives and to grapple with its profound effects. This deeper understanding can then lead us back to God.

What concrete practices this Lent will help you understand and confront your own temptations and stumbling?

What is helping me enter the desert of this Lenten Season? What is holding me back? What can I leave behind? Jesus endures a time of testing, trial and temptation. Looking back on my life, when have I experienced a time or times of testing, trial and temptation? What are my reflections on my experience now?

In what way are the choices I am making truly life giving?

What am I deeply hungry for? And how will the shift, I hunger for nourish me and others?

LENTEN GROUP

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.

For this week only we will meet on Wednesday evening 25 February at 7.00pm in our Parish Hall.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

is a Ecumenical movement led by Christian Women throughout the world, with this years' service being prepared by the Women of Nigeria.

Service for Albury area will be at St Matthew's Church, Kiewa Street Albury on Friday 6th March at 10.00am.

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.

The Season of Lent 2026

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

From Jesuit & Ignatian 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.

Morning Tea Our monthly morning tea takes place next Sunday 1 March at the conclusion of 9.30am celebration of Eucharist in our Parish hall. If possible please bring something to share.

2026 Sacred Heart Football Tipping Competition

Yes, it's that time of year again. AFL Opening Round begins on Thursday March 5.

Football fixtures available for collection at the Swan Street entrance.

Hopefully, a system will be setup so that Sacred Heart **hosts** the competition and you will be able to add your selections directly via digital means or by snail mail if necessary.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the book of Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, 'You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death.' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 50

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

Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**

Give me again the joy of your help;
With a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

(Shorter version)

Sin entered the world through one man and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes the justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and nights, after which he was very hungry and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him and angels appeared and looked after him. The Gospel of the Lord.