



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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent 14th / 15th March 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:

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 usually 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 held every Tuesday at 7pm in the parish hall.**

Pope Leo's Prayer to Saint Francis

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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: Imelda Bourke (Richard Hickey's sister) Sally Hart (Anne Hickey's daughter), Lloyd Graham, Joan Harrold, Judith Hyland, James White, Brian Munk, Stephen Neville, Peter Baker, Margaret Gawen, Anne Maginnity.

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Brady, Cletus Ball, Daniel Maher, Mary Maher, John Kane, Herbert Koucky, Ivan Kruze, Katerina Serbinek, Helen Faulkner, Assunta Ravenna, Robin Drewe, Dario Zanardo, Domenica Malez, Richard Ratajczyk, Joyce Corrigan, Adrian Shattock, Lisa Malone, Cliff Chapman, Herb Doolan, Noel Duck, Roy Hummerston, Wally Lane, Betty Lindner, Stella Sisley, Sylvester Graeber, Patrick Mullavey, Steven Wright.

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:

Darcie June Hyde

Pippa Rae Hyde

Children of Thomas and Eliza

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 14th / 15th March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Justin Clancy	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Paula Waters	Bethany Carey
Lector 2	Terri Anne Scott	Sr Patricia Weekes
Eucharistic Ministers	Catherine Cutler Adrian Mitchelhill	Carey Menz-Dowling Sue McLaurin Mercedes Goss
Cantor	Judy Lindsay	Bob Mathews
Musicians	Judy Foley	Catherine Cutler
Counters: Richard & Trish Parkinson		

Sat / Sun: 21st / 22nd March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Michael Byrnes	Natalie Osborne
Lector 1	Barb McDermott	Brigita Serbinek
Lector 2	Ben Clancy	Liz Phegan
Eucharistic Ministers	Jan Skinner Pauline Mulquiney	Dianne Treacy Gemma Whitehead Trish Parkinson
Cantor	Brian Waters/John van Lint	Heath Neville
Musicians	Judy Foley	Ashleigh Donaldson
Counters: Margaret Brown & Moira Porta		

Thought for the week Pope Leo XIV

"Blindness is not about the quality of our vision or the condition of our eyes. It is not about the darkness around us but rather, the darkness within us". "I was blind, but now I see". The blind man represents humanity in need of new light—the light of faith.

Prayer—Fourth Sunday of Lent

*All-knowing God,
You see beyond the outward appearance which we present to the world and look into our hearts.*

You know of our secret thoughts and desires which we would never want to bring into the light of day.

For we are burdened with guilt, frustration and anger which we keep hidden, but which sours our relationships with colleagues, friends and family.

Forgive us for our unwillingness to see the wrongs and injustices which blight your world and to own up to our own faults.

Open our eyes that we may walk in the light of Jesus Christ who promises peace, and healing, and forgiveness.

Amen

The Gospel of John

"I Once Was Blind"

John 9: 1-41

SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

Parish News

TO PONDER:

In the Gospel, the formerly blind man slowly transforms from ignorance to understanding. Like him, we are also in a process of slow transformation, yet for us this process never ends. There is always a deeper level of understanding and intimacy with God to reach. And unlike the man in the Gospel, our path is not straightforward. We move forward and backward, sometimes closing our eyes to the light like the man's accusers, sometimes seeing clearly. We are each on a unique journey of faith. The thing to remember is that we have already become "light in the Lord," according to Ephesians. We have only to remember to trust and live in that light. Each day, each moment, is an opportunity to begin again, trusting that God is guiding us even when the path seems dark and uncertain. How are you anointed, chosen to serve and make manifest God's works, in your life and community?

Second Rite of Reconciliation

The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated this Wednesday 18 March in Sacred Heart Church at 6.00pm. In the first instance this provides an opportunity for children in Yr 4 to make their First Reconciliation together with their parents and families. However, parishioners who wish to participate in the Second Rite of Reconciliation and receive the individual sacrament of God's mercy, healing and forgiveness are welcome to attend.

Australian Catholics—Autumn Edition

The Autumn Edition of the journal 'Australian Catholics' has arrived. This edition looks at the centrality of the mass to our Catholic faith—what happens, where and how we worship and why we attend. *'The Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.'* 1 Cor 11:23-26 (From the second reading for Holy Thursday, 2 April 2026). Among the many interesting and informative articles are those written by Fr Andrew Hamilton, 'Missing the Magic of the Mass' P31-34 and 'Something to live for: Eight Breads of Life' by Michael McGirr P42. Please take and distribute your free copies.

Bonsai Under Lights

Come Join us for a beautiful, unique display of Albury's largest and oldest **Bonsai**, accompanied by the soothing sounds of the Murray Concert Choir and a Botanic Art Exhibition. \$20 entry - Choir performance, with complimentary wine and cheese. 7.00pm—10.00pm. 27 March 2026 Valibo Nurseries, 534 Urana Rd, Lavington. All proceeds to the Murray Concert Choir. All welcome.

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 & 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.

2026 Sacred Heart Football Tipping Competition

We are up and running! If you are as still confused as me please direct all complaints to the 'Roo Boy' not us!

If you still wish to join our competition please follow this link to complete the entry process.

<https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/>

[Sacred Heart North Albury 2026](#)

Pay the \$25 per entry and to be paid in cash via the Parish Office or placing the cash in an envelope with your name clearly marked Footy Tipping and placing in the collection at Mass.

Prizes will be determined when we know how many people are participating.

For those more comfortable with smart devices, get the ESPN Footy Tipping app from your app store.



If you require assistance with this process please email the parish office.

If after attempting the above you are still have no luck please send tips in the usual way and we will find a way forward together. **Go Bombers in 26!**

The competition is open to all parishioners and your relatives, friends or neighbours.

Liturgy Meeting

The next Liturgy Meeting to organise the music and readings for Holy Week and Easter will be held on Tuesday 24 March at 4.00pm in the Parish house.



Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16:6—7, 10—13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him.' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant earring. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 22

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.. **R**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of your foes
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
All the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
For ever and ever **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8—14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you..

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

Whoever follows me will have the light of life..

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1—41 (Short form)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. So the blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes. It is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes and I washed and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God; he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again. 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet,' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away and when he found him he said to him. 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him. The Gospel of the Lord