Sacred Heart Parish North Albury

330 Swan Street, North Albury 2640 www.sacredheartnorthalbury.com Ph: 02 6025 1516 E: sacredheartna@gmail.com

First Sunday of Advent 28th / 29th Nov 2026

Parish Priest - Father Martin Cruickshank
Secretaries
9am - 2pm Monday - Gemma Whitehead
9am - 2pm Friday - Frances Kernaghan
Mass times
9.30am Wednesday & Friday **Tuesday - 2.00pm 3 Dec Mass of Anointing Mercy Place. All welcome.**
6pm Saturday
9:30am Sunday
Reconciliation - 5:15pm - 5:45pm Saturday
Baptisms & Weddings - By appointment

Children's Liturgy is held 9.30am the second and fourth Sunday during school terms.
Direct deposit donations - Church account (second collection for the support of our Sacred Heart Parish)
BSB - 066 789 Account number - 10000 5574
Please contact the office for a reference number.
Presbytery account for the support of our Diocesan Priests
BSB - 066 789 Account number - 10000 5575
We thank you for your continued support of our Parish.

Sacred Heart Parish is a Child Safe Community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all, and a zero tolerance to any any form of abuse.

Safeguarding Officer for Sacred Heart Parish - Adrian Mitchelhill E: nasafeguarding@wagga.catholic.org.au
wagga.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-people

First Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the first Advent Candle - Candle of Hope

Blessing of Advent Wreath

Fr Martin: May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism. During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds. May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord, and a symbol of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to direct our lives.
Sung Antiphon - "We Shall Prepare"

First Candle - Candle of Hope to be lit

Fr Martin: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the people that we are the work of God's hands; we are the clay, God is the potter (First Reading). Mould us in your image as we walk together in Hope.
All: Come, Lord Jesus
Fr Martin: Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul declares that the Spirit will keep us steady until the last day (Second Reading). May our hearts be centered on listening to the Holy Spirit throughout the journey of our lives.
All: Come, Lord Jesus
Fr Martin: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stay awake!' (Gospel). May we be awake and ready to hear the movement of the Spirit in the world around us.
All: Come, Lord Jesus

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.

Parish Community



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

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

Recently Deceased: Edward Whiting, Mike Neville, Jan Cameron, Beth Hechle, Hazel Cross, Janice Groch, John Bourke, Mary Gargano, Frank Kelly, Ashley Willis, Gerald Dore, Marie Ford, Michael Hickey.

Anniversaries: Anthony McLeod-Nibbs, John Keane, Angela Lynch, James Burke, Leesa Hammond, Margaret Power, Anne Mitchell, Lorrie Quigley, Gerry Harrington, Jack O'Rourke, Winifred O'Brien, Sarah Caton, Br Trevor Kimble, Kathleen Berg, Daisy Hobdell, Elizabeth Clancy, Daniel O'Connor, Cecil Woodhouse, Bogosav Stojmenovic, Vera Coyle, Peter Schnitzer, John Robinson, William Mulquiney, Jack Hicks, Herb Norman, John Dyball, Louise Harvey.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and darkness,
send you Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people walking in darkness yet seeking the light.
To you we say 'Come Lord Jesus'
Amen.
(Henri Nouwen)

Volunteer Rosters

Sat/Sun 28th / 29th Nov 2026

6pm Commentator: Nicole Morton
Readers: Terri Anne Scott, Xavier Clancy
Eucharistic Ministers: Justin Clancy, Adrian Mitchelhill
Cantor: Brian Waters/John Van Lint **Musicians:** Val Hayes

9.30am Commentator: Roy Thompson
Readers: Kay Morell, Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Betts, Mercedes Goss, Sue McLaurin
Cantor: Helen Regan **Musicians:**
Counters: Gemma

Sat/Sun 5th / 6th December 2026

6pm Commentator: Colleen Day
Readers: Barb McDermott, Jan Skinner
Eucharistic Ministers: Terri Anne Scott, Nicole Morton
Cantor: Judy Lindsay **Musicians:** Judy Foley

9.30am Commentator: Liz Phegan
Readers: Bethany Carey, Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers: Trish Parkinson, Eamonn Buckley, Sr Siony
Cantor: Damien Parkinson **Musicians:** Val Hayes
Counters: Paul Muntz, Bethany Carey

Pope Leo XIV quote of the week:
"Remain attentive to those in need and promoting solidarity with the poor, human dignity, and care for creation."



Parish Weekly News

TO PONDER:

Isaiah expresses a reality affirmed by our second reading: our relationship with God begins with God; God first turns toward us, calls us, and strengthens us or keeps us "firm." Yet both texts also recognize our responsibility in a mutual relationship with God, which Jesus calls us to in the Gospel through the idea of "seeing" or being "alert." Our readings invite us to ponder this mutual relationship, particularly our responsibility to hear and respond this Advent season.

How might we be mindful of God each moment, making space to "wake up" to God in our lives, in the needs of our community, and in the world around us?

40th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's Visit to Australia

The 40th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Alice Springs falls on Sunday 29, 2026, marking four decades since his November 29, 1986 address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at Blatherskite Park. During his introductory address he affirmed indigenous culture and identity telling listeners 'Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages must never be lost. You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you!

After communion we will pray together the poem written by Sr Rosemary Kemp O.P. **Sing this Land**

Dear Loved One, God-who-is Creator Spirit. Take our hearts - love us into your Life, Your Truth. Give us the insight to weave new patterns of goodness into home and church and country. For ages the songlines criss-crossed dry land - bringing life to the desert, laughter and dance to the families - children growing safe. Familiar patterns of prayer and living now falter. Help us find new ways of loving you - Surprised, delighted, Life giving. The old branches bear new shoots after the long drought. Sadness and pain and loss bring forth new life. Help us nurture the goodness in our people - your people. Amen.

Advent Daily Reflection - "*The Way of the Heart*"

Advent invites us to listen again to the quiet movements of the heart. In these weeks of waiting, longing and hope, the Church asks us not simply to prepare our homes and our celebrations, but to allow the Lord to prepare within us a place where he may be welcomed more deeply. This resource *The Way of the Heart,* offers a timely companion for that journey. Pope Leo XIV has often drawn attention to the spiritual wisdom of Saint Augustine, whose own life was transformed by a heart restless for truth. *(Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, Brisbane)*

This free resource is available for collection from entrances to the church. It can be used for small groups or individual reflections.

From Fr Martin

I thank Fr Bernie Thomas for his continued willingness to exercise his priestly ministry in our parish community with vibrancy, dedication and prayerfulness. We are grateful to Fr Bernie for his good humour, wise counsel, reflective and challenging homilies. His pastoral care of the dying and their families and the conducting of funeral liturgies with genuine empathy and respect is much appreciated.

Our parish secretaries, Gemma and Fran, are a source of great blessing to our community not only by the administration duties they perform (often beyond scheduled hours) but for the people they are.

Gratitude is extended to all those who helped out in any way during my holiday absence, particularly the setting up for mass and keeping the garden alive.

Alpha Gathering

You are welcome to attend our last gathering for 2026 at Cafe Borellas for coffee and fellowship. 10.00am.

Family Group - All Parishioners Welcome

Family group are having a picnic lunch in the Botanical Gardens near the Children's playground on Sunday 6 December starting at 11.30am. BYO everything including a chair or picnic rug. Kaye 0474 132 970.

Together

Our diocesan newspaper for the month of November has arrived. Please take a copy from all entrances to the church.

Parish Morning Tea—Sunday 6th December

Our monthly morning is next Sunday 6 December in the parish hall after the celebration of Eucharist. Please bring a plate to share. All welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council

The last meeting of our Parish Pastoral Council for 2026 takes place Thursday 10 December at 6.00pm in the Parish Hall. All agenda items need to be referred to the council Secretary Marjorie Serbinek: m4serbinek@gmail.com by Monday 7 December.

Columban Calendars

The Columban calendars are ready to be picked up from the presbytery office for those who ordered them. $10 each.

Australian Catholics Summer Edition 2026/27

The Summer edition of the Jesuit journal Australian Catholics has arrived. This edition is dedicated to being human in an increasingly digital world. Many of our young writers who are facing the brunt of a rapidly changing educational and professional world write of their experiences and how it can be a force for good and one of peril. They have concerns but also hope for the future.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 63

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord. You are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 79

Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. R

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. R

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. R

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia, alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to the disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home and left his servants in charge, each with his own ask; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!
The Gospel of the Lord.