



Prayer in Honour of the Divine Infancy

Eternal Father, I offer to Thine honour and glory, for my eternal salvation and for the salvation of the whole world, the mystery of the birth of our Divine Redeemer. I beseech Thee, that through Him my soul may be inwardly renewed, Who lives and reigns with Thee forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Heart of Jesus pierced for our sins and giving us Your Mother on Calvary! O Heart of Mary pierced by sorrow and sharing in the sufferings of your Divine Son for our redemption! O sacred union of these Two Hearts! Praised be the God of Love Who united them together! May we unite our hearts and every heart so that all hearts may live in unity in imitation of that sacred unity which exists in these Two Hearts. Triumph, O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary! Reign, O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! - in our hearts, in our homes and families, in the hearts of those who as yet do not know you, and in all nations of the world. Amen.

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

You live in a world in which the worldly wise say: ‘You do not know life; you have never lived.’ They assume you can know nothing except by experience – experience not only of good but of evil. It was with this kind of lie that Satan tempted our First Parents. He told them that the reason God forbade them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was because God did not want them to be wise as He was wise. Satan did not tell them that if they came to a knowledge of good and evil, it would be very different from God’s knowledge.

God knows evil only abstractly, that is, by negation of His Goodness and Love. But man would know it concretely and experimentally, and thus would to some extent fall captive to the very evil which he experienced. God wanted our First Parents to know typhoid fever, for example, as a healthy doctor knows it; He did not want them to know it as the stricken patient knows it. And from that day of the Great Lie, down to this, no one is better because he knows evil through experience.

Examine your own life. If you know evil by experience, are you wiser because of it? Have you not despised that very evil and are you not the more tragic for having experienced it? You may even have become mastered by the evil you experienced. How often the disillusioned say: ‘I wish I had never tasted liquor,’ or ‘I regret the day I stole my first dollar.’ How much wiser you would have been had you been ignorant.

Over and over again, when you broke some law which you thought arbitrary and meaningless, you discovered the principle which dictated it. As a child, you could not understand why your parents forbade you to play with matches, but the burn convinced you of the truth of the law. So the world by violating God’s moral law is finding through war, strife, and misery the wisdom of the law. How it would now like to unlearn its false learning!

Think not, then, that in order to ‘know life’ you must ‘experience evil.’ Is a doctor wiser because he is prostrate with

disease? Do we know cleanliness by living in sewers? Do we know education by experiencing stupidity? Do we know peace by fighting? Do we know the joys of vision by being blinded? You do not need to get drunk to know what drunkenness is.

Do not excuse yourself by saying ‘temptations are too strong’ or ‘good people do not know what temptation is.’ The good know more about the strength of temptation than those who fall. How do you know how strong the current of a river is? By swimming with the current or by swimming against it? How do you know how strong the enemy is in battle? By being captured or by conquering? How can you know the strength of a temptation unless you overcome it? Our Blessed Lord really understands the power of temptation better than anyone, because He overcame the temptations of Satan.

The great fallacy of modern education is the assumption that the reason there is evil in the world is because there is ignorance, and that if we pour more facts in the minds of the young we will make them better. If this were true, we should be the most virtuous people in the history of the world, because we are the best educated. The facts, however, point the other way: Never before has there been so much education and never before so little coming to the knowledge of the truth. We forget that ignorance is better than error. Knowledge is not wisdom. Badness comes not from our ignorance of knowing, but from our perversity of doing. That is why in our Catholic schools we train and discipline the will as well as inform the intellect, because we know that character is in our choices, not in our knowing. All of us already know enough to be good, even before we start to school. What we have to learn is how to do better.

Train your children and yourself, then, in the true wisdom which is the knowledge of God, and in the ignorance of the things that are evil. The unknown is the undesired; to be ignorant of wickedness is not to desire it. There are no joys like Innocence. You never know you were asleep until you wake up; and you never know the horror of sin until you get out of sin. Honestly, if you had the choice now either of learning more about the world or of unlearning the evil you know, would you not rather unlearn than learn? Would you not like to be right now, just as you came from the hands of God at the baptismal font, with no worldly wisdom yet gathered to your mind, so that like an empty chalice, you might spend your life filling it with the wine of His love? The world would call you ignorant, saying you knew nothing about life. Do not believe it – you would have Life! Therefore you would be one of the wisest persons in the world.

There is so much error in the world today, there are such vast areas of experienced and lived evil, that it would be a blessing if some generous soul would endow a ‘University for Unlearning.’ Its purpose would be to do with error and evil exactly what doctors do with disease. Would you be surprised to know that Our Lord did actually institute such a University of Unlearning, and to it all devout Catholics go about once a month? It is called the Confessional! You will not be given sheepskin when you walk out of that confessional, but you will feel like a lamb because Christ is your Shepherd. You will be amazed at how much you will learn by unlearning. It is easier for God to write on a blank page than on one covered with your scribblings.

(Seven Words of Jesus and Mary)



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

1 DECEMBER 2024



“Advent is here! What a marvellous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia, your real longing for Christ to come.” - St Josemaria Escriva

Hope Candle: The first candle of Advent symbolises Hope and is called the “Prophet’s Candle” as it represents the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah over thousands of years, which was made clear by the prophets.

Entrance Antiphon: To You, I lift up my soul, O my God. In You, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in You be put to shame.

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord Who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R: To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know Your ways. Lord, teach me Your paths. Make me walk in Your truth, and teach me: for You are God my saviour. **R.**

2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, He guides the humble in the right path; He teaches His way to the poor. **R.**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep His covenant and will. The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere Him; to them He reveals His covenant. **R.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may He so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all His saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

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

Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to His disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible





Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

First Sunday of Advent - Year C

December 1, 2024

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Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell

Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 2 Dec & Friday 6 Dec - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 3 Dec - 8am to 12pm

Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler

PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of the soul of Kevin Dickins; Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Jennifer O'Hara, Pamela Veness, Craig Johnston.

the sick:

Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Jim Hanlon, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Danny Dickins, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

DECEMBER - THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

MONDAY 2nd

Monday of 1st week of Advent

Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 3rd

Feast Day of St Francis Xavier, priest

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

No Holy Hour - Yr 10 Reconciliation - 5.00pm

WEDNESDAY 4th

Feast Day of St John Damascene, priest, doctor

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Burial for Jennifer O'Hara at Ashford - 11.00am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 5th

Thursday of 1st week of Advent

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Funeral for Pamela Veness - 2.30pm

Alpha Program - 6.00pm

FRIDAY 6th

First Friday & Feast Day of St Nicholas, bishop

Yr 10 Graduation Mass - 9.30am

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12.00 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm

Benediction - 1.20pm

SATURDAY 7th

First Saturday & Feast Day of St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

Confession - 8.00am

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Alpha Program Retreat - 10.00am

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 8th

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - Bundarra, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - Ashford, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - Tingha, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - Yetman, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER

Shirley Kenny, Margaret Moroney & Anne Dale

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 8 Dec 2024, after Mass

Finance Committee - Wed 11 Dec 2024, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 10 Dec 2024, 5.00pm

Christmas Choir Practice - Sat 14 Dec 2024, 9.00am

Liturgy Committee - Sat 21 Dec 2024, 8.30am

Christmas Choir Practice - Sat 21 Dec 2024, 9.00am

Morning Tea will be held after the 9am Mass next Sunday.

Please bring a plate of delicacies to share.

Christmas Highlights from Handel's Messiah: The Danthonia Community Choir have extended an open invitation to sing with them at Danthonia (4188 Gwydir Hwy, Elsmore) on Friday 13 December at 7pm. All are welcome.

Accommodation Available: One bedroom unit [unfurnished] available for rent at St Mary's SVDP Accommodation Units on Ross Hill. Social housing - attractive rental rate. Recently refurbished. Excellent condition. Opposite Wade Street shops. Close to bus stop. Suit single person. Independent. Must be on aged pension or other Centrelink payment. Contact Sacred Heart SVDP Care & Support Team: 0400 699 610. Leave name and contact details. The team will arrange a time to view the unit and discuss the application process etc. Please let eligible friends and acquaintances know of the availability of this rental property.

Poor Boxes: Don't forget you can help our local St Vincent de Paul ministry by making a donation to the Poor Boxes in the Church. Christmas is an especially difficult time for the poor in our community. All donations will be used to assist them.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: This will be held on the weekend of 14/15 December. EFTPOS will be available. Please donate generously to help the poor of our community.

Copies of the Christmas Catalogue of That Catholic Shop are available at the entrances to the Church. All proceeds assist the work and mission of Aid to the Church in Need. You can visit www.thatcatholicshop.com to see the entire range and order online.

Sick Visit / Last Rites: A reminder that if you have a Catholic relative in hospital or aged care who is in need of a priest, please inform the parish office or Fr Paul so he may visit them.

Divine Mercy 2025 Calendars: A generous parishioner has donated several of these calendars to the parish. These are available for free at the side entrance table near the priest sacristy.

Advent Wreath Ritual for a Catholic Home

Would you appreciate marking Advent in your home and not just Christmas? An Advent Wreath Ritual is an appropriate way to do so. Some hard copies are available at the entrances of the Church. You can also download and print it from the Parish website. It can be found on the Home Page.

Attention all singers & musicians! Would you like to help out at the Christmas Masses? Two rehearsals only, Sat 14th and 21st of December at 9am in the Church. Please call Sue Davis on 0408 280 237 if interested so resources can be organised. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Ministry Roster: Are you interested in helping at one of our Christmas Masses? We are in need of Data Projector Operators, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and volunteers to do the Offertory. The sign up sheet is at the Main Entrance to the Church. Please provide your name and contact number in the space provided next to your preferred ministry role.

Christmas Mass times

Tuesday 24 December

5pm - Vigil Mass of Christmas at St Patrick's Church, 45 Duff Street, Ashford

8pm - Christmas Mass During the Night at Sacred Heart Church, Inverell

Wednesday 25 December

9am - Christmas Mass During the Day at Sacred Heart Church, Inverell

MASS ROSTER	30Nov-Sat 6.00pm	1Dec-Sun 9am	7Dec-Sat 6pm	8Dec-Sun 9am
Projector	M Gaukroger	MJ Guest	Sr Coral	H Rossel
Readers	C Roberts & J Monie	J Thivakon & G Johnson	M Casey-Ransom & N McCosker	M Robinson & G Taveira
Commentator	P Armstrong	M Robinson	J Harris	J Monie
Offertory	J Kelly & volunteer	S Kenny & volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	J Monie	G Johnson	P Moroney	MJ Guest
Counters		N Turner		R & G Johnson