

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

### 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.



### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*"If Christ is the day that never fades, Mary is its dawn, shining with beauty. Chosen in advance to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word, Mary is at the same time the first-fruits of His redeeming action. The grace of Christ the Redeemer acted in her in anticipation, preserving her from original sin and from any contagion of guilt."* - St John Paul II

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoo*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

**Prayer:** O Most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us. Our Lady Queen of Christendom, pray for us. Amen

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

Sinners, too, want God. That is to say, conscious sinners. One need hardly ever tell such a sinner how wicked he is. He knows it a thousand times better than you. His conscience has pointed an accusing finger at him in his sleep; his fears have emblazoned his sins on his mind; his neurosis, anxieties, and unhappiness have been like trumpets of his inner death.

This consciousness of sin is not yet conversion, for up to this point a soul may be repenting like Judas, only to itself. One can be mad at oneself for playing the fool, or be ashamed at one's misdeeds, or be sad at being discovered, but there is no true repentance without turning to God. The consciousness of sin creates a vacuum; grace alone can fill it.

You say: 'I am a sinner. I will not be heard.' If God will not hear a sinner, why did He praise the publican in the rear of the Temple, who struck his breast saying: 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13)? There were two sinners on Calvary on either side of Our Lord. One was saved because he asked to be saved. Did not our Divine Saviour say: 'Come to Me, all you that labour and are burdened' (Matthew 11:28) – and who is more heavily burdened than a sinner? Unlike all other religions, Christianity starts with the sinner. In a certain sense, it begins with human hopelessness. You have to be good to enter most other religions; you become a Christian on the assumption that you are not good.

God will find you, if your will does not refuse to be found. Hence, avoid those selfish and petty acts which may deaden and stunt you in the one great moment when surrender to the Divine Will can bring peace. In that case we become like the cobbler of Charles Dickens. For years he had been a prisoner in the Bastille, where he cobbled shoes. He became so enamoured of the walls, the darkness, and the task's monotony that when he was liberated, he built a cell at the centre of his English home. On days when skies were clear and birds were singing, the taps of the cobbler in the dark could still be heard. So men by habitual residence in imprisoning moods render themselves incapable of living in wider horizons, the great hopes and faith of religion.

Stunt not your spiritual life by looking for faults. You do not say Shakespeare cannot write because you heard a poor actor butcher the soliloquy of Hamlet; you do not reject the beauty of music because you hear an occasional moaner or groaner on the radio; you do not disbelieve in medicine because your doctor has a cold.

Give God a chance. The prolongation of His Incarnate Life in the Church is an offer, not a demand. It is a gift, not a bargain. You can never deserve it, but you can receive it. God is on the quest of your soul. Whether you will know peace depends on your own will.

(Seven Words of Jesus and Mary)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C 8 DECEMBER 2024



**"To him who still remains in this world there is no repentance that is too late."**  
- St Cyprian

**Faith Candle:** The second candle of Advent represents Faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle" for it symbolises the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The candle is also purple to symbolise our preparation for the coming king.

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**First Reading** Baruch 5:1-9

### A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of His glory with His mercy and integrity for escort.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 125

**R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R.**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R.**

**Second Reading** Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Luke 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Luke 3:1-6

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.'

♦ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



# Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

December 8, 2024

81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360

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Website: [www.sacredheartinverell.org.au](http://www.sacredheartinverell.org.au)

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell

Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 9 Dec & Friday 13 Dec - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 10 Dec - 8am to 12pm

Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler

PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

Parish Secretary: Peter Turner

## DECEMBER - THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

### MONDAY 9th

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Holy Mass - 5.00pm**

### TUESDAY 10th

Feast Day of Our Lady of Loreto

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

### WEDNESDAY 11th

Feast Day of St Damasus I, pope

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha**

### THURSDAY 12th

Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral of St Mary & St Joseph, Armidale (1919) & Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Holy Mass at Armidale Cathedral - 11.00am**

### FRIDAY 13th

Feast Day of St Lucy, virgin, martyr

**Rosary - 8.45am**

**Holy Mass, HTS Yr 6 Graduation - 9.30am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

### SATURDAY 14th

Feast Day of St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Bundarra**

**Rosary - 5.30pm**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm**

### SUNDAY 15th

**3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Sacrament of Confession**

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

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

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

## ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER

Shirley Kenny, Margaret Moroney & Anne Dale

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 8 Dec 2024, after Mass

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

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

**Morning Tea** will be held after the 9am Mass this 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.

**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](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com) to see the entire range and order online.

**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.

**Columban Calendars 2025:** These are now available for purchase. They are located on the table near the priest sacristy. \$10 each. Please have exact money. No change available. Please place money in the marked container.

## Lasallian Youth Minister - Holy Trinity School (Part-time)

Applications for a Fixed term role from January-December 2025 is available at Holy Trinity School. It is an exciting opportunity to work across Primary and High School year levels, and be part of a global Lasallian network across Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea. Key Responsibilities will be: Faith Development, Ministry Work, and Youth Engagement. If interested, please submit your resume and cover letter via email to Lydia Avia-Aumua at [lydiaavia-aumua@delasalle.org.au](mailto:lydiaavia-aumua@delasalle.org.au) by no later than **Friday 13 December 2024**. For more information visit [www.delasalle.org.au/employment](http://www.delasalle.org.au/employment) and click on "Youth Minister - Holy Trinity, Inverell"

**Attention all singers & musicians!** Would you like to help out at the Christmas Masses? Two rehearsals only Sat 14 and 21 Dec at 9am in the Church. Please call Sue Davis, 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 INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of the souls of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time especially Peter Monie, Michael Money, Bernie Dickins; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

### the Recently Deceased:

Rita Slattery, Jennifer O'Hara, Pamela Veness.

### 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.

MASS ROSTER	7Dec-Sat 6.00pm	8Dec-Sun 9am	14Dec-Sat 6pm	15Dec-Sun 9am
Projector	Sr Coral	H Rossel	S Szumowski	P Girle
Readers	M Casey-Ransom & N McCosker	M Robinson & G Taveira	S O'Brien & J Kelly	J Rainger & MJ Guest
Commentator	J Harris	J Monie	M Gaukroger	G Taveira
Offertory	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Guest Family
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	P Moroney	MJ Guest	A Michael	J Rainger
Counters		R & G Johnson		L MacDonald & P Girle