



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.

Christmas Novena Prayer

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at a stable at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God! To hear my prayer and grant my desires (*here mention your petitions*) through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His most blessed Mother Mary. Amen.

Conclude with One Our Father, One Hail Mary, and One Glory Be



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

If you are unhappy, or sad, or despondent, it is basically for only one reason: you have refused to respond to Love's plea, 'Come to Me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Take up My yoke upon you and learn of Me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and you shall find rest to your souls' (Matthew 11:29-29). Everywhere else but in Him, the liberation promised is either armed or forced, and that can mean slavery. Only nailed love is free. Unnailed and uncrucified love can compel. Hands pinioned to a wooden beam cannot compel, nor can a lifted Host and an elevated Chalice constrain, but they can beckon and solicit.

That kind of love gives you these three suggestions for living in troubled times:

1. Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the Cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with the feast and ends with the headache. Unless there is the Cross, there will never be the empty tomb; unless there is a Good Friday, there will never be an Easter Sunday. In the beautiful assurance of Our Lord: 'Amen, amen, I say to you, that you shall lament and weep, but the world shall rejoice: and you shall be made sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.' (John 16:20)
2. When bereavement comes, and when the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' strike, when like Simon of Cyrene a cross is laid on your reluctant shoulders, take that Cross to daily Mass and say to Our Lord at the moment of consecration: 'As Thou my Saviour in love for me did say, 'This is My body! This is My blood!' so

I say to Thee, 'This is my body! Take it. This is my blood! Take it. They are yours. I care not if the accidents or species of my life remain, with my daily work, my routine duties. But all that I am substantially, take, consecrate, ennoble, spiritualise; turn my cross into a Crucifix, so that I am no longer mine, but Thine, O Love Divine!'

3. Think not of Almighty God as a kind of absentee landlord with Whom you hardly dare to be familiar, or to Whom you go to fix your leaks, or to get yourself out of a mess. Think neither of God as an insurance agent, Who can protect you against loss by fire. Approach Him not timidly as an assistant might approach the boss for a raise, fearful, half believing that you will never receive what you seek. Do not fear Him with a servile fear, for God is more patient with you than you are with yourself. Would you, for example, be as patient with the wicked world today as He is? Would you even be as patient with anyone else who had the same faults as you? Rather, approach Him in full confidence and even with the boldness of a loving child who has a right to ask a Father for favours.

Though He may not grant all your wants, be sure that, in a certain sense, there is no unanswered prayer. A child asks his father for something that may not be good for him, eg. a gun. The father, while refusing, will pick up the child in his arms to console him, giving the response of love, even in the denial of a request. As the child forgets in that embrace that he ever asked a favour, so in praying you forget what you wanted by receiving what you needed – a return of love. Do not forget either that there are not two kinds of answers to prayer, but three: One is 'Yes.' Another is 'No.' The third is 'Wait.'

You will find that, as you pray, the nature of your request will change. You will ask fewer and fewer things for yourself and more and more for His love. Is it not true in human relationships that the more you love someone, the more you seek to give and the less you desire to receive? The deepest love never says: 'Give me,' but it does say: 'Make me.' You probably think that if Our Lord came into your room some night as you are praying, you would ask Him favours, or present your difficulties, or say: 'When will the war end?' or 'Give me a million.'

No! You would throw yourself on your knees and kiss the hem of His garment. And the moment He laid His hands on your head, you would feel such a peace and trust and confidence – even in darkness – that you would not even remember you had questions to ask, or favours to beg. You would consider them a kind of desecration. You would want only to look into His face, and you would be in a world which only lovers know. That would be the only Heaven you wanted!

(Seven Words of Jesus and Mary)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / GAUDETE SUNDAY - YEAR C

15 DECEMBER 2024



“Happiness is to be found only in the home where God is loved and honoured, where each one loves, and helps, and cares for the others.” Blessed Théophane Vénard

Joy Candle: The third candle of Advent symbolises Joy and is called the “Shepherd’s Candle”. To the shepherd’s great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies rejoicing. This candle reminds us that Jesus’ coming is near.

Gaudete is a Latin word that means “You shall rejoice!” This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday’s Mass, which is also echoed in the second reading from the letter of St Paul’s letter to the Philippians. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of Joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; He has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, He will renew you by His love; He will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, He became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to His name! Make His mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of His name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for He has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry, but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone Who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of His sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in His hand to clear His threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Third Sunday of Advent / Gaudete Sunday - Year C
December 15, 2024

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Website: www.sacredheartinverell.org.au
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 16 Dec & Friday 20 Dec - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 17 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 all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time, especially Francis Aboud; 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.

DECEMBER - THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

MONDAY 16th

Monday of 3rd week of Advent

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 17th

Tuesday of 3rd week of Advent

Holy Mass - 9.15am at Holy Trinity School

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 18th

Wednesday of 3rd week of Advent

Rosary - 8.30am

Funeral Mass for Rita Slattery - 9.30am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 19th

Thursday of 3rd week of Advent

Holy Mass - 5.00pm

FRIDAY 20th

Friday of 3rd week of Advent

Rosary - 8.00am

Holy Mass - 8.30am

Holy Mass at McLean - 10.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

SATURDAY 21st

Feast Day of St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Ashford

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 22nd

4th 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

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

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 12 Jan 2025, after Mass

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed TBA 2025, 5.00pm

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

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.

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.

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.

The Christmas Novena commences on 16 December. You make the novena by daily praying the prayer on the back of the bulletin from the 16th of December until the 24th of December, the nine days that precede the Solemnity of Christmas on December 25th.

THE MISSALS HAVE ARRIVED!!

Those who ordered a Sunday and/or Daily Missal are able to collect these from the Meeting Room after the Sunday Masses. They may also be collected during Parish Office hours.

Fr Paul McCabe

In early February, Fr Paul will be moving to live in Inverell from Armidale, where he has been living in retirement for some years. Fr Paul will be assisting, as he is able, in our parish. A hearty welcome to him!

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.

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 ROSTER	14Dec-Sat 6.00pm	15Dec-Sun 9am	21Dec-Sat 6pm	22 Dec-Sun 9am
Projector	S Szumowski	P Girle	J Kelly	R McGregor
Readers	S O'Brien & J Kelly	J Rainger & MJ Guest	J Harris & S Szumowski	B McGrath & D McMahon
Commentator	Volunteer	G Taveira	J Monie	MJ Guest
Offertory	Volunteer	Guest Family	Volunteer	M Robinson & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Michael	J Rainger	J Monie	B McGrath
Counters		L MacDonald & P Girle		B Baldwin & J Frater