



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*



An Advent Prayer

O Lord, incline Your merciful ears to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our hearts by the light of Your visitation. Almighty God, fulfill our desire and kindle our hearts by Your Spirit, that being filled with the oil of Your grace, we may shine as bright lights at the coming of Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Octave of Christmas

Octaves in the liturgy mean every day within the octave is the feast all over again. There are subtleties, so unlike the Easter Octave it is more of a “little” Christmas rather than the actual Solemnity, but technically days in the octave is Christmas all over again.

The Octave of Christmas is celebrated as an eight-day feast in the liturgical calendar which begins on the Nativity of Christ, 25 December, and continues to 1 January, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

The Church recognises that the days of the Christmas Octave are repeating the solemn nature of Christmas for eight days, concluding on a high note with another Solemnity that echoes the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

While Christmas is considered primarily a feast of our Lord, the Church both adores the Saviour and venerates His glorious Mother. The Octave gives us time to impress upon our souls the mysteries, joys and graces of Christmas.

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

It is rightly assumed that no one may more justly claim immunity from service to others than a woman bearing a child. If one adds to this, noblesse oblige, the fact that this Woman bears within herself the very Lord of the Universe, then of all creatures she might rightfully claim dispensation from social bonds and duties to neighbour. Women in that condition come not to minister but to be ministered unto.

Here we have the spectacle of the greatest of all women becoming the servant of others. Not standing on her dignity saying, ‘I am the Mother of God,’ but recognising the need of her aged cousin, this pregnant Queen, instead of awaiting her hour in isolation as other women, makes a five-day journey over hill country, and with such a consciousness of spiritual fellowship that she does it, in the language of Sacred Scripture, ‘with haste’ (Luke 1:39).

Thirty-three years before Calvary, Mary recognises that her mission is to bring her Lord to humanity; and with such a holy impatience is she filled that she begins it before her Son has seen the light of day. I love to think of her on this journey as the first Christian Nurse whose service to neighbour is inseparable from bringing Christ into the life of her patient.

There is no record of the exact words that Mary spoke. The Evangelist merely tells us that she saluted Elizabeth. But notice that just as soon as she saluted her cousin, new relationships were immediately established. Elizabeth no longer addresses her as cousin. She says, ‘Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’

Mary is now not just a relative, or another mother of another child. She is called the ‘Mother of God!’ But that was not the end of the relationship. Elizabeth’s own child in her womb, who was to be called later by the Child in Mary’s womb ‘the greatest man ever born of woman,’ now stirs in his mother’s womb; we might almost say he danced to his birth in salutation to the King of Kings! Two unborn children establish a relationship before either had swung open the portals of flesh.

Notice how much Our Blessed Lady is made the link of bringing Christ to humanity. First of all, it was through her as a Gate of Heaven that He walked into the earth. It was in her as a Mirror of Justice that He first saw with human eyes the reflection of the world He had made. It is in her as a kind of living ciborium that He is carried to the First Communion rail of her cousin’s home, where an unborn babe salutes Him as the Host Who is to be the Guest of the World.

If you have never before prayed to Mary, do so now. Can you not see that if Christ Himself willed to be physically formed in her for nine months and then be spiritually formed by her for thirty years, it is to her that we must go to learn how to have Christ formed in us? Only she who raised Christ can raise a Christian.

(Seven Words of Jesus and Mary)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C 22 DECEMBER 2024



“Elizabeth says:
‘Blessed are you because you have believed.’
You also are blessed because you have heard and believed. A soul that believes, both conceives and brings forth the Word of God and acknowledges His works.”
- St Ambrose of Milan

Peace Candle: The fourth candle of Advent represents Peace and is called the “Angel’s Candle.” The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. It reminds us of the importance of peace as the true Saviour of the world is coming. This candle is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for Me the One Who is to rule over Israel; His origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed His flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of His God. They will live secure, for from then on He will extend His power to the ends of the land. He Himself will be peace.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R: 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.**

3. 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.**

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You Who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for Me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey Your will.’ Notice that He says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and You took no pleasure in them; and then He says, Here I am! I am coming to obey Your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of His body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may His will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

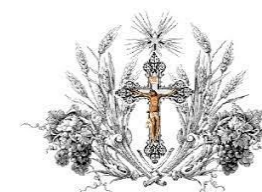
Gospel Luke 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.





Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

December 22, 2024

81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360

(P. O. Box 107)

Phone 67221103

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frpchanger@armidale.catholic.org.au

Website: www.sacredheartinverell.org.au

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell

Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066

Parish Office Hours:

Monday 23 Dec & Friday 27 Dec - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 24 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; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Danny Dickins, John Pianko, Rita Slattery, Jennifer O'Hara, Pamela Veness.

the sick:

Tony King, Shirley Thom, Maureen Rolfe, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Jim Hanlon, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, 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 23rd

Feast Day of St John of Kanty, priest

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 24th

Tuesday of 4th week of Advent / Christmas Eve

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Ecumenical Service at McLean - 10.30am

Vigil Mass - 5.00pm at Ashford

Carols - 7.30pm

Christmas Mass during the Night - 8.00pm

WEDNESDAY 25th

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

THURSDAY 26th

Feast Day of St Stephen, the first martyr

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 27th

Feast Day of St John, apostle, evangelist

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

No Holy Hour

SATURDAY 28th

Feast Day of The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Tingha

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 29th

Solemnity of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

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

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 12 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: Thank you to all those who generously donated to the Christmas Appeal.

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.

Christmas Due Envelopes have been placed at the entrances to the Church. This collection supports the clergy. Please give generously.

Christmas Ministry Roster: Are you interested in helping at one of our Christmas Masses? We are in need of one reader for Christmas Morning Mass, and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on Christmas Morning. 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.

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.

Parish Office Closure: The Parish Office will be closed for all the designated public holidays. Please note, the office will be closed on Friday, December 27th.

Please Note: The Mass at 9.00am on the 24th of December is NOT a Mass of Christmas but Holy Mass of 24 December.

Christmas Day is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. This means that, unless a **serious reason such as illness, an emergency, or a natural disaster prevents them**, all Catholics **MUST** attend Mass on either the Vigil or the Day of the Solemnity.

Christmas Mass times

Tuesday 24 December

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

7.30pm - Carols, Inverell

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	21Dec-Sat 6.00pm	22Dec-Sun 9am	28Dec-Sat 6pm	29Dec-Sun 9am
Projector	J Kelly	R McGregor	M Gaukroger	MJ Guest
Readers	J Harris & S Szumowski	B McGrath & D McMahon	M Casey-Ransom & N McCosker	S Hollis & J Thivakon
Commentator	J Monie	MJ Guest	J Kelly	M Robinson
Offertory	Volunteer	M Robinson & volunteer	Volunteer	M Wales & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	J Monie	B McGrath	P Moroney	M Robinson
Counters		B Baldwin & J Frater		G Chie & G Fleming