

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

Lk 1:38

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

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

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.**

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Reflections on the Gospel

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED

Today's Gospel brings us to the threshold of Jesus' birth. Presuming our knowledge of the Annunciation to Mary, it describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this 'Visitation' story, the two women share their remarkable experience, and faith overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the 'sign' consisting in the pregnancy of her elderly cousin. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given; it acts, goes on its journey, and *then* discovers confirmatory signs. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. The lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit taking the role of male parent she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

As soon as she hears Mary's greeting, Elizabeth experiences within her womb the infant John leaping with joy. Already he is beginning his role of pointing to the Messiah. Hence Elizabeth confirms what Mary has hitherto simply believed: that she is indeed pregnant with the Messiah whose role and destiny Gabriel had announced.

Elizabeth insists that Mary is 'blessed', not simply because she is 'the mother of my Lord', but in her believing ('Blessed is she who believed'). As supremely in her case, faith is the channel through which God's power flows into the world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

23 DECEMBER 2018

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

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.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. 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.**

2. 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

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

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



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 Website: <http://sacredheartinverell.org.au/>
PRIESTS: REV. FR. ROEL J. LLAVE
 REV. FR. THADDEUS IKE

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church Inverell

SATURDAY: 6:00 pm (5:30 pm Months of May to August)
SUNDAY: 9:00 am
 Monday, Tuesday and 1st Saturday 9:30 am
 Wednesday, Thursday and (1st Friday Anointing Mass) 12:00 noon
 1st Friday Adoration and Benediction 12:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 4:30 to 5:30 pm
SUNDAY 8:00 to 8:30 am

McLean Retirement Village **FRIDAY (except 1st Friday)** 11:00 am

TINGHA St. Francis' Church **Saturday** 5:00 pm
ASHFORD St. Patrick's Church **Sunday** 10:30 am

BUNDARRA St. Mary of the Angels' Church **2nd & 4th Sunday** 8:00 am
YETMAN St. Joseph the Worker's Church **5th Sunday** 10:00 am

Nota bene: You may contact the Parish Priest on 0412771516



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Mass at the Church **7:00 PM**
TUESDAY: Mass at the Church **9:00AM**
FRIDAY : Mass @ Mclean **11: 00AM**
SATURDAY: Mass at the Church **6:00 PM**
SUNDAY : Mass at the Church **9:00AM**

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Mary Porchedda, Denise Taveira, Terry Manuel, Margaret Kahler, Elsie Marie Tan, Gregory Stephen, Joanne Essey, Hayley Michael, Bob Kneipp, Terry Kelleher, Margaret Goldman, Graham Tom, Peter Stieger, Fred Bight, Bob Sullivan, Rodney Parry, Mary Jordan, Agnes Hannigan, Len Fidler, Rebecca King, Tony Seitz, Veronica Ticehurst, Rose Kennedy, Brett Romer, Dolores (Tootie) Rolfe, Margaret Pollock, David Sanders, Anthony Simpson, Irene Dasey, Gwen Zemit, Brian Barker, Mary Schembri, Anne Di Costanzo, Edwin Valencia, Wilfreda Gascon **and all the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.**

We Pray for the Recently Deceased

Patrick Ashe, Lyn Schliebs, Mary Jurry (sister to Pat Mather) Ronald Noel Seaton, Win Kent, Anita Szalanski, Gordon Kitching, Peter Kelleher, Jeanette Smyth, Patsy Perrett, Patrick "Pat" Clancy,

Eternal life grant unto them Oh Lord May their souls and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Mass Intentions for the Week

FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE SICK members of our parish. For the repose of the SOULS of: Myra & Douglas Ramsay, Anthony Thomas Moylan, Stephanie Jean Moylan, Joseph Shehede Hanna, Anthony Hanna, Betros Maroom, Martha Betros Maroom, Shehede Hanna, Ruley Shehede Hanna, Pat Clancy, Pat & Kevin Clancy, Josephine & Charles Corsi, Charles (jnr) Departed Souls of Corsi, Penman & Arthur Beveridge Families,

The Parish Memorial Benefactors.

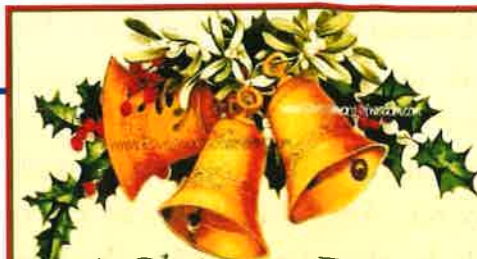
NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS.
All the travelers.



Holy Baptism We welcome into the Church through Baptism; **Jezeniah Barbara Kennedy Vilchez & Oliver Paul Irwin.** As they received the sacrament of Baptism this week. We pray for their parents, godparents and families that they may be blessed and continually grow in faith and love of God.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

Fourth Sunday of Advent



A Christmas Prayer

May all my family members and friends who need miracles be blessed
 May whoever is feeling unwell and weak be given strength.
 May all of those who have heavy burdens have their load lightened.
 May your Christmas be one filled with happiness and joy

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I call on you right now in a special way. If it is through Your Power that I was created. Every breath I take, every morning I wake, and every moment of every hour, I live under Your power.

Father, I ask you now to please touch me with that same power. For if you created me from nothing, You can certainly re-create me. Fill me with the healing power of Your Spirit. Cast out anything that should not be in me. Mend what is broken. Root out any unproductive cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild any damaged areas in my body. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection.

Let the warmth of Your Healing Love pass through my body to make it anew, and so my body will function the way You created it.

Heavenly Father, restore me to full health in mind, body, and soul; that I may serve You more fully for the rest of my life. Amen

Christmas Dues can be paid anytime now. If you do not have a Dues envelope, a plain marked envelope will do.

Christmas Dues are used in the support of our priests.

You generosity will be most appreciated. Remain Blessed

Mercyworks Raffle: Thank you for the support of our annual raffle for Mercyworks program in support of women in Papua New Guinea.

This year we raised \$2765 for this cause.

The raffle was won by Noela Turner. Thank you again for your support

CHRISTMAS TREE—BAUBLES: Baubles are available for you to choose and place on the tree, in memory of a loved one or for any special intention. Cost is a gold coin donation. Funds will go to Mercyworks as part of our annual fundraising for their cause.



Dear Colleagues,

Thanks for your hard work and commitment during another year striving to improve student faith and learning outcomes.

Your relationships within your school communities and with other schools across the system are helping to build a strong PLC in a Catholic context.

My best wishes to you and your families for a safe, happy and holy Christmas. I hope you enjoy the holiday time, that you greatly deserve, with your family and friends. May your God bless you this Christmas, Chris



A very Happy Christmas To All Our Parishioners And Friends, And In Extension To Our Dearly Ones At McLean Care ... Joy To You At Christmas

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES:

Inverell; Monday 24th Dec 7:00pm
 Tuesday 25th Dec 9:00am
 Tingha; Monday 24th Dec 5:00pm
 Bundarra Monday 24th Dec..... 5:00pm
 Ashford; Tuesday 25th Dec ... 10:30am

***** NEW YEAR MASSES *****

Monday 31st December 6:00PM
 Tuesday 1st January 9:00AM

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed for the various roles in the Church, including Readers, Projector operators, Offertory Gift bearers, Altar servers & Eucharistic Ministers. We encourage you to put yourself and / or your family forward to take part in various ministries. We are also getting in early and seeking volunteers for our Australia Day Mass before many head away on holidays. Many thanks ...

Used Stamps 2018—From Sr Helen Saunders

On behalf of Mary McKillopp Today I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. 2018 was another successful year with approximately \$68,000 being raised. A great effort from many, many people. From 2001 until the present our total is \$312,000. It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary McKillopp continues in Peru today.

Women's Breakfast 11th Jan. Friday 8:00 am

2nd Friday of the month at the Bridge Coffee Lounge. We would love to have other ladies of the parish to join us. Please phone Ann Barry on 67222858 or Marj Manuel on 67224772. **Everyone welcome.**

Men's Breakfast: Jan 12, Saturday 7:30 am at the New Australian Café Corner Otho & Evans St. Contact Bernie Cook at 67224387 by Wednesday Night 9th January. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Collections Last Weekend

1st Collection : \$ 878.40
2nd Collection : \$ 1014.00
Loose Collections : \$ 111.80
Direct Debit : \$ 200

The Sacred Heart Parish acknowledges the Kamilaroi people, the traditional owners and custodian of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land. And we pray that peace and harmony prevail.
 GOD BLESS AUSTRALIA.

ROSTER/ DATE	Dec 22 – SAT 6.PM	Dec 23 – SUN 9am	Dec 29 – SAT 6.PM	Dec 30 – SUN 9am
GREETERS	ANTHONY & ROSIE MICHAEL	P.CONSTABLE, VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS
PROJECTOR	S.SMITH	R. McGREGOR	JO KELLY	D.BRYANT
READERS	S.O'BRIEN, D.McMAHON	J.RAINGER, R.McGRATH	S.HOLLIS, D.DASEY	M.ROBINSON, R.LONG
COMMENTATOR/	M.WARD	G.TAVEIRA	P.MATHER	M.WALES
GIFTS	CASEY-RANSOM Fam.	J.HARRIS, M.JORDAN	M.AITON, C.COTTELL	GASCON FAMILY
COMMUNION MINISTER	TRISH & ROD TRAVES, VOLUNTEER, A.MICHAEL	R.GASCON, R.LONG J.FLEMING, M.WALES	T.NEWBERRY, J.GREEN, A.MICHAEL, VOLUNTEER	J.HARRIS, J.RAINGER, D.HANNIGAN, BOB McGRATH
ALTAR SERVERS	JASPER & MAGGIE NEWTON,	VOLUNTEER	H.HOLLIS	VOLUNTEERS
MUSIC MINISTRY	RENNIE GP	MEN'S CHOIR	D.GIBSON GP	A.TUBB GP
CANTOR		G.LEACH	G.GIBSON	A.TUBB
COLLECTION	B.McGUIRE	R.BENARES	A.MICHAEL	B.DEMPSEY
MORNING TEA		CATECHIST GP		
COUNTERS		B.BALDWIN, R.TUTT R.WITHERDIN, B.GARDNER		REDONDO & GASCO9N GP
				J.FRATER, D.HANNIGAN, T.KING