

Solemnities of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph

The feast day of St Patrick is a Solemnity in Australia celebrated on March 17, and the feast day of St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Solemnity celebrated on March 19. As these feasts are days of celebration in the Church, the faithful are not required to observe any Lenten penances, such as fasting or abstinence.



Prayer in Honour of St Joseph, Spouse of Mary

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Alpha 2025

After a successful launch of the Alpha program in 2024, our Parish will be offering the Alpha program for 9 weeks in May & June 2025. Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome. You can be one who comes along to the program. You can pray for family and friends to come along, and for the success of Alpha. You can support in a practical way by helping with the logistics, the catering and the “boots-on-the-ground” to advertise. Keep watching this space and listening for more information.

Alpha

8th March 2025



Dear Parishioners,

All of you are aware of the rising cost of living. These rising costs affect the parish as well. One example of this is the huge leap in insurance premiums. Our parish has had to pay over 5 times what we paid last year for our public liability insurance; and we have not yet received the building and property premiums for this year. Then, of course, there are regular payments for rates and utilities, which are not decreasing. So, overall our expenses are escalating beyond our income.

Since I have been the Administrator of the parish, and even while caretaking in Fr James's absence, the Finance Committee and I have kept a diligent and careful watch over this situation, and attempted to foresee circumstances and needs that might arise.

It is to one of these that I wish to draw your attention.

Repairs and maintenance are a regular expense but as our buildings and infrastructure age, the cost of these comes at a higher price tag. Our buildings and land at Bundarra has presented acute needs. The beautiful and historic church needs repairs due to water ingress and white ant infestation. The house beside it is in such a deplorable state that it is not habitable. To attend to these would consume all our investment accounts, and possibly more, and leave the parish to exist on the weekly income from the 2nd collection. This is impossible and impractical.

Therefore, after a long consultation with the Parish Finance Committee, the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Diocesan Consultors and the Diocesan Administrator, the decision has been taken to sell the two plots of land we own at Bundarra along with the church and the house.

It saddens me to have to do this, as it might sadden you to hear of it, but the ongoing and long-term financial welfare of the parish requires it. I will keep you informed of developments as they unfold. I ask for your support in and prayers for this endeavour.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Paul Chandler PhD

Administrator



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

16 MARCH 2025

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



“To believe in His Calvary, they must see the glory that shone beyond the scandal of the Cross.”

- Venerable Fulton J Sheen

Entrance Antiphon: Of You my heart has spoken: Seek His face. It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not Your face from me.

First Reading Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, ‘Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,’ He told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

‘I am the Lord,’ He said to him, ‘Who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.’ ‘My Lord, the Lord,’ Abram replied, ‘how am I to know that I shall inherit it?’ He said to him, ‘Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.’ He brought Him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.’

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? **R.**
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of You my heart has spoken: ‘Seek His face.’ **R.**
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not Your face. Dismiss not Your servant in anger; You have been my help. **R.**
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **R.**

Second Reading Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of His glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which He can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is My beloved Son, hear Him. **Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took with Him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the aspect of His face was changed and His clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to Him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of His passing which He was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. As these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, ‘This is My Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him.’ And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Second Sunday of Lent - Year C

March 16, 2025



81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360

(P. O. Box 107)

Phone 67221103

Email: inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or

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 17 March & Friday 21 March - 8am to 1pm

Tuesday 18 March - 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 Robert Mason; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Danel Djan Soares, Anthony Aboud, Peter Tome, Parackal Antony, Paul Saint.

the sick:

Pope Francis, Stephen Tubb, Straton Kennedy, Tony King, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, 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.

MARCH - THE MONTH OF SAINT JOSEPH

MONDAY 17th

Solemnity of St Patrick, bishop

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 18th

Commemoration of St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Confessions at HTS - 10.10am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 19th

Solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mass - 6.30am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 20th

Thursday of the 2nd week of Lent

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 21st

Friday of the 2nd week of Lent

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Stations of the Cross - 5.30pm

SATURDAY 22nd

Saturday of the 2nd week of Lent

Baptism of Thomas Rose - 10.00am

Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.30pm at Tingha

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 23rd

3rd Sunday of Lent

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

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR MARCH

Holy Trinity Team

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Liturgy Committee - Sat 15 March 2025, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 2 April 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 9 April 2025, 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 13 April 2025, after Mass

Ministry Roster

To those who have volunteered for any of the ministry roles during Mass, the roster for each weekend has been removed from the bulletin. A six-weekend roster is now displayed on the table at the main entrance to the Church. Please ensure to check it. It will also be emailed each Friday with the bulletin. If you know you will be away for a weekend in the future, please inform the parish office so we may ensure to not roster you on for that particular weekend.

Altar Society

Our deepest thanks to Rhonda McGregor who has been the co-ordinator of the Altar Society for many years. The Parish has benefited greatly from her generous commitment to the care of our church.

If you wish to volunteer to be a member of the Altar Society you may contact Mary-Jane Guest, who continues Rhonda's good work, in person at Mass or by email: mjguest@arm.catholic.edu.au

Our Bishop-Elect

The episcopal consecration and installation of Fr Peter Murphy as 11th Bishop of Armidale will occur on Thursday evening, May 8th, at 6.30pm in the Cathedral of St Mary and St Joseph, Armidale. Let us accompany him with our prayers as he prepares for this important occasion and begins his episcopal leadership of our Diocese.

The Pillars of Lent - Part One

We have entered the "Great Fast," the Lenten journey of 40 days that leads us to the foot of the cross. Our hearts are moved to remember the importance of this annual journey. Not only did Our Lord walk the way of the cross to His brutal and excruciating death, but by that event He opened the gates of heaven for us who believe. With this belief in our hearts we can reflect on the pillars of Lent that call us deeper into the mind of Christ, that call us deeper into how we are walking our way of the cross, our path to holiness so that we can enter those gates opened to us by Our Lord.

Prayer

Prayer is the first and most important pillar of Lent. During this penitential time we spend time in contemplation of Our Lord, our state in life and the journey that lies ahead. These are times that can be uncomfortable as the Holy Spirit may enlighten some areas of our life that need reform. These times in prayer are times of great fruit in that whatever may come to light it is leading us closer to Christ, closer to His Most Sacred Heart. A heart that loves and pours out His

mercy upon us as we make our journey through this life toward our heavenly homeland. I invite you to take time to pray, in silence, listening to what Our Lord may be saying to you.

Fasting

Fasting is an essential piece that goes right along with prayer. It seems Holy Church knows just what we need and when we need it. After celebrating the Incarnation of Our Lord at Christmas and all the celebrations that happen during that time, we now enter a time of cleansing. A time to reassess and a time to let go of some of those habits we may have picked up over the past year that Our Lord will want us to be free from. This takes effort and work to yield fruit. Fasting is not only limiting your food intake, which is important! Fasting allows us to let go and let God. If we cling to habits that lead us away from God, those are the ones He is calling us to fast from. Put the phone down a little earlier in the evening or turn off the TV a couple times a week, I assure you, if you ask, God will fill your heart with what you need during these times and you will find great fruit because of it.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is the third pillar of Lent and sometimes is the most neglected. Giving alms is not a onetime event. It is a state of mind that sees everything we have as GIFT from God. What we then give as alms is a small return of what God has blessed us with in this life. We must remember that we cannot take any of this with us when Our Lord calls us to Himself. All we will have is ourselves and the life we lived as we stand before God at the moment of our death. Are we ready for that moment? Giving alms will help us prepare. We will start to see others as more important than ourselves. Jesus teaches us to love others as we love ourselves. Take time over this journey of Lent to lift our heads and see whether there are things that come to light that need our attention and our money. When you do this, the gift you make takes on much more significance because it came through the power of prayer and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Your life will be forever changed.

from Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke

<https://guadalupe Shrine.org>

This will end with Part Two next Sunday.

Reflection

This weekend's reflection may be read on the parish website or on the parish Facebook page.

If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- * Proper of Mass, Page 801
- * Preface of the Second Sunday of Lent, Page 33
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Page 61
- * Daily Missal uses Year One (weekday Mass)