



Sacred Heart Parish (Canonically Erected 1868) Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/GAUDETE SUNDAY - YEAR A - 14 DECEMBER 2025



"The coming of the Lord is near. Let us await Him with faithful hearts, purified minds, and joyful spirits." - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; He is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10, R. cf. Isaiah 35:4

R: Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord Who keeps faith for ever, Who is just to those who are oppressed. It is He Who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, Who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord Who gives sight to the blind, Who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, Who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord Who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

Second Reading James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of

the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask Him, 'Are You the One Who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in Me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send My messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon, 15 December & Fri, 19 December - 8am to 1pm

Tues, 16 December - 8am to 12pm

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

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Murphy has made the following appointments:

Fr Paul Chandler: Administrator, Cathedral, Armidale

Fr John Pereira, Assistant Priest, Moree

Fr Juvi Coronel, Administrator, Inverell

Fr Vic Ignacio, Parish Priest, West Tamworth

Fr Saji Kappikuzhi, Parish Priest, Moree

Fr Damien Locke, Parish Priest, Manilla/Barraba

Fr Antony Vattakunnel, Administrator, Wee Waa

Fr Marion Mendoza, Assistant Priest, Gunnedah

A NEW SAINT COMING FOR AUSTRALIA

Pope Leo has recognised the heroic virtues of Dr Sr Mary Glowery JMJ and she now has the title of **Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowery**. This significant step in her cause for canonisation makes her only the second Australian to be accorded this honour.

She was born in Birregurra, Victoria in 1887. She excelled academically and graduated from the University of Melbourne as a medical doctor, a pioneer as a woman in this field. She discerned a call to serve in India as a religious sister with the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which she did for 37 years. Ven. Mary offered medical care and compassion to the most vulnerable, particularly women and children and founded what is now India's largest non-government health network, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI).

Her life teaches us that holiness can be found in generous service, professional excellence, courageous faith, and deep tenderness toward those in need.

The next step toward her beatification will require the Church's approval of a recognised miracle attributed to her intercession. Every parish, school, household and community can now turn to her and ask her help. We can all pray for her ongoing cause. (words of Most Rev Peter Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of the souls of all whose death anniversary occurs at this time, especially Francis Aboud, Danny & Bernie Dickins; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased: Justin O'Brien, Sue O'Brien, Florence Kennedy.

the sick: Fr John Willis, Jennifer Wheeler, Christina O'Brien,

Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabbe, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea: Sun 14 Dec 2025, after Mass

Sunday Sausage Sizzle: Sun TBA 2025, after Mass

Pastoral Council: Wed TBA 2026, 5.00pm

Liturgy Committee: Sat Jan 17th 2026, 9.00am

Finance Committee: Wed TBA 2026, 4.00pm

Altar Society Roster For December: Shirley Kenny, Margaret Moroney, Anne Dale.

Reflection: This Sunday's reflection may be read on the parish website and Facebook page.

Weekday Liturgy Schedule (including Confession times): This can be found at the noticeboard in the church, on the parish website, and is also emailed out with the parish bulletin.

THIRD (Gaudete) SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY CANDLE

The third candle of Advent symbolises Joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle". To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus was born. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies rejoicing. This candle reminds us that Jesus' coming is near. *Gaudete* is a Latin word that means "Rejoice" This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The Christmas Novena begins on 16 December. It is distinguished by the "O Antiphons" of Vespers, which also appear in "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". Helpful prayers: <https://novenas.com.au/Saints/Novenas/advent.html>

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - DRAWN SUNDAY 21 DEC

Tickets are on sale after each Mass in the meeting room and during normal working hours at the parish office. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Choir practice for the Christmas Eve Mass will be held on the 15th, 17th and 22nd of Dec at 5.30pm in the Church. All are welcome.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Among the many rising costs is the price of fresh flowers. To reduce expenditure, any parishioners who can help by supplying **white agapanthus or other white flowers** could bring them to the church from Dec 23rd. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve **5:30pm** (Vigil Mass) **8pm** (Night Mass)

Christmas Day **6am** (Dawn Mass) **9am** (Mass During Day)

All Masses are at Sacred Heart Church, Inverell

Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:

- * Proper of Mass, Pg 141
- * Preface II of Advent, Pg 27
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61

Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses:

(Mon-Tues): 3rd Week of Advent Pg 41, then from Wed 17 Dec Pg 60