



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

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Holy Trinity School Ph 6722 4066

Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger

### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 21 DECEMBER 2025



"If we would please this Divine Infant, we too must become children, simple and humble. We must carry to Him flowers of virtue, of meekness, of mortification, of charity. We must clasp Him in the arms of our love."

- St Alphonsus Liguori

**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** Isaiah 7:10-14

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered, 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord Himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son Whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 23:1-6

**R: Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is He Who set it on the seas; on the waters He made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in His holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God Who saves him. Such are the men who seek Him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

**Second Reading** Romans 1:1-7

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through His prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, Who, according to the human nature He took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord Who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in Him, was proclaimed Son of God in all His power through His resurrection from the dead. Through Him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of His name. You are one of these nations, and by His call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Matthew 1:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!** A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Matthew 1:18-24

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name Him Jesus, because He is the One Who is to save His people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call Him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon, 21 December - 8am to 1pm

Tues, 22 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

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference. If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

With the imminent departure of Fr Paul and the arrival of Fr Juvi, the PPC and the PFC are not meeting until late January or February. Fr Juvi has been briefed on the major topics that both groups have been addressing. Fr Juvi will take those on and guide them as he sees fit. This includes the project of the images of saints and ceiling repairs in the church.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of the souls of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; all deceased members of the O'Brien & Stephen families. Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

**the Recently Deceased:** Justin O'Brien, Sue O'Brien,

**the sick:** Jennifer Wheeler, Francis McPhee, Christina O'Brien, Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

**From Jan. 1st 2026 the NSW Bishops have recommended that the Mass stipend be \$20.** A lower amount will always be accepted.

**Visits to the Homebound and the Sick:** Please contact Fr Paul at email [frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au) or call 02 6722 1103.

### PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

#### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**Sunday Sausage Sizzle:** Sun 28 Dec 2025, after Mass

**Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Paul:** Sun 4 Jan 2026, 10am

**Welcome Morning Tea for Fr Juvi:** Sun 11 Jan 2026, 10am

**Liturgy Committee:** Sat 17 Jan 2026, 9.00am

**Pastoral Council:** Wed TBA 2026, 5.00pm

**Finance Committee:** Wed TBA 2026, 5.00pm

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

**Reflection:** This Sunday's reflection may be read on the parish website (Resources>Parish News) or on the parish Facebook page on Sunday morning.

### 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. **If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to the parish office with your request.**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 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.

### HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome to God's Holy Church POPPY CLAIRE ALEXANDER who will be baptised this Sunday at 10:30am. Let us give thanks to God and pray for her, her parents and godparents that they may be firm in the faith.

### FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Members of the Sacred Heart Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all those who donated to our Christmas Appeal. You have helped many families in the Parish this Christmas. God bless you all.

### CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

The final Choir practice for the Christmas Eve Mass will be held on Monday 22 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.

### PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle will be drawn after Mass on Sunday morning, 21 Dec.

### JUBILEE INDULGENCE

Only a few weeks remain to gain the plenary indulgence. See noticeboard for details.

### FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR FR PAUL

A farewell morning tea for Fr Paul will be held on Sunday 4 January after the 9am Mass. All are welcome to attend.

### 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**

**A reminder that Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Attending one of the above Masses will fulfil your obligation.**

#### **Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:**

\* Proper of Mass, Pg 145

\* Preface II of Advent, Pg 27

\* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61

**Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses:** (Mon) Pg 77; (Tues) Pg 80; (Wed-Thurs) Sunday Missal used; (Fri) Pg 2199; (Sat) Pg 2202