

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

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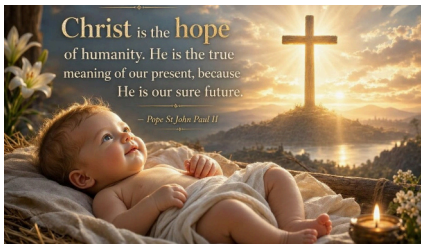
First Sunday of Advent - Year B - 29 November 2026



"We must be a people of hope and charity, awaiting the Lord with open hearts."
- St Augustine of Hippo

Hope Candle: The first candle of Advent symbolises Hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle" as it represents the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah over thousands of years, which was made clear by the prophets.

Entrance Antiphon: To You, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in You; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for You is ever put to shame.

First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, Yourself are our Father, our Redeemer is Your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from Your ways and harden our hearts against fearing You? Return, for the sake of Your servants, the tribes of Your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—at Your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but You act like this for those who trust Him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep Your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against You. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked Your name or roused himself to catch hold of You. For You hid Your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, You are our Father; we the clay, You the potter, we are all the work of Your hand.

The word of the Lord.

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

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.

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.

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.

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank Him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among You so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and He will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to His Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Show us Your mercy, Lord, show us Your love. Grant us salvation, Lord, show us Your love. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to His disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will shower His gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

Reflection

An excerpt from the Angelus Address of Pope St John Paul II on the First Sunday of advent, 1 December 2002:

Today, with the First Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year. The God of the covenant revealed Himself in history and in history the Church celebrates the mystery of salvation: the Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way, the journey of believers is continually renewed, extending between what Christ has "already" realised and the "not yet" of His full revelation.

God is the future of the human person and of the world. If humanity loses the meaning of God, it will close itself to the future and inevitably lose the perspective of its pilgrim journey in time. Why birth, why death? Why sacrifice, why suffering?

To these questions, Christianity offers a satisfying answer. For this reason, Christ is the hope of humanity. He is the true meaning of our present, because He is our sure future.

Advent reminds us that He has come, and that He will come. The life of believers is a continuous and vigilant waiting for His coming. Today, the invitation to watch and to wait is underlined with insistence by St Mark, who, throughout the new liturgical year, will guide us in the discovery of the mystery of Christ.

In today's passage taken from the second of the great discourses of Jesus, the evangelist points out the final meaning of history and of creation and exhorts us to make of our lives an unceasing quest for Christ. From our being with Him and from the contemplation of His countenance come the missionary vigour that will help us to leave our grey daily routine in order to be His courageous witnesses.

On this journey of conversion and of apostolic dedication, Mary, the bright dawn and the sure guide of our steps, accompanies us. She does it in a special way by inviting us to contemplate the joyful mysteries of the Rosary. We look to her with confidence while she prepares us to celebrate […] the solemn feast of her Immaculate Conception.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Mon, 30 November & Fri, 4 December - 8am to 1pm
Tues, 1 December - 8am to 12pm

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of the souls of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased: Shirley Thompson, Regina Radman, Vojo Dizdar, Fr Bernard Flood, Michael O'Sullivan, Fr Barry Leech, Phillip Regan.

the sick: Mary McCormack, Peter Moroney, Sr Gaye Lennon, Steven Kent, Erin Muggleton, Bernice Murray, Jennifer Wheeler, Christina O'Brien, Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish. **Please contact the Parish Office to add/remove names to/from the Sick List and if you know a sick parishioner who would appreciate a visit from the priest.**

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon 30:	No Mass - Church open 8am to 1pm

December - Month of the Divine Infancy

Tues 1st:	5pm Rosary, 5.30pm Holy Mass, 6pm Christmas Party
Wed 2nd:	11.30am Rosary, 12 Noon Holy Mass, with anointing 12.30pm Ladies Lunch
Thurs 3rd:	9am Rosary, 9.30am Holy Mass
Fri 4th:	11.30am Rosary, 12 Noon Holy Mass, 12.30pm Adoration, 12.45pm-1.15pm Confession, 1.20pm Benediction 4.30pm - 5.30pm Church open for private devotion
Sat 5th:	9am - 10am Church open for private devotion Inverell: 5.15pm - 5.50pm Confession, 5.30pm Rosary, 6pm Holy Mass
Sun 6th:	8am Confession, 8.30am Rosary, 9am Holy Mass

Detailed Weekday Liturgy Schedule: This can be found on the noticeboards in the church and on the parish website.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Ladies Lunch: Wed 2 Dec 2026, 12.30pm at Australia Café
Men's Breakfast: Wed 9 Dec 2026, 8.00am The Haven Café, 140 Byron Street (across the alley from the Telstra shop)
Women's Breakfast: Fri 11 Dec 2026, 8.00am The Haven Café
Sunday Morning Tea: Sun 13 December 2026, after Mass
SVDP Society Meeting: Wed 16 Dec 2026, 5pm - 7pm, meeting room
Liturgy Committee Meeting: Sat 19 Dec 2026, 9am, meeting room
December Altar Society Roster: Shirley Kenny & Margaret Moroney

Upcoming Feast Days this Week

30 Nov: St Andrew, apostle
3 Dec: St Francis Xavier, priest
4 Dec: St John Damascene, priest, doctor
6 Dec: St Nicholas, bishop

Centacare Hampers Appeal



Thank you to all those parishioners who have already donated. The pile is steadily growing. If you wish to contribute, you have until 29 Nov. Suggested hamper items: Canned foods, pasta, rice & noodles, breakfast cereals & school snacks, long-life milk, condiments eg. jam & vegemite, tea & coffee, biscuits, toiletries & personal care items, cleaning products, and toilet paper.

First Holy Communion

This Sunday, 29 November, we have two Holy Trinity Students making their First Holy Communion. Please pray for David and Corbin as they receive Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion for the first time.

Choir Practice for Christmas Eve Mass

Rehearsals will be each Sunday after the 9am Mass / Morning tea. All those interested in joining, are very welcome.

Joint Celebration - Tuesday 1 December, 5.30pm

This Tuesday, 1 December, we will be holding our parish Christmas party. Fr Juvi will also be celebrating his 19th year of ordination. The festivities will be on the Church lawn and those coming are encouraged to bring a plate of delicacies to share - be it a dessert, salad, main dish, sandwiches or mini treats like chocolates! **For Catering Purposes:** Those interested in attending should place their name and the number of those accompanying them in the forms at the Church entrances. **Numbers must be in by 29 November**. **Homebound:** If you know of any home bound parishioners who wish to attend, please inform the parish office so we may organise transportation for them.

Parish Christmas Raffle

Tickets are now on sale at the main door after each Mass. $2 each or 3 for $5. Raffle will be drawn Sunday 20 December. We thank these parishioners and local businesses who have donated prizes: June Turner, Sarah Turner, JD's Footwear, Lennon's Butchery, The Gallery Café, The Gem Centre, and Top to Toe Beauty Clinic.

Morning Tea

The next Morning Tea will be held after the 9am Mass on Sunday, 13 December.

Sacrament of Penance

On Tuesday 15 December our Holy Mass of the day will be at 5.30pm. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for Confession. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Immaculata Mission School: 1st - 7th January 2027

Start your year afresh with Christ. Receive and grow deeper in your faith and make good friendships and develop good habits, with times of prayer, fantastic Catholic speakers, share groups, fun activities and lots more. ***Who is it for?*** Everyone. The 1-7th Jan is open to adults of all ages and youth 14 years and up. Families with children are welcome and there is a children's ministry program available 1-5 Jan. ***What is the theme?*** "Am I Not Your Mother?" - grow in friendship with Jesus under the banner of His Mother Mary. ***Where is it?*** Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale, NSW. **Early-bird prices finish 30th November, registrations close 23rd Dec.** For costs, more information and to register visit www.immaculata.org.au/ims

Assistance with the Offertory

We need more parishioners to help with the Offertory. If the first collection is underway and no one has collected the gifts from the entrance table, could two parishioners please step up and take the gifts up to the altar. When the priest begins to step down from the altar, that is your cue to start walking up the aisle.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM - SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)
BSB No. 082105 Account No. 001023550
Ac. Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses
BSB No. 082105 Account No. 001013072
Ac. 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.

Our Parish is committed to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. This is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns or feedback, please contact our Priest / Safeguarding Contact Person (Parish Secretary), or our Diocesan Safeguarding and Professional Standards Office at@armidale.catholic.org.au or on(02) 6771 8700.

Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:

* Proper of Mass, Page 532
* Preface I of Advent: Pg 27
* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61 or No. 3 Pg 72

Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses:
First Week of Advent commences on Pg 4