



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620
Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

10 December 2023



Readings for
this week: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8



Readings for
next Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Liturgical Jottings

Blessings 2 – Nativity Scene

The custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas manger for Christmas eve of 1223. The blessing may be given during a celebration of the word of God, during Mass, or another service, e.g., a carol service. The blessing of the nativity scene, according to pastoral circumstances, may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another more suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member; the shorter rite may be used for this purpose. A form of this rite is also found in Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers. Book of Blessings 1541 1542 1545



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Looking at the Readings

Signs of a true prophet are humility and that the message is greater than the messenger. John the Baptist is the model prophet-precursor as a prophet his words focus on repentance and as a precursor he comes before Christ but never puts himself in front. He prepares the way for the Lord and prepares the people to receive him. John baptises with water, The Christ will baptise with Holy Spirit.

Mark begins his gospel with the very simple words: “The Beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ the Son of God.” What is professed at the beginning is hidden or “Secret” until the end when Jesus shows himself to his disciples as the Risen Lord. The Good News is offered to those who wish to listen. And in listening they come to conversion and discipleship. The mystery of Christ is with us. We come to celebrate this mystery through conversion, witness and love.

The words in the first reading are spoken in the Gospel. Prepare, Shout out and Believe the Lord is among us. The image of making a straight path through valleys and mountains is again repeated. This work of levelling is not just topographical but spiritual. We must identify our own depths and heights that prevent the Lord coming into our lives.

Spiritual Quote of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God. (*Gospel Acclamation*)

Advent Prayer

With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might.

Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.

Advent Customs: Wassailing

The house-visiting wassail is the practice of people going door-to-door, singing Christmas Carols and offering a drink from the wassail bowl in exchange for gifts; this practice still exists, but has largely been displaced by community carol singing.

On the Lighter Side

Try a Microsoft Advent Calendar. After opening 3 or 4 windows it will freeze and you won't be able to open any more.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: John Moran, Jodie Potts, Maria Zappala, Philip Bowman, Anne Dodd, Sam Peyton, Shane McDonnell, Kadyne Mitchell-Treacy, Trevor Peterson, Amy Nicholson.

Recently Deceased: Noreen Elliot

Anniversaries: Trevor Price

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)



Parish Priest

Fr John Paul Pasala

Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026

Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Parish Office

Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au

Parish Administrator

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

Parish Pastoral Assistant

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

Principals

St Augustine's College - Jay Sutton – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala, Alana Brennan (Chairperson)

Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox, Mary D'Augello,

Carl Cabaraban, Brendon Lane, Jackie Stockdale,

Finola Price, Natalie Watt, Jay Sutton, John Forde

Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala,

Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson),

James Harris (Deputy Chair)

John Zobec, Chris Moor, Mary Zobec.

Mass Times

Kyabram

Week Day Masses (Tuesday & Thursday): see Diary

Saturday (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month): 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am

Tongala

First Sunday of month 11.30am

Merrigum

Third Sunday of month 12 noon

Reconciliation – Second Saturday of month at

5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Augustine's Church

Mass of Anointing - held on the first Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

FORTNIGHT MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sat 9th December - 6pm Thanksgiving Mass and celebration for volunteers and formal farewell to Fr John Paul with gathering after Mass

Sun 10th December - 8.30am

Tue 12th December - 6pm Communal reconciliation. Followed by a cuppa.

Thu 14th December - 9.15am

Weekly Masses

Sun 17th December - 8.30am (No Merrigum Mass)

Tue 19th December - 4.45pm Rosary, 5pm Mass

Thu 21st December - 9.15am

Sat 23rd December - 6.00pm

Sun 24th December - 8.30am

Sun Christmas Eve - 6.00pm Carols 6.30 mass

Mon Christmas Day - 9.00am

ROSTERS

Sunday 17th December at 8.30am

Commentator – N Watt

Lector – M Carver

Special Minister – F Turner

Saturday 23th December at 6.00pm

Commentator – L Ratcliffe

Lector – C Anderson

Special Minister – L Moran

Sunday 24th December at 8.30am

Commentator – V Fox

Lector – A Snell

Special Minister – B Lyon

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

Last week's Collection is \$ 952.20

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults.

If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with the Parish Child safety officer Finola Price on 03 5852 1310.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We invite..... To light the second candle, which is often named the John the Baptist Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who calls us to be a signal to the nations and to recognise the Messiah in our midst.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you come among us now. St Paul reminds us to treat each other as Christ treats us and so give glory to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. John the Baptist calls us to 'repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

LADIES CUPPA AND CHAT

All ladies you are invited to Cuppa and Chat at Fauna Park Café on Wednesday 13th December at 2pm. If you need a ride, please contact Mary Elliott on 0427 822754.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

If you would like an anniversary Mass for your loved ones, feel free to contact the Parish office (telephone 5852 1026) to arrange a suitable day.

ORDER FOR GOD'S WORD

Order for God's Word are still being taken. Clip board in the gathering space for orders.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

A communal reconciliation will be held on Tuesday 12 December at 6pm. Followed by a cuppa.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

The PPC met on 5 December for the last time for 2023. The main items for discussion included:

The results of the recent parish survey. Thank you to all who responded. The results have been collated and will be discussed with Fr Uday at the first PPC meeting in 2024. It has been decided to make the Survey an annual event. Evaluation of the last 12 months. This resulted in a lively discussion with the consensus being that our parish is in a great place going forward.

Other main points included:

Reviewing the Parish Strategic Plan with the involvement of Fr Uday.

Working collaboratively with the Finance Committee and other groups within the parish. Faith formation opportunities. Spirit of trust and transparency within the parish. Need more engagement with the schools and young people. Thank you. Alana Brennan

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 23 December – 6pm

Sunday 24 December - 8.30am

Sunday 24 December - 6pm Carols, 6.30pm Mass

Monday 25 December - 9am

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped throughout the year, the support and input of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee and Liturgy Group. The work of so many responsible for preparation, lectors, special ministers, servers, musicians and singers, sacristans, those who collect the money, our Bereavement Group and those who extend hospitality – and all involved in parish ministries of care and service during the year ... a special thank you to all!

Thank you to all who support the parish financially, which allows us to meet our expenses. Thank you to those who have given generously to appeals during the year and the collection for St Vincent de Paul at the Christmas Masses. Your dedication, generosity and support is most appreciated.

THANK YOU TO FR JOHN PAUL

As we bid farewell, officially, to Fr John Paul this weekend, we reminisce with him over the time he has spent with us at St Augustine's Parish.

We thank him most sincerely for his service to the people of our parish, for his guidance and presence in good times and sad times and for his continuing compassionate support.

We wish him well in his new appointment and trust that the Holy Spirit guides him and protects him in his priestly ministry.

HELPERS NEEDED

Helpers are needed for *both the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses* at St Augustine's. Clipboards are available at the back of the church if you can help in any way. We need special ministers and money collectors. Thank you for helping out.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST THEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you interested in studying Theology\or spiritual leadership in 2024? 50% of the tuition fees will be reimbursed. Applications are now open for Semester 1 2024. Courses approved are: CH8001C Introduction to Church History. The early Church, Middle Ages, Renaissance. BA8001C Exploring the Old Testament. Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program at Heart of Life. Contact Leslie Cooper for more information. Leslie Cooper Project Support Officer at Leslie.cooper@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or 03 5445 3600.

"The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass." ~ Saint Augustine

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PIETY STORE

Have you checked out the piety store in the gathering space of the church? Do you have a family baptism, sacramental member? Why not grab a lovely gift?

Would you like to volunteer to help with the store? There is a clipboard to put your name down to be included on the roster.

FUNDRAISER FOR ST AUGUSTINE

We have wood scroll Calendars 2024 available in the Piety Store in the gathering space at the church, after the weekend Masses. \$20 each and 5 different calendars, **Divine mercy, Holy Family, Miraculous, St Anthony, and Sacred Heart Jesus.** All money raised to St Augustine Parish.



Jesus, I Trust In You!

Bless This House
2023



Bless This House

Bless This House
2023



Bless This House

Bless This House
2023



Our Lady of Grace
Pray for us

Bless This House
2023

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Would you be interested in advertising your business in our Parish bulletin and on our website?

The costs are: **Advert (5x6cm)**

3 months (12 weeks)	\$16.67 per week	\$200
6 months (25 weeks)	\$12.00 per week	\$300
12 months (50 weeks)	\$10.00 per week	\$500

If you would like further details, please talk to Fr John, a member of the Finance Committee or Vicki in the office.