



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

First Sunday of Advent - Year B

3 December 2023



Readings for this week: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37



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



Liturgical Jottings

Blessings 1 - Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of the Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before. The blessing may be celebrated during Mass, a celebration of the word of God, or Evening Prayer. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family; the shorter rite may appropriately be used for this purpose. *Book of Blessings nn. 1509, 1514.*

Various forms of the blessing are available from the Book of Blessings (Catholic Book Publ Co. 1989) or from Pastoral Liturgy (Notre Dame University, Perth) or from LoyolaPress or other websites



Looking at the Readings

Darkness in the scriptures symbolises absence, wrongdoing, the power of evil. Thievery and deceit are perpetrated during the night under the cover of darkness where lighting is minimal or non-existent. Nowadays we have expressions like daylight robbery and committed in broad daylight to describe daring crimes hitherto unheard of. Not so then. Hence Jesus use of such expressions as: “stay awake” repeated four times in today’s Gospel (Mark 13:33,34,35,37). Day and night we wait for the coming of God. Advent is the liturgical season we particularly wait for our God. We must overcome the urge to sleep, a metaphor for wandering from our Christian calling to be at prayer, service and readiness.

The Prophet Isaiah introduces a double theme of waiting for the coming of God. God awaits our return to him and we await his return to us. We have the urgency and drama expressed in verse 64:1 “Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!” It is like a prayer (see below) especially for Christians who recognise the first coming of God at Christmas and the second coming at the end of time. Isaiah prays on behalf of and with the people for God to come and forgive our sins and restore us to our original holiness. He prays with love, addressing God as Father (63:16, 64:8) and presenting a wonderful image: “Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Advent Prayer

Rend the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people, that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.

Advent Customs: St Nicholas Day

In the Low Countries (Europe) St. Nicholas Day (6 November) is a time when children leave out their “polished” shoes the night before and find in them special cookies, chocolates or oranges in the morning. Oranges and chocolate coins are common treats that represent St. Nicholas’s legendary rescue of three impoverished girls by paying their marriage dowries with gold. Candy canes, which have the shape of a bishop’s crosier, are also given.

On the Lighter Side

What is mothers' favourite Christmas carol?
Silent night!



PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

Recently Deceased: Noreen Elliot

Anniversaries:

(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

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

Sun 3rd December - 8.30am

Sun 3rd November - 11.30am – Tongala

Tue 5th December - 4.45pm Rosary, 5pm Liturgy

Thu 7th December - 10am Anointing Mass
- cuppa after Mass

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

ROSTERS

Saturday 9th December at 6pm

Commentator – M Radanov

Lector – W Mulcahy

Special Minister – L Busch

Sunday 10th December at 8.30am

Commentator – E Luvara

Lector – J Chant

Special Minister – J Stockdale

Sunday 17th December at 8.30am

Commentator – N Watt

Lector – M Carver

Special Minister – F Turner

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

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

Last week's Collection is \$ 817.25

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.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism. During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds. May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord.

We invite..... To light the first candle, which is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah called the Chosen People and today calls all people 'to walk in the light of the Lord.'

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul urges us to be people of the light and to let our armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour we do not expect.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

ST AUGUSTINE'S GATHERING

St Augustine's Gathering held on Thursday November at the Parklands Golf Club. A great night was had by all at the first St Augustine's "Gathering".

Old and new friends enjoyed a quiet drink with lively chatter in an informal setting at the Parklands Golf Club. Special thanks to Jeff Berry and Paul Price for their help and hospitality.

Some comments from attendees included: very social gathering, lovely meeting new people, relaxed chats, great venue. With the busy Christmas season upon us, the next meeting will be held in January 2024.

Maurie Finn

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.

CUPPA AFTER MASS ROSTER

A new roster is being drawn up for next year for the monthly cuppa after mass on second Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Minimal preparation is required for this most important ministry. We would love for more people to come on board. Commitment about twice a year. There is a clipboard at the back of the church to register your name and state your preferences.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 23 December – 6pm

Sunday 24 December - 8.30am

Sunday 24 December - 6pm Carols, 6.30pm Mass

Monday 25 December - 9am

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR VOLUNTEERS AND FATHER JOHN PAUL'S FORMAL FAREWELL

A combined thanksgiving Mass for all volunteers together with a farewell to Fr John Paul, will be held on Saturday 9th December at 6pm. All parishioners are invited to attend to say "Farewell and Blessings" for Fr John Paul's next appointment. This will be followed by a parish celebration. Parishioners may like to bring a plate however refreshments will be provided. BYO drinks and chair.

If any parishioners would like to make a contribution to Fr John Paul's farewell gift, they could drop it in the mail box or to the Parish office on Tuesday or Thursday.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

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

ORDER FOR GOD'S WORD

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

We still need more parishioners to fill in the Parish Questionnaire. You can either place it in the box in the gathering space or email your response to kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

The PPC is conducting a questionnaire to gauge parishioner's opinions about the activities in our parish and to obtain suggestions to strengthen our parish. Please fill in the questionnaire and place in the suggestion box located in the gathering space.

NEW FENCE FOR SCHOOL

The College has asked for permission to install two gated security fences. Permission has been granted and the college has arranged for installation over the summer school holiday period. The purpose is to improve child safety and college security. Once installed all visitors to the college and grounds to enter via college reception. Although the parish will have keys, the gates will be controlled by the college and will normally be locked, preventing through access. Any parishioners who rely on free access to college grounds will need to discuss with the college. If you have any other questions please contact the office or speak to a finance committee member. The map of the fence placement is displayed in the gathering space of the church.

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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.



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.