



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

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

17 December 2023



Readings for this week: Isaias 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Readings for next Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Liturgical Jottings

Blessings 3 – Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays which depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until Epiphany. The Christmas tree may be blessed on or before Christmas during a celebration of the word of God, or during Morning or Evening Prayer. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.
Book of Blessings 1570-74



Looking at the Readings

Joy, Praise, Happiness and Witness are the key words of the First Reading the Response, the Second Reading and the Gospel. Would we take these words home in our minds and hearts we have captured the sense of the advent celebration. To express the Lord's year of favour and joy, Isaiah seeks new words to convey the great enthusiasm of the people. He uses similes of an overjoyed bride and groom, the fresh and fruitful earth and people leaping for joy. While he prophesies the first coming of the Lord we may justly interpret his words for the second coming of the Lord. We have the sense of now but not yet, he has come but yet to come.

The response to the reading is not a psalm but the words of Mary from Luke's Gospel – the *Magnificat*. It is a hymn of thanksgiving to God for his mighty deed for Mary and also and especially for the poor and lowly. The Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice," sets the tone, the name and the colour of the day's liturgy "*Gaudete*". Rejoice and be happy, Christmas is a week away!

Advent Prayer

O God, most high and most near,
you send glad tidings to the lowly,
you hide not your face from the poor;
those who dwell in darkness you call into the light.
Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts,
and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son,
we may recognise him in our midst
and find joy in his saving presence.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.

Advent Customs: Misas de Aguinaldo

In the Philippines, Advent is celebrated by attending nine Masses in a row. These are known as Misas de Aguinaldo – or Gift Masses. They begin on December 16 and end on Christmas Eve. After every Mass, families celebrate together by eating traditional desserts and sweets. Maligayang Pasko is how Filipinos would wish you a Merry Christmas!

On the Lighter Side

Q: What does a chemistry teacher call a bunch of monomers in December? A: An Advent Polymer.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Tony Barca, John Moran, Jodie Potts, Philip Bowman, Anne Dodd, Shane McDonell, Kady Mitchell-Treacy, Trevor Peterson, Amy Nicholson.

Recently Deceased: Maria Zappala, Virginia Ibanez

Anniversaries: Giuseppina Quattrocchi, Giuseppe Zobec

(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

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

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

Thu 21st December - 9.15am

Weekly Masses

Sat 23rd December - 6.00pm

Sun 24th December - 8.30am

Sun Christmas Eve - 6.00pm Carols 6.30 mass

Mon Christmas Day - 9.00am

Tue 26th December - No Mass

Thu 28th December - No Mass

Weekly Masses

Sun 31st December – 8.30am

Tue 2nd January - 4.45pm Rosary, 5pm Mass

Thu 4th January – 10am Anointing Mass

Weekly Masses

Sun 7th January - 8.30am

Sun 7th January - 11.30am – Tongala

ROSTERS

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

Sunday 31st December at 8.30am

Commentator – J Chant

Lector – E Luvara

Special Minister – N Livsey

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

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

Last week's Collection is \$ 1416.90

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.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who cried with joy for God clothes us in the garments of salvation.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St Paul urges us to be happy at all times and to pray constantly.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you sent John the Baptist to be a witness for the light..

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

We have some 2024 Columban Mission art calendars available for sale for \$10 each, available from gathering place.

ADVENT LEAFLETS

Our Diocesan Advent 2023 leaflets invite reflection on scriptures passages and paragraphs, in the Jubilee Year in Honour of St Therese of Lisieux together with a prayer can be used for individual or small group reflection and discussion. Theme-The Way of Trust and Love. Leaflets are available in the gathering space.

MEN'S CHOIR

The men's choir has restarted on the 1st Sunday of the month. Please come at 8am to practice.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 23 December – 6pm

Sunday 24 December - 8.30am

Sunday 24 December - 6pm Carols, 6.30pm Mass

Monday 25 December - 9am

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 open for Semester 1 2024. Courses approved are: CH8001C Introduction to Church History. T 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.

FROM THE BISHOP

Clergy Appointments

As a result of priests moving to a new parish, several associated responsibilities are no longer practical, and I have made the following new appointments:

Vicar Forane of the Goulburn Valley Deanery: Fr Jophin Joy ALCP/OSS (commencing 13 January 2024)

Supervising Priest of the Rushworth Parish: Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ (commencing 24 January 2024)

'Come and See' Program

Abishek Mandanu and Anil Madanu, who I met during my recent pastoral visit to India, will undertake a three-month 'Come and See' program in the Diocese in early 2024. During this time, they will visit the seminary and several parishes to gain an experience of ministry in Australia. Following this, a decision will be made about whether they commence as seminarians for the Diocese.

New Seminarian

I have accepted Ryerson De Lai, from Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura, as a seminarian for the Diocese. He will commence formation at Corpus Christi College in February 2024.

I am grateful for the willingness of these priests and aspiring seminarians to make themselves available for service in the Diocese, and I ask you to join me in offering them your prayerful support.

Yours sincerely,

+Shane Mackinlay

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.

“Each generation is converted by the saint who contradicts it most.” *G.K. Chesterton*

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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.