

WELCOME TO THE PARISHES OF

TATURA

Fr Michael Morley – Parish Priest

KYABRAM

St Patrick's Tongala and St Sebastian's Merrigum

Sacred Heart – Tatura

Telephone Tatura – 03 – 5824 1049

Fax Tatura – 03 – 5824 2745

Email sacredhearttatura@bigpond.com

Web www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au

Presbytery – 65 Hogan Street

PO Box 110 TATURA 3616

Judith Steele – Secretary

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Michael, Anna Ciavarella, Anne Hutchison (Sec)

Trish Miller(Chair), Ged Pollard, , Trish Warnett,

Denise Woodman; Coral Reilly; John Ford



St Augustine's – Kyabram

Telephone Kyabram – 03 – 5852 1026

Fax Kyabram – 03 – 5853 1114

Email staugsparishky@mcmedia.com.au

Website www.staugsparishky.org.au

Presbytery – 63 Church Street

PO Box 341 KYABRAM 3620

Alma Limbrick-Pastoral Associate; Leanne Beck- Secretary
Colleen Catanese – Clerical; Ruth McGowan- Clerical

Parish Pastoral Council

Michael, Alma Limbrick; , Katrina Johnson;

Joe Chant (Deputy Chair), Nick Ciavarella,

Helen Delahenty, Joan Dickman , Brendon Lane,;

Barry Pola, Pauline Shortis; Liz Withall

Readings - Year B
Year of the Consecrated
Life

As Christ's disciples our mission is:

- *to be inspired by Christ
- *to actively live out Christ's message and the Gospel values by respecting, celebrating and honouring our Catholic traditions
- *to provide welcome and sanctuary for all
- *to foster a sense of social justice and to protect, nurture and support our Catholic community and the wider community by respecting life, self, others and the environment.

As we come to worship we remember the Bangerang & Yorta Yorta People, the original custodians of this land
We commit ourselves to actively working alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21ST DECEMBER 2014



*Let the spirit of love
gently fill our hearts and homes.*

In this loveliest of seasons while we cook and clean, shop and shine, decorate every nook and corner of our homes and enjoy those family get-togethers.....may we find many reasons for happiness. And may we let them radiate in our lives long after the Christmas is gone.

May the Christ child bring us the gifts of peace, love, happiness and health, now and for ever!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. Michael

Note - There will be special rosters for the Christmas Masses.

GOD'S WORD

Again for 2015 I have God's Word available for parishioners. This is a beautiful book of daily reflections, based on God's Word. It is designed to help you keep the Word of God closer to your heart in your daily life. If you would like a copy please put your name on the clipboard in the Narthex. Hopefully copies will be available next week. Cost is \$12.00

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2014

Tatura – Sacred Heart Church

5.30pm... Carols

6.00pm... Mass – Christmas Eve
(Family Mass)

10.00am... Mass – Christmas Day

Kyabram – St Augustine's Church

7.30pm... Mass Christmas Eve
(Outdoor Family Mass)

8.00am Mass – Christmas Day



For Christmas timetable around the Diocese
<http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>



Those who have died recently	Margaret O'Toole; Kay Morris
Those whose Anniversary occurs	Thomas Morley; James Kerlin, Lucia Villani, John Heathman, Robert Borrelli
Our sick and their carers	Gerard Dwyer; Noelene McGrath; Heather Carter; Victoria Stock; Margaret Downs; Peter Kerrins; Kathleen Sell; Carolyn Cooper, Jim O'Donovan; Kerry Hogan; Lawrie Dwyer; Margaret Woodland; Andrea Cocks***

(Our practice is to leave the names on the sick list for a month. To extend the time, please contact the parish office.)

MASS	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	SPECIAL MINISTERS	COUNTERS
Sun Dec 28th 10.00am	Trish Miller	Lou Kerrins	Leo McGrath	N Lawlor	Connie Serra, Paul Kerrins, Anne-Marie Nihill	L & D Worm

MASSES FOR THE COMING WEEK: 1-7 DECEMBER			
DAY	DATE	TATURA	KYABRAM
Monday	22	No Mass	No Mass
Tuesday	23	9.15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion	No Mass
Wednesday	24	6.00pm Vigil Mass Family Mass	7.30pm Christmas Eve Outdoor Family Mass
Thursday	25	10.00am Mass	8.00am Christmas Day
Friday	26	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday	27	No Mass	6.30pm
Sunday	28	10.00am Mass	8.00am 11.30am Merrigum
ROSARY	15 mins before weekday Mass		
RECONCILIATION	27		

DECEMBER DIARY DATES		
Mon	22	
Tues	23	
Wed	24	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Thurs	25	Christmas Day Mass 10.00am
Frid	26	Boxing Day
Sat	27	
Sun	28	Feast of Holy Family 10.00am Mass
Mon	29	
Tues	30	
Wed	31	No Mass
Thurs	1	New Year's Day No Mass
Frid	2	No Mass
Sat	3	Mass 6.00pm
Sun	4	Mass 8.00am
PASTORAL CARE		
Trish Miller 5824 1841, Marli Kelly 0457 772 869, Anne Hutchison 5824 3460		

NEW CHRISTMAS SONG...

If you're tired of hearing the politically correct "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas", listen to this song found on youtube. <http://www.youtube.com/embed/ln01p1M2cH0>

CATHOLICARE CHRISTMAS APPEAL Dear Friends in Sandhurst Parishes
As Christmas draws near, we ask that this year you consider supporting children and young people with whom staff at CatholicCare Sandhurst work, and whose families have very limited resources to buy gifts or food for the festive season. Donations of \$2.00 or more paid to CatholicCare Sandhurst may be Tax Deductible. We are able to provide Receipts upon request for Taxation purposes. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, direct credit or EFTPOS. For further information see the Notice Board in the Narthex.

'.....according to your word'

In Mary's experience, she is afraid but chooses to trust God - she doesn't walk away. She and God together are creating. God chooses to come into the world through Mary. God chooses to need her help. Mary, for her part chooses to allow God to use her. This is what we are called to do as well.

Roland Rolheiser, in his book *The Holy Longing*, talks about how the Incarnation was not a 33 year event that took place 2000 years ago. It is an ongoing mystery that we are called to participate in as Christians. In a very real way, we are called to put 'skin' to our prayers of 'Your will be done.' We are called to be the comforter to the dying, the support for the lonely and lover of the hated.

Outlined in the Scriptures we see how Mary responds to God as she prays. First Mary *listens* to what is being asked, then *questions* the situation. After *pondering* the situation, Mary then *makes a decision*. Perhaps we could use this model when making a big decision!

So today, as we approach the celebration of Christ's coming into our world, could we consider how can we, right now, bring Christ to the world in whatever we are doing? How are we, like Mary, called to co-create with God and bring Christ to the world? May we let the Holy Spirit come upon us and the power of the Most High overshadow us and empower us to be Christ's body here on earth.

Please collect your free copy of the Sandpiper – December issue.

Looking back at 2014

Together we have achieved much during 2014. Reflecting on just some of our achievements I can remember that we:

- Held a school/parish fete which raised approx. \$17,000
- Enjoyed a wonderful fundraising pasta night at the Italian Club \$3,785 (+ Donation from St Donato C'tee \$2,000)
- Combined with St Augustine's for the Bunnings BBQ and raised \$1,485
- Some of our parishioners experienced the Timor Leste Immersion again this year
- Painted the interior of the Church
- Almost completed plumbing restoration work on the convent and Parish Hall
- Participated in a Parish Planned Giving Campaign to carry us over the next three years
- Participated in a pilot program to change and upgrade our Parish/Diocese computer system
- The CWL continued to cater for our funerals
- Enjoyed many "cuppa after Mass" Sundays (yum!!)
- With Bishop Leslie in August we celebrated First Eucharist/Confirmations
- Many of our children made their First Reconciliation
- Celebrated beautiful Sunday Children's Liturgies
- Appointed a new Deputy Principal for Sacred Heart and Principal for St Augustine's for 2015
- Assisted many, many families through the good works of St Vincent de Paul
- Raised approx. \$85,000 at the "Vinnies" shop
- Established Mini-Vinnies (35 members) at Sacred Heart School (They raised \$700 through the year and sponsored 4 overseas children for education, sent "teddies" to Kenya and bought 13 Christmas gifts for SVDP hampers!)
- Assisted many families with pastoral care meals/packs
- Celebrated Mass (or Liturgy of the Word with Communion) every Friday at Dhurringile Prison
- Had pastoral involvement each week through our Chaplains at Dhurringile Prison
- Brought prisoners to Mass by bus at least once a month
- *Celebrated baptisms, weddings and the lives of some of our parishioners at funerals*
- *I went as Chaplain with 12 teachers to Cebu in the Philippines*



If I have forgotten anything or anyone/group I am sorry, but as I began thinking the list just tumbled on to the paper.

It is not until you sit down and think about what has happened during the year that it becomes clear that we have a vibrant and enthusiastic band of dedicated parishioners. When I visit the school on Fridays for assembly I see the future, but when I come to Mass on Sundays I see the present – a community of faith coming together as friends sharing in the same love of God and professing the same Catholic faith as our forebears whose vision and generosity laid the foundation for Sacred Heart. Let us continue to come together in faith, love and support of each other during the New Year of 2015.

ALONG THE TRACK

The two latest articles ("Xmas or Christmas?" and "A Christmas Blessing") from Jim Quillinan's Along the Track are now available. If you would like to read these articles and others, they can be found on the CEO Sale website at: http://www2.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/Along_the_Tracks.aspx
If you put your name down to receive a printed copy of Jim Quillinan's 'Along the Track' article, it is available in the Narthex.

BISHOP LES' CHRISTMAS VIDEO

Bishop Les' Christmas message for 2014 was recently recorded at St Mary's church in Axedale. It can be accessed from the front page of the diocesan website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC/CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAM

Right through the Summer Holiday Period, "The Journey Summer Series" will run weekly. It is a "Best of the Journey" program with all of the best inputs and interviews with Sr Hilda Scott, Dr Francine and Byron Pirola, Bruce Downes - The Catholic Guy, Trish McCarthy, Peter Gilmore, Sam Clear and Fr Dave Callaghan. Tune into LIFE 105.1 FM Sat 4pm or listen in via podcast anytime at www.radio.dow.org.au





Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for
next Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-2,17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Liturgical Jottings

When the choir of angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus they sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all who enjoy his favour." We sing this acclamation, in a modified form, to commence the Gloria on all the Sundays of the year except for those in Advent and Lent. On Christmas Day and the following Sundays we will welcome the return of these words which express our faith so deeply.

Advent Prayer

Loving Father, as the feast day of the Birth of Jesus is now only a few days away, we pray that we may press forward all the more thoughtfully to the joyous celebration of the nativity of your Son. His coming to your creation and your people is something we wish to respond to with heartfelt faith and love. Amen.

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Looking at the Readings

The reading today from the Gospel according to Luke tells the story of the Annunciation. It begins with the words, "The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth." From that moment this small, insignificant town on the edge of the Roman Empire became a significant site in the unfolding of the story of salvation.

On arrival the angel greeted Mary with the words, "Rejoice so highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Not surprisingly Mary wondered what this could possibly mean. She had probably never thought of herself as being in any way different from the other young people in her home town.

The angel then briefly explains to her that she will conceive and bear a son whom she is to name Jesus. He will also be called the Son of the Most High. Mary is even more deeply puzzled by how this can possibly happen because she is a virgin.

Again the angel has an answer; but it is one that draws Mary even more deeply into the unfolding of the mystery of salvation. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will cover you with its shadow and so your son will be holy and will become the Son of God."

To this Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." These inspiring words of consent to the will of God for her brings the time of preparation for the long awaited Messiah to an end. God's own Son, the Messiah, has been with us from the time Mary conceived.

Those words of Mary, spoken so long ago in a culture very different from our own, still touch each and every one of us personally. Her acceptance of God's will for her in so far as she understood it is an example to every person of faith. More than that. It is our point of entry into the all embracing grace of salvation.

Quotable Quote

God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice.

Pope Francis

On the Lighter Side

A surprising thing about Christmas is that it comes every year just when the shops are so crowded and everyone seems to be in a hurry.



SHEPPARTON CONCERT

Fr Rob Galea and his band will perform in Shepparton to celebrate the launch of his new album, *Something About You*. This concert will feature Gary Pinto (X-Factor Australia), Natasha Pinto and Genevieve Bryant. The concert will be at Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, on the 22nd January 2015.

Further information is available on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Tickets are limited. Contact www.riverlinksvenues.com.au/rob-galea.html or call (03) 5832 9511.