

WELCOME TO THE PARISHES OF TATURA

Fr Michael Morley – Parish Priest

KYABRAM

St Patrick's Tongala and St Sebastian's Merrigum

Sacred Heart – Tatura

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Presbytery – 65 Hogan Street

PO Box 110 TATURA 3616

Judith Steele – Secretary



Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Michael, Denise Bourke (Chairperson)

Jenni Hindson, Joyce Caiafa (Secretary), Teresa

Muto, Sheila Gregg, Connie Serra, John Ford, Anne

Hutchison, Ged Pollard, Lou Worm, Cath De Angelis,

Readings - Year C

Year of Luke

Weekdays – Cycle 1

St Augustine's – Kyabram

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Presbytery – 63 Church Street

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Alma Limbrick-Pastoral Associate; Leanne Beck- Secretary

Colleen Catanese – Clerical; Ruth McGowan- Clerical

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Michael, Alma Limbrick,

Oronzo Farina, Anthony Chalkley

Joe Chant (Deputy Chairperson),

Marie Curtis (Chairperson), Angela Finn,

Loretta Lilford, Maureen O'Shea,

Lee Pethybridge, Maria Radanov

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.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

2nd DECEMBER 2012

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2012

Tatura – Sacred Heart Church

Mass – Christmas Eve (Family Mass) – 6.00pm

Mass – Christmas Day – 10.00am

Kyabram – St Augustine's Church

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

Mass – Christmas Day – 8.00am

Communal Reconciliation

Kyabram – Reconciliation – Wednesday, 19th
December 2012 at 7.30pm

Tatura – Reconciliation – 17th December 2012 at
7.30pm

CHRISTMAS A SEASON FOR GIVING ...

St Vincent de Paul is once again, collecting toys for Christmas parcels prepared by Conference. Envelopes with ages and gender are available on the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.

Please take an envelope, buy a gift suitable for the age and gender of the child on the card, wrap your gift and leave it under the Christmas tree. Your assistance with purchasing toys for the children helps SVDP enormously as funds are being squeezed a little more each year.



First Sunday in Advent

Gracious God, We ask that you bless our Advent Wreath, may the light that shines forth from these candles light our way as we journey towards Christmas. May it light our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord who is the Light of the World.

All: Amen

On this first Sunday of Advent we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of one to come as Saviour of the people. Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the square, who show us a future we never anticipated.

We light this first candle as a Symbol of the prophets who Renew our faith and remind us Of what might be.

All: Come Lord Jesus, renew our faith.



RECONCILIATION

The opportunity for Christmas Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday, 19th December at 7.30pm in Kyabram. The night for Tatura will be Monday 17th December at 7.30pm. There will be the opportunity this Tuesday 4th December at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Tatura. The children are making their First Reconciliation, but all are welcome.

Fr Michael

END OF SCHOOL MASS

The end of school Mass for Sacred Heart will be on Thursday 13th December at 7.00pm. There will be a light supper to follow in the Mercy Centre which will give us all the opportunity to say farewell to our principal, Jenni Hindson who is leaving us at the completion of the school year. Please join the children for Mass and Jenni's farewell.

We pray for



Those who have died recently	Maurice Fitzgerald
Those whose Anniversary occurs	Kevin Millar
Our sick and their carers	Mary Goodwin; Terry White; Keith Grumley; Colin Mason; Veronica Rosella; Heather Carter; Lawrie Dwyer; Max Davies;*** Carmel Rawlings Pamela Ludeman; Tahlia Backman; Fr Donald Lourenz

MASSES FOR THE COMING WEEK: 3 – 9 th December				SVDP Christmas Cards \$5 for 10. Columban & Josephite Calendars \$9 each. Available in the Narthex. Honesty Box applies.	
DAY	DATE	TATURA	KYABRAM		
Monday	3	No Mass	No Mass		
Tuesday	4	No Mass	No Mass		
Wednesday	5	9.15am LWWC*	5.00pm LWWC*		
Thursday	6	No Mass	No Mass		
Friday	7	9.15am LWWC*	No Mass		
Saturday	8	No Mass	6.30pm		
Sunday	9	10.00am	8.00am		
ROSARY		Wed 9:00am Fri 9:00am			
RECONCILIATION					

MASS	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	SPECIAL MINISTERS	COUNTERS
Sun Dec 9 th 10.00am	John Harford	Lou Kerrins	Debbie Turvey	P Baldwin	S Nihill, L McGrath, C Serra	A & G Ranson

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (Luke 21:28)

Images of the final judgment can be scary, especially if we have not been faithful to God's commands throughout our lives. However, if we have been good stewards, we have left nothing to chance. We have carefully planned our giving and followed Our Lord's example of service and sacrifice. Thus, no matter the day or the hour we will be ready to stand erect

Congratulations to Eva Annalina Minutoli who is being baptised here today. We welcome her into our faith community.



PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, bless our two Parishes so that we may love you more.
 Help our parents to give good example to their children
 and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.
 Encircle our families with your loving care.
 To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy.
 May each parishioner grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.
 We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
 Amen

DECEMBER DIARY DATES

Mon	3	Feast – St Francis Xavier
Tues	4	7.30pm First Reconciliation, Tatura
Wed	5	
Thurs	6	Professional Standards meeting, Melb – Fr Michael
Frid	7	
Sat	8	
Sun	9	Fr Brian Boyle celebrating Mass
Mon	10	SVDP Meeting 9.30am at the Centre
Tues	11	
Wed	12	
Thurs	13	7.00pm End of Year School Mass, Tatura & farewell to Jenni Hindson
Frid	14	
Sat	15	
Sun	16	

AN ADVENT WREATH AT HOME

A good way to prepare for Christmas is with an Advent wreath at home, a custom that originated in Germany in the 16th century. Four candles (three purple and one rose or white) are surrounded by evergreen branches. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ, which will come into the world at Christmas. On the First Sunday of Advent one purple candle is lit as the family prays: 'Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.'



ADVENT 2012

Advent begins today, and to help you prepare for the way of the Lord, we are offering all parishioners an opportunity to take time out and spend some time in prayer during the hectic build up to Christmas.

Some copies of the free booklet '*Lectio Divina - Praying the Scriptures in Advent*' are still available at the back of the church to take home. It invites you to prayerfully and meditatively reflect on the Sunday readings during Advent and select readings of the Christmas season.

There are also some copies still available of the free booklet '*30 days of Grace ... in a year of faith*'.

A SPACE FOR GRACE

"Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life." Luke 21:34

Now – there's an appropriate Scripture reading for December! If there was ever a month for debauchery and drunkenness – commercially – December must rate high!

Walk with me this December Lord. Help me to keep a balance to the worldly outlook of the Christmas season. Help me focus on you.



NOTE TO ALL LITURGY MINISTRIES - A reminder to those in ministries at Mass that you need to be present at least five minutes before Mass. It is difficult to finalise the list for the commentator or the sacristan trying to find someone with one minute to go. This affects our starting time which is a bit unfair. - *Fr Michael*

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Would you like to have a book with daily reflections for the whole year? This would be a great way to introduce daily prayer into your life. It is a beautifully presented book – hard cover and only \$15.00. A sample copy is there for you to look at. If you would like one ordered, please place your name and phone number on the clipboard provided in the Narthex.

Payment can be made when the books have been received.

Advent –A time to learn how to wait...

It is Advent again when we are invited to be faithfully, and not fearfully, watchful. We do not like waiting and so it becomes Christmas before Advent has a chance to be a grace. How to grow in the enjoyment of Advent and best live these days of longing? We could experience our being alone, or left out, or even being lost, as an Advent grace. We could remain peaceful while waiting for a phone call or arrival of some person or news. If we do not pray with the graces which Advent offers in the experiences of emptiness then Christmas could become a celebration of disappointing hollowness. Signs of disorder are all around and within us. Jesus was not born in stableish-poverty, only because there was no room in the inn. That poverty is ours and he is always being born anew there but only if we stay alert to the signs of disorder within us; if we kneel in the poverty of our truth which will be come-to by the richness of his coming always and again. The Saviour has come, is coming and will always come.

In this Advent season, we make ready for Jesus when he comes. We are going to meet him someday. It may be when he comes in the dramatic way foretold in the scriptures or it may be in the natural pattern of death. The secret to being ready is to live for our Lord every day, in all that we do, say and think. That's how we wait for him. By living as he has called us to live.

30 Days of Grace (In a Year of Faith) & Lectio Divina (Praying the Scriptures in Advent)

These two very important booklets are available in the Narthex. Both are suitable as a preparation for Christmas and as a source of much grace and a strengthening of our life in faith. Please take a copy of each.

"Happy Holiday" – We wish Fr Michael a safe and enjoyable break away.

NEW FACES ON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Welcome to New Parish Pastoral Councillors and thank you to those members who are retiring. We welcome and thank Anne Hutchison, Lou Worm, John Ford and Geraldine Pollard for accepting the responsibility of representing us on Parish Pastoral Council. We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Lou Kerrins and Debbie Turvey for their input and untiring effort on PPC over the past 3 years.

The miracle is not to fly in the air, or walk on the water, but to walk on the earth.

Chinese Proverb



Readings for
this week:

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



Readings for
next Sunday

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6



ADVENT

On this Sunday a new liturgical year begins, Year C – Year of Luke. The **Word of God** in the given readings wants us to glance back into the PAST and to look into the FUTURE, and above all to realise the importance of the here and now. Advent focuses our attention on the coming of Christ. We live between the two comings of Christ – his first coming in humility and weakness at Bethlehem, and his second in majesty and power at the end of time. St Paul says that with each passing year 'our salvation is nearer than when we first believed'. We need the Lord's salvation in our lives and in the world.

Quotable Quote

'When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God'.



Prayer

"I walk with God".

Focus on the Readings

St Paul's wish for the early Christians at Thessalonica, as we heard in our second reading, would make a great wish list for each of us as we begin this Advent Season. The difference between this wish list and a wish list made up of all the latest gadgets plastic can buy, is that this wish list from St Paul reflects what the Lord wants to give us this Advent - and the wonderful thing is that the Lord has no credit limit! The only restriction on what the Lord can give us is our own capacity to receive the good things he showers upon those who love him. What are some of the things our Lord wants to give us during this Advent season? He wants to increase us, and make us overflow with love for one another and for all whom we meet. He wants to strengthen our hearts and make us blameless and holy. He wants to enable us "to stand straight and raise our heads...to stand secure before the Son of Man," as it says in today's Gospel. Perhaps during Advent we could aim to bring our wish list closer to what the Lord wants for us and to be more open to the many ways that he comes to us. Each and every day he comes to dwell in our hearts; he comes to transform us by the gift of himself in the Sacraments. He gives us himself as our Food and Drink. He desires to be so closely united with us that we don't know where he leaves off and where we begin. This is what the Lord wants to give us during this Advent Season. And who knows better what we want and need than we do? God does.

Memorable Memorial of the Week 3 December

St Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was one of the great missionaries of the Church. He was born near Pamplona in Spain in 1506. He entered the University of Paris in 1524 and received his licentiate in 1528. He was a friend of St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits and they made their religious professions together in 1534 and were ordained in 1537. St Francis then went to Rome and devoted his life from then on to the missions. Initially he travelled to East Indies. Then he went to Goa, Malacca, Japan and China, and converted approximately 30,000 pagans. He died of exhaustion and fever on the island of Shangchwan on 3 December 1552. Francis found great joy in his missionary life. He wrote "Here in this vineyard we cry to God: Lord, give me not so much joy in this life". St Francis is the Patron Saint of missions.

Funny Business

A business owner tells her friend that she is desperately searching for an accountant. Her friend asks, "But didn't your company hire an accountant a short while ago?" "The business owner replies, "That's the accountant I'm searching for now."



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QUOTE:

'The disciple simply burns his boats and goes ahead. He is called out... The old life is left behind, and completely surrendered. The disciple is dragged out of his relative security into a life of absolute insecurity... out of the realm of the finite...into the realm of infinite possibilities.'

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

DEAR God
Help me to
unwrap
Your presence
in our midst.
Amen

