

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

PO Box 341 KYABRAM 3620

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.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23rd DECEMBER 2012



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

With the school year now finished for both students and teachers, we wish all teachers, staff, students and families a safe and enjoyable break over the Christmas school holidays.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Sandhurst website has a full listing of all the Christmas Masses in all parishes of the Diocese. This information can be found by clicking on "Parishes" then "Christmas Mass times" at the following website:

www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Also available on this website are recorded Christmas Messages from the Bishop and the Vicar General (Monsignor Marriott). Please click on "News and Events", then "News" to find the link to the messages.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember Joseph, worn-out traveller and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the 'kin-dom' of God.

Today we light the fourth candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

**All: Come Lord Jesus,
strengthen our faith.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Remmi Izabella Webster &
Cahil Anthony Webster**

who are being baptised at our Mass this weekend. We welcome them into our faith community.



We pray for



Those who have died recently	Michelle Mulholland
Those whose Anniversary occurs	Carmel Roche; James Kerlin; John Heathman; Carolina Michele Sarafina Pietropaolo; Vincenzo & Giuseppina Casuscelli; Antonia & Antonia Casuscelli; Vincenzo Salsone; Thomas Morley;*** Ted Tomazin; Fr Jim Bolton OSA; Giuseppina Quattrocchi; Felisa Baric; Margaret (Peg) O'Neill
Our sick and their carers	Colin Mason; Heather Carter; Lawrie Dwyer; Max Davies;*** Carmel Rawlings; Tahlia Backman; fr Donald Lourensz; Margo Costello

MASSES FOR THE COMING WEEK: 24 – 31 DECEMBER				ALONG THE TRACK If you put your name down to receive a copy of Jim Quillinan's 'Along the Track', the latest article ("Jesus is the Reason for the Season") is available at the back of the church.
DAY	DATE	TATURA	KYABRAM	
Monday	24	6.00pm – Xmas Eve	7.30pm – Xmas Eve	
Tuesday	25	10.00am – Xmas Day	8.00am – Xmas Day	
Wednesday	26	No Mass	No Mass	
Thursday	27	No Mass	No Mass	
Friday	28	No Mass	No Mass	
Saturday	30	6.00pm	No Mass	
Sunday	31	8.00am	10.00am	
ROSARY		Tues 5.15pm Wed 9:00am Fri 9:00am		
RECONCILIATION				

MASS	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	SPECIAL MINISTERS	COUNTERS
Sat Dec 29th 6.00pm	Trish Warnett	Peter Kerrins	Pat Baldwin	S MacDonald, N Noonan	M Goodwin, G Ranson, D Worm	Bill Woods
Sun Dec 30th 8.00am	Coral Reilly	Anne Marie Nihill	Fiona Cowan	M Normington S McCann	S Cowan, L Cowan, C Coulston	

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." (Micah 5:1)

We may think that the gifts we have to offer may be too small or too inconsequential to give to God. Today we are reminded that God brought forth His greatest gift to mankind, His own Son, through the humble town of Bethlehem. He can also accomplish great things through us if we generously offer our gifts to Him.

DECEMBER DIARY DATES		
Mon	24	Christmas Eve - See Christmas timetable
Tues	25	Christmas Day - See Christmas timetable
Wed	26	Boxing Day
Thurs	27	
Frid	28	
Sat	29	
Sun	30	
Mon	31	
JANUARY		
Tues	1	New Year's Day
Wed	2	
Thurs	3	
Frid	4	
Sat	5	
Sun	6	

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

Time for a smile

One day in school..... 'How do you spell elephant?'
 'E-l-l-e-f-f-a-n-t.'
 'That's not how the dictionary spells it.'
 'You didn't ask me how the dictionary spells it!'



DIVINE AUSTRALIA – RETREAT AT MOORROOPNA

A Divine Australia Retreat is being held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Moorroopna on Saturday 19th January from 4.00pm and Sunday 20th January from 10.00am. No Reservation required. Full details available at the back of the church.

A SPACE FOR GRACE

*God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.
Hebrews 10:7*

The Christ Child came to do God's will. If we are true followers of that same Christ Child, then our direction is simple ... 'Here I am!'

***Here I am, Lord ... send me ...
Be with us as we come to
celebrate your birth.
Be with us as we go out into
our world, to do YOUR will.***



You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.

Evan Esar

ROCHESTER BINGO NIGHT

Please come along and help raise some much needed funds for St Joseph's Parish in Rochester. The bingo night will be held at the Parish Centre cnr Fraser & Campaspe St, Rochester on Saturday 12 January, 7.30 pm. Please bring a plate to share for supper.

For more information please email Narelle at rellstar77@gmail.com or phone 0407 300 858.

FOR SALE

Daily Mass Books are available at \$19 each

Centenary Pens are still available at \$15 each (*Pens are made from the surrounds of the original doors of the Church. A lovely memento of the centenary of the Church*)

Centenary Books are available at \$20 each.

Joy Shared

Our Gospel today paints a heart- warming scene. Two pregnant women get together for a hug and a chat. Mary and Elizabeth are special, faithful women. Both carry special sons. Mary will be the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. They are relatives and apparently close. Perhaps they talk about morning sickness or about how much their babies kick. Mary and Elizabeth share a time of joy, but they also teach the church. Luke offers through this narrative the first explanation of the far-reaching significance of Jesus' birth not from a dramatic event, but from the most ordinary of circumstances: two women talking together in a house. From this tender and humble conversation, the church learns that the birth of Jesus changes everything. Luke uses this setting for Mary's beautiful and powerful prayer which follows on from today's Gospel. Known to us as the Magnificat, a Latin title, from the first line, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,' these verses are recognised as among the most beautiful poetry in the history of literature. Poetry creatively expresses ideas about God. Poetry expresses thoughts and feelings in ways prose cannot. In just a few lines, Luke's poem shows what the birth of Jesus meant. Though we can never say everything that needs to be said about that; here, God through the writer of Luke's Gospel uses the most ordinary of events to tell us the most profound message. The chat between two pregnant women sharing their joy tells us that at Jesus' birth, all of life, from our personal stuff, to politics, money and the role of the people of God in the world, changed forever.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE ~~~~~

- New to our Parish (Welcome!)
- Changed Address
- Require Planned Giving Details
- Would like a visitor
- Leaving our Parish

PLEASE complete details below or collect a Parish census card from the Narthex, and place on the collection plate at Mass or return to parish office.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....

EMAIL.....



Readings for
this week:

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44



Readings for
next Sunday

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52



Liturgical Jottings

In a few days we celebrate the birthday of Christ. Christ comes most readily to those who realise their need of him. We need to draw close to Christ and bring our spiritual poverty, wounds and sins before him. He will come to us, he will never forsake us.

A Christmas Message:

Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without going away better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. *Mother Theresa*

On the lighter side



A bloke in a bar says to the bloke next to him: "Want to hear an accountant joke?" He replies, "Well, you should know that I'm 190 cm tall, weigh 130 kg and an accountant, the bloke next to me is 200 cm, 140 kg and he's an accountant. Now, do you still want to tell that joke?" The first bloke says, "No, I don't want to have to explain it twice!"

QUOTE:

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love.

- Ada V. Hendricks

Focus on the Readings

The Entrance Antiphon on the fourth Sunday of Advent (*Is 45:8*) is a beautiful prayer worth pondering in the light of the Gospel.

Let the clouds rain down the Just one, and the earth bring forth a Saviour. What a beautiful image taken from nature - *the clouds rain down ... the earth brings forth ...* How often have we seen this happen? A dry field, a bare lawn, a thirsty vegetable garden, then, a cloudburst. The rain falls, covers the earth, penetrates the soil - and the earth brings forth new life. Rain transforms, rain renews. To this natural image has been added a supernatural dimension. It is the *Just One* who is rained down - it is a *Saviour* who is brought forth. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, has come from above, from heaven, and yet truly Man he is brought forth by the earth, from below - God and man - human and divine. The word 'let' makes it more than a statement of truth but a graceful prayer: *Let the clouds rain down the Just one and the earth bring forth a Saviour.* Is it possible to say these words without them expressing our longing for the Lord while at the same time increasing our longing for him? We see then in this Antiphon a looking forward to that moment when Mary surrendered totally to the will of God with her 'yes' to the message of the angel, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. *Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled*

No wonder the Communion Antiphon exalts: *The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel.*

This is the moment

Christmas is coming. It's only hours away. Christmas is coming, and it's a Big Deal in its own right. But anyone who misses observing the fourth Sunday of Advent misses out in a big way -- misses out on the moment in Luke's gospel in which we truly see hope born as two poor women dance and sing. Mary finds her cousin, who has good news of her own, and that moment of joy and hope and faith is so powerful, that the children in their wombs leap for joy with the women. And they are filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with the fullness of what God is doing, wonderful beyond comprehension or description.

It isn't Christmas, but Advent, and in this very moment, we see born among us the hope for which the whole world hasn't dared hope. Advent is the full realisation of God's redemption of the world in Christ.

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DEAR God
Could every
morning be a small
resurrection?

Amen

