

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, Joyce Caiafa (Secretary), Anna Ciavarella, John Ford, Anne Hutchison Marli Kelly, Trish Miller, Teresa Muto, Ged Pollard, Connie Serra, Trish Warnett, Lou Worm.



Readings - Year A

St Augustine's – Kyabram
 Telephone Kyabram – 03 – 5852 1026
 Fax Kyabram – 03 – 5853 1114
 Email staugsparishky@mcmedia.com.au
 Website www.staugsparrishky.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

Fr Michael, Alma Limbrick, Oronzo Farina, Anthony Chalkley, Marie Curtis (Chairperson), Joe Chant (Deputy Chair), Nick Ciavarella,, Helen Delahenty, Joan Dickman, Angela Finn, Brendon Lane, Barry Pola, Pauline Shortis

**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.**



What did you go out to see?
 Someone dressed in soft robes?
Mat 11:8



No one has arisen greater than
 John the Baptist.
Mat 11:11

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

2013

Tatura – Sacred Heart Church

Carols – Christmas Eve 5.30pm
 Mass – Christmas Eve (Family Mass) 6.00pm
 Mass – Christmas Day 10.00am

Kyabram – St Augustine's Church

Mass – Christmas Eve 7.30pm
 (Outdoor Family Mass- bring chairs)
 Mass – Christmas Day 8.00am

Communal Reconciliation

Tatura – Reconciliation - Thursday, 19th December 2013 at 7.30pm

Kyabram – Reconciliation - Wednesday, 18th December 2013 at 7.30pm

RECONCILIATION

The opportunity for reconciliation this Christmas will take place next Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm. In Kyabram it will be on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.30pm.

"Third Sunday in Advent"

Reader: On this Third Sunday of Advent we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Saviour of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

We light the third candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

**All: Come Lord Jesus
 grant us courage.**



ADVENT RESOURCES

On the diocesan website, Adult Faith Education section, there are some wonderful resources for Advent, including leaflets suitable for individuals or groups, to help us prepare for Christmas. These can be accessed on the website www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au, click on Directory, then Adult Faith, then Resources. Or, the direct link is <http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/index.php/resources/advent-leaflets>

QUOTE:

The Holy Spirit brings to our hearts a most precious gift: profound trust in God's love and mercy.
 Pope Francis 2013

We pray for



Those who have died recently	
Those whose Anniversary occurs	Colin Jenkins; Lucia Villani; Geradine Kerlin; Robert Borelli; Marge Glover; Dick McGowan; Domenic Rosa; Rafael Rosa; Angelic Rosa
Our sick and their carers	Lawrie Dwyer; Barry Butler; Mons. Jeffries; Nell Noonan; Margaret Woodland; Mons John White *** Frank Pemberton; Tessa Stokes Glen Spicer; Carmel Rawlings; Gerard Berry

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

MASSES FOR THE COMING WEEK: 16-22 Dec 2013				PLEASE COLLECT: - Sandpiper December edition - Australian Catholics PLEASE COLLECT YOUR COPY OF "GOD'S WORD" IF YOU HAVE ORDERED ONE.
DAY	DATE	TATURA	KYABRAM	
Monday	16	No Mass	No Mass	
Tuesday	17	9.15 am Liturgy of the Word	No Mass	
Wednesday	18	9.15am Mass (Int. Robert Borelli)	5.00pm Intention – Dick McGowan	
Thursday	19	No Mass	9.15am	
Friday	20	9.15am Mass	No Mass	
Saturday	21	No Mass	6.30pm	
Sunday	22	10.00am Mass	8.30am 11.30am Merrigum	
ROSARY		Tues 9.00am Wed 9:00am Fri 9:00am		
RECONCILIATION	21	11:30am		

MASS	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	SPECIAL MINISTERS	COUNTERS
24 th 6PM 25 th 10AM December Christmas	SPECIAL ROSTERS					
Sun Dec 22 nd 10.00am	Sue Nihill	John Harford	Debbie Turvey	Nan Lawlor	AM Carroll, L Kerrins, L McGrath	B Woods

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.

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	16	
Tues	17	Christmas Service – Prison 6.30pm
Wed	18	Minister Fraternal breakup lunch 12.00pm Reconciliation – Kyabram 7.30pm
Thurs	19	Reconciliation – Tatura 7.30pm
Frid	20	Kyabram Ministers Christmas Carols 8.45pm Memorial Gardens
Sat	21	
Sun	22	
Mon	23	
Tues	24	Christmas Eve Family Mass 6.00pm Tatura Christmas Eve Family Mass 7.30pm Kyabram
Wed	25	Christmas Day Mass 8.00am Kyabram Christmas Day Mass 10.00am Tatura
Thurs	26	
Frid	27	
Sat	28	
Sun	29	

PASTORAL CARE

- Trish Miller 5824 1841
- Anne Hutchison 5824 3460

Quote

'The essential meaning of the word *adventus* was: God is here, he has not withdrawn from the world, he has not deserted us. Even if we cannot see and touch him as we can tangible realities, he is here and comes to visit us in many ways.'

Homily by Benedict XVI, First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2009

This Third Sunday in Advent is 'Gaudete Sunday' which takes its name from the Latin word 'gaudete', meaning 'rejoice', the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near.'

It's a day marked with the joy of expectation – the Anointed One is coming; soon we will be set free.



BISHOP LES' CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Bishop Les' Christmas message to the Diocese was recently filmed in St Kilian's church. It is available for viewing on the opening page of the Diocesan website www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Monsignor Marriott's Christmas message can also be viewed on the website, click on the Cathedral tab. Please take the time to view these messages from our Bishop and Monsignor Marriott the Vicar General.

The 2014 Sandhurst Diocese Pilgrimage, "A JOURNEY OF ST PAUL" 16 day pilgrimage, led by Fr Rom Hayes and Angela Finn, will depart 17th September and return 2nd October 2014. Follow St Paul and his companions through Greece and Turkey. See sites of the earliest Christian communities. Visit to Gallipoli. Cost from: \$6690 pp including all taxes/levies & tipping fund. Brochures & booking forms from: Marina Scott (03) 54459910 mscott@ceosand.catholic.edu.au or for further information, Lyn Breen (03) 5441 2544 Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au. SECURE YOUR BOOKING with \$350 deposit pp by 7th March 2014 to Olive Tree Travel 03 8488 9696 or 1300 55 08 30 E-katrina@olivetretravel.com.au Web: www.olivetretravel.com.au

DATA PROJECTION

As you have probably noticed our liturgy has been greatly enhanced by our new data projection system. I would like to thank the many parishioners who gave so generously towards the full cost of this project. Some donations were significant but all went towards a very successful outcome. In particular I would like to highlight the enrichment to the School Masses that data projection will make. It helps the children to participate more fully in the liturgy and to feel a real connection with the Word of God. This is a positive result for our future Catholic community. Many thanks again for a wonderful outcome.

A special thank you to Trish Miller (Principal) for setting up the programs for the data screen.

the blind see

the lame walk
lepers are cured
the deaf hear
the dead are raised

AND THE GOOD NEWS?
It is being preached
to the poor!

Mt. 11:2-11



Why Wait?

We all know reasons why patience should be a part of our lives. It is a virtue. It is nice. Good people have it. It is a help to others. Jesus was patient, Mary was patient and God is patient in bringing things to fruition. Things we want rarely come when we want them. And when they do they quickly let us know that we don't control their coming or going. And so life teaches us that it is not about our desire, pleasure or pain. It is here in this hard, often empty space of wisdom that the prophet learns what has to be said and how to be a witness to this deeper meaning. Nelson Mandela must have learned it in his twenty-seven years of imprisonment. How else could he have had that smile of joy and wise compassion that became a source of power for his people as he led them from oppression to freedom on the foundations of non-violence, reconciliation and truth? John the Baptist who stars in today's gospel also learned what he had to say - about justice and truth - in a desert. The truth that burned in him was fired in the desert of hope. And we, in our less dramatic way, in our smaller place in history, live out the same prophetic path. Advent is more than a countdown. In the desert of our waiting, the journey we set out on each day becomes our school, our witness and the basis of whatever truth is given us to offer. We do this in each moment that we are truly present to another.

EAST TIMOR IMMERSION 2014 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Timor Leste Committee is now organising the second Adult Immersion Experience to East Timor. We are looking for members of the parish and school community to join us on this immersion which will be held from the 19th September until the 2nd October, 2014. This life changing experience will give participants the opportunity to be immersed in the Timorese culture for 13 days to experience life in East Timor.

The main focus for the 2014 Immersion is to:

1. Further the connections with our sister school Technical Vocational College
2. Further development the current water sanitation programs (established 2013)
3. Continue the sewing program with the Foscaca Ladies (established 2013)

The approximate cost of this experience is \$1,900. This includes all flights, transport, accommodation, food etc.

If you are interested in finding out more information please contact Chantelle Webb on 0400311615 / cwebb@sakyabram.catholic.edu.au or attend the information evening held at St. Augustine's School on Thursday the 31st of January at 6:00pm.



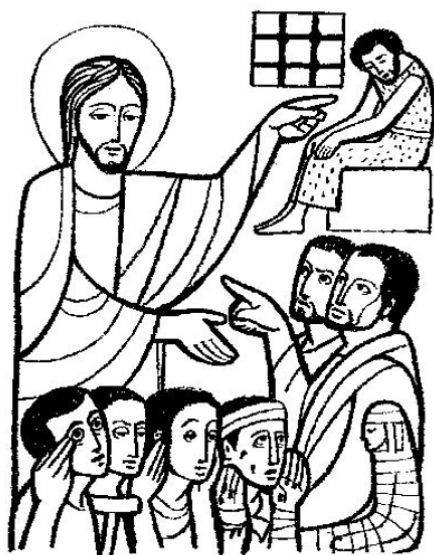
Readings for
this week:

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11



Readings for
next Sunday:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



Liturgical Jottings

Advent Wreath

The third candle (rose/pink colour) is lit on this day along with the first two. Often called the Shepherds' candle, reminding that God sent the angels to proclaim His arrival to common man. God still uses ordinary people today to spread the good news of Christ. Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The Entrance Antiphon is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest wears purple vestments. But on this Sunday, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in colour provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation, especially prayer and fasting-for Christmas.

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Looking at the Readings

This Sunday's readings remind us to look below the surface, and be aware that all may not be as it appears. According to Matthew's Gospel, John seemed to doubt his earlier confidence in Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, and from his prison he sent some disciples to get the truth from Jesus himself. Jesus, as usual, gives an answer that requires the listener to draw his own conclusion. He quotes the scriptures in which John had been trained. His Messiahship was not of the kind that was expected in the prevailing culture of his time. Matthew is also instructing the people of his own community, essentially from the Judaic tradition, outside Israel, fifty or sixty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and after the destruction of the Temple. Furthermore, time was getting on, and Jesus had not yet returned as soon as his followers had believed he would. One of Matthew's methods was to emphasise the ways in which Jesus fulfilled the Jewish scriptures, so Jesus' reply to John regarding both of them did just that.

The other readings remind us of the indescribable joy of coming home after exile in Babylon for the Jewish people - their joy is "everlasting" as it will also be for those in the "kingdom of heaven"; just as the Jews had waited long for the Messiah, so we wait for his return in glory. We do not know how close that may be. James speaks in terms which still makes sense to 21st century farmers and us; "be patient, do not lose heart" even in the face of the coming (or not) of the rains at the proper time. The Psalm reminds us of the ultimate source of everything we need. We do not necessarily see justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry or protection for the stranger, but we can depend on the knowledge that "the Lord" has it all in hand. "The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age."

Quotable Quote

"This Advent we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention. We set our sights on things above, where God is. We draw closer to Jesus. When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King."

Mark Zimmernan

On the Lighter Side

A little girl stood up on the pews, and while jumping up and down and said, "Look mom, Fr John's wearing pink!" Fr John, a Parish Priest in Georgia USA, writes: "In our parish, we have a number of breast-cancer survivors. So, in support of them, many wear a pink flower on this Sunday in Advent, and to remind the women of the parish to be screened regularly. Although this is a local custom, it's also a celebration of survival that is now truly linked with Gaudete Sunday and "pink" in our culture.

Humour

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged for. Then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter.

'What are you doing?' his mother asked.

'The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken,' the boy explained. 'I'm looking for the seal.'

MULTICULTURAL AWARD FOR TERESA

Congratulations to Teresa Muto who attended Government House last Wednesday night to receive a Meritorious Service to the Community Award for her involvement with Federazione Catholica. Teresa was President/Secretary for 15 years. The group was established by Sr. Josephine in 1981 and was a voluntary fundraising and community service organisation.

Congratulations Teresa!