

WELCOME TO SACRED HEART PARISH TATURA

Fr Michael Morley – Parish Priest

Sacred Heart – Tatura

Telephone Tatura – 03 – 5824 1049

Fax Tatura – 03 – 5824 2745

Email tatura@cdos.org.au

Web www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au
<https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartparishtatura>

Presbytery – 65 Hogan Street

PO Box 110 TATURA 3616

Mary Connelly-Gale – Secretary

Marli Kelly - Administration

We acknowledge the Yorta Yorta nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, as they have occupied and cared for this country for many generations. We also celebrate their continuing contributions to the life of this region.



**Sacred
Heart
Parish**
TATURA

Readings

Year C

Luke

Weekday Year 1



Parish Pastoral Council

In recess until further notice 2018

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.

First Sunday of Advent – 2nd December 2018

ADVENT

As we celebrate the start of the Advent season let's reflect on some things.

Today is known as Advent Sunday and is the first day of the liturgical year in our Church. Advent Sunday is four weeks before Christmas Day. This is equivalent to the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (30th November) and the Sunday following the Feast of Christ the King. It can fall on any date between 27 November and 3 December.



The theme of readings and teachings during Advent is often to prepare for the Second Coming while commemorating the First Coming of Christ at Christmas. With the view of directing the thoughts of Christians to the first coming of Jesus Christ as savior and to his second coming as judge, special readings are prescribed for each of the four Sundays in Advent.

Today we commence lighting our Advent Wreath with the first candle. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Welcome

Next year we will see a new face around Sacred Heart School. Miss Jessie Simpson will be joining the staff. She is currently teaching at St Luke's, Shepparton.

Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent 2018

"God of Advent Hope,
Grant us above all to see
that our ways are not necessarily Your ways,
that we cannot fully penetrate the mystery of Your
designs
and that the very storm of power now raging on this
earth
reveals Your hidden will and Your inscrutable
decision.
Grant us to see Your face in the lightening of this
cosmic storm,
O God of Holiness, merciful to all.
Grant us to seek peace where it is truly found!
In Your will, O God, is our peace!
Amen."

(Thomas Merton, "The non Violent alternative" in "Bridges"
Book One, pp 53-54)

Baptism



JACK WILLIAM DICKINSON

Congratulations to Jack William Dickinson who is being baptised today.
We welcome him into our faith family.

	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Mary Steele
	Our sick and their carers	Joe Vraca, Bruce McLeod, Ebony Hamilton, Br Gerard O'Brien (Moira Anderson's brother NT),

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

Date	Commentator	Reader	Gospel Procession	Presentation of the Gifts	Special Ministers	Counter
8 th Dec Sat 6pm	Mary Gale	Sheila Gregg	Joan Webster	J Caiafa D Hamilton	A Ciavarella L McGrath G Ranson	Trish Warnett
9 th Dec Sun 9:30am	CHILDREN'S MASS				S De Lai J De Lai R Kelly	

MASSES FOR THE COMING WEEK		
DAY	DATE	
Monday	3 Dec	No Mass
Tuesday	4 Dec	No Mass
Wednesday	5 Dec	No Mass
Thursday	6 Dec	No Mass
Friday	7 Dec	No Mass
Saturday	8 Dec	6 pm Mass
Sunday	9 Dec	9:30 am Mass
Saturday Reconciliation	8 Dec	11:30 am Reconciliation
ROSARY	15 Minutes Before Weekday Mass	

DECEMBER DIARY DATES		
Mon	3 Dec	St Francis Xavier
Tues	4 Dec	2:50 pm – Advent Week 2 – Year 4/5 – Mercy Centre
Wed	5 Dec	
Thurs	6 Dec	
Fri	7 Dec	St Ambrose
Sat	8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:30 am Delivery Gifts to Prison 6:00 pm Mass
Sun	9 Dec	9:30 am Children's Mass – Cuppa after Mass Baptism – Emma Nisbet
Mon	10 Dec	
Tues	11 Dec	2:50 pm – Advent Week 3 – Year 2/3 – Mercy Centre
Wed	12 Dec	9:15 Anointing Mass 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting Carols by Candlelight
Thurs	13 Dec	
Fri	14 Dec	
Sat	15 Dec	
Sun	16 Dec	
Pauline Hindson 5824 1841; Anne Hutchison 5824 3460; Debbie Worm 5824 1841		

May the God, source of hope, fill you with joy and peace in your faith, so that your hope may increase greatly by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Thoughts for the 2018/19 Year of Social Justice

Step 7 of 10 *continued from last week...*

“Advocate For Change Locally and Nationwide

Australia needs to become more a community willing to address both the causes and the consequences of homelessness. We need the social, economic and political resolve to address this crisis... Everyone deserves a place to call home.

Statement 2018-2019, P.18

Encourage your parish, school or youth group to make homelessness a priority issue. Link with other social justice groups that work to end homelessness.

- Join the Everybody's Home campaign: www.everybodyshome.com.au
- Consider if your group or parish could join a larger organisation or help form one. Examples are: Shelter, Council to Homeless Persons, state Community Alliance groups and the Australian Council of Social Services.

To be continued next week...

(From Ten Steps to Making a Home for everyone in our Land brochure)

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY TO THE PRISONERS

Reminder to those going to the prison next Saturday 8th December to deliver presents we are leaving St Vincent de Paul Centre at 8:45am sharp.

Many thanks – St Vincent de Paul Conference Member

STAYING MINDFUL

Taken from Jim Quillinan's "Along the Track"

Continued from last week

November is a time to remember those special connections, to join together in mind and heart and in prayers.

And so we pray:

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with our hearts full of prayers both spoken and those we cannot put into words. You are the light in our darkness, our refuge and strength, and so with confidence we offer our prayers to you.

There is no place where you cannot reach, God who made all the heavens and the earth, the light and the darkness.

There is no journey which you have not travelled God who is with us in Jesus the Christ who became one with us. Who suffered death and then rose.

There are no people beyond your care, God who is the Spirit, the Comforter, the Healer, the One who continues to give life.

Be with us, Lord and be with those we love and those we miss so dearly.

We pray especially today for those who grieve. Stay close to them, Lord so that they may feel your continued healing presence in their lives Stay with them, Lord. May they feel the comfort of your love so that they may come to face each new day with hope.

May their memories become joyful, may their days be enriched with friendship and the understanding support of others.

We commend to your loving care all those who have died. Take them into your loving care, loving God. They have always been in your mind and heart, even before they came into being. You wanted each of us to live, to enjoy life forever.

We give thanks to You, loving God who made us, for all those who have been blessings in our lives, and we ask forgiveness for the times when we took them for granted, when we did not show them our love and gratitude.

When the sadness of death touches our lives it is to You that we turn in faith with our questions and our need for reassurance and comfort.

Lighten our darkness with your love, your consolation; Stay with us with your love and kindness We pray in the name of Jesus whose arms were outstretched on the Cross to embrace all people.

Amen

Along the track

Staying mindful – 21 November 2017

ST VINCENT de PAUL Christmas Tree

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas tree is in the Church.

The envelopes hanging on the tree has the age and gender of the child for which a gift needs to be purchased.

Please ensure you take an envelope or two purchase a gift and return it to the tree by the next weekend (8th-9th December)

Many thanks for your continued generosity and support for this very worthy cause.



I have been putting thoughts and ideas before you for several months. These thoughts have been in the Bulleting each week or on our web page under Plenary.

Now is the time and also your opportunity to have some input into what the bishops of Australia are asking of us.

"Listen to what the Spirit is Saying"

At this stage take a card and write your response on it and return it next week.

We will also have the opportunity to fill in a card during Mass next weekend 9th **December**.

Fr Michael

Catholic Church 'open for business' in Townsville

Townsville Bishop Tim Harris has called for local business leaders to help the Catholic Church discern the way forward by introducing them to the Plenary Council 2020 process in the inaugural "Bishop's Breakfast".

Bishop Harris, who used the gathering of 185 people to outline the major contribution the Church makes to the community through education, parish life and ministries, also encouraged those in attendance to consider how the Church continues to be that force for good.

"Mindful of where our Church is at present and the challenges it faces, what do you think the Church needs to hear at this critical juncture?," he asked.

"The Bishops of Australia, of which I am one, also believe that together we are on a journey of listening to God by listening to one another, which means that if we are going to remain in 'business', then we need to be open to new ways for new times.

"As Bishop of this local Church of Townsville, I've been 'listening' since I arrived and in the midst of listening, I've also made decisions – I hope informed decisions – to ensure that things keep moving. The realities of this Diocese are becoming known to me and the fact that the Diocese is in 'listening' mode is being further assisted by the Plenary Council lead-up, which is all about 'listening' too."



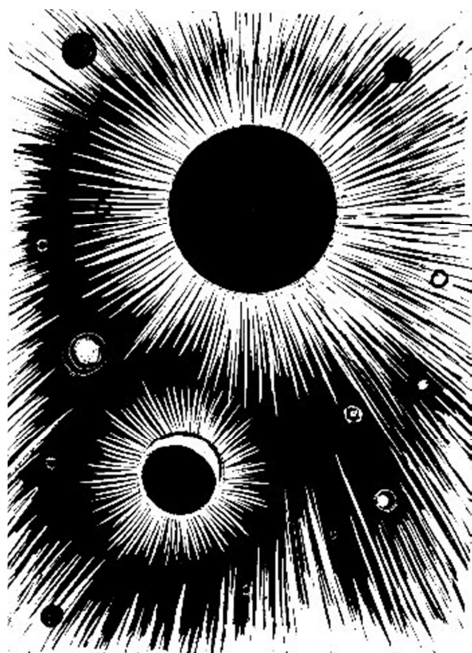
Readings for
this week:

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



Liturgical Jottings

Advent - Christmas Hymns

Advent has several appropriate hymns in preparation for Christ's birth. One classic hymn is "O Come O Come Emmanuel" based on the O Antiphons. We are preparing for Christmas not rehearsing for it, so we should avoid Christmas carols during the Advent Liturgy. Some Advent hymns refer to winter and coldness (Northern hemisphere) so not appropriate for Australia.

Jolanta Szymakowski, (Pastoral Liturgy Vol 49.1) identifies three types of Christmas carols or songs:

- 1 Songs about the infant Jesus
 - 2 Songs about presence of God
 - 3 Songs about the holiday season.
- Types 1 & 2 are appropriate for liturgical use, Type 2 for Christmas Day Masses with the Gospel of the prologue of John's Gospel.

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Focus on the Readings

The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Words from Pope Francis

Look at Jesus. His deep compassion reached out to others. It did not make him hesitant, timid or self-conscious, as often happens with us. Quite the opposite! His compassion made him go out actively to preach and to send others on a mission of healing and liberation. Let us acknowledge our weakness, but allow Jesus to lay hold of it and send us too on mission. We are weak, yet we hold a treasure that can enlarge us and make those who receive it better and happier. Boldness and apostolic courage are an essential part of mission. *Pope Francis, Gaudete Et Exsultate (2018) n131.*

On the lighter Side

After Carols by Candlelight, the musicians go out to relax. C, an E-flat, and a G go into a bar. The bartender says: "Sorry, but we don't serve minors." So the E-flat leaves, and the C and the G have an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and the G is out flat. An F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough. ... *to be continued.*



For Sale in the Narthex

Advent/Christmas Booklet - 'Saviour' \$5

Christmas Cards - \$10

Columban Art Calendars \$9