



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

Advent and Easter

Advent, as a season of the church, evolved in the end of the fourth century in Gaul and Spain as preparation for the Feast of Christmas, 25 December, the winter solstice. The birth of Christ was regarded by the Christians of the day as the beginning of the mystery of humanity's deliverance from the darkness of sin, culminating with the feast of Easter. Hence the season of Advent took on some of the elements of the season of Lent. Also at this time the meaning of the festival of Christmas varied. From just a memorial of Christ's birth (St Augustine) to a sacramental type in celebrating the actual event in the present moment (St Leo). Rome did not have a season of Advent until the sixth century. Several prayers of the Advent liturgies point to the resurrection of Christ: "to free us from sin and renew his life within us. {Collect 3rd Tuesday of Advent}. Also see the prayer opposite.

Focus on the Readings

The scripture texts for this Sunday carry several themes. Micah, a shepherd from Bethlehem, prophesies the coming of a ruler-shepherd with power and majesty of God. The Letter to the Hebrews unites the coming of Christ as one who suffers and offers himself to complete his purpose; thus taking up the Advent-Easter connection (see the column on the left).

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we are now ready to prepare for the birth of Christ. This year, cycle C Gospel account is the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary with her kinswoman Elizabeth. Comparing with Cycle A, the annunciation to Joseph, and Cycle B the annunciation to Mary, we can infer that Elizabeth also received an annunciation from a messenger of God that Mary will bear the Saviour. Here are five faith-filled people in the drama of Christmas: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary and John, yet to be born leaping for joy. Each and everyone have a wonderful role in welcoming the Saviour into the world. May we enter the drama of Christmas with faith and our part to play.

Advent / Easter Prayer

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Collect Prayer of the fourth Sunday of Advent and the Angelus



Excerpts from the Synod 2024

The need for conversion certainly concerns the relations between men and women. ... Inequality between men and women is not part of God's design. In the new creation, this difference is reconsidered in the light of the dignity of Baptism: "As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3: 27-28). ... We bear witness to the Gospel when we seek to live in relationships that respect the equal dignity and reciprocity between men and women. The widely expressed pain and suffering on the part of many women from every region and continent, both lay and consecrated, during the synodal process, reveal how often we fail to do so. (Part 1 n.52)

On the lighter side

How Santa fits in with the religious meaning of Christmas can be confusing for little kids. This was evidenced by a three-year-old, who pretended to read from a book: "Then Santa forgave them their trespasses."



 Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	

NEXT TWO WEEK'S ROSTERS

Christmas Mass Rosters are on display in the Narthex, please add your Name if you can assist with any of the ministries.

Sunday 29th December 10:30am

Commentator: Debbie Worm
Reader: Rob Miller
Gospel Procession: Delphi Hamilton
Gifts: Barry & Jan Lowe
Special Minister: Connie Serra

Saturday 4th January 6:00pm

Commentator: Anne Hutchison
Reader: Mary Vraca
Gospel Procession: Deb Turvey
Gifts: J Caiafa & D Hamilton
Screen Operator: Deb Turvey
Music Operator: Trish Warnett

Sunday 5th January 10:30am

Commentator: Anne Marie Nihill
Reader: Dean Filgate
Gospel Procession: Barabara Miller
Gifts: A Basile & L Mercuri
Special Minister: Anna Ciavarella
Screen Operator: Mary Connelly-Gale
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: S De Lai & E Worm

Thanks to all of our volunteers, we appreciate the support you give to your parish.

Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of parish.

May God bless you always.

Last week: \$940.10



Three Week Mass Timetable

Week Commencing 24th December

Weekday Masses

Tue 24 December Christmas Vigil Carols 5:30pm
Mass 6:00pm

Wed 25 December Christmas Day 10:30am

Friday 27 December 9:15am

Weekend Masses

Sunday 29 December 10:30am

Weekend Mass

Sat 4 January 6:00pm

Sun 5 January 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 8th January 9:15am

Friday 10th January 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sunday 12th January 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30pm

Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month
at 2pm in St Mary's Hall.
All welcome.



There will be no meeting in January

Individual Reconciliation: Sunday 22nd
December from 11:30am to 12:30pm

Christmas Rosters are listed in the Narthex, please add your Name for Christmas Day if you are available, thank you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FR UDAY Fr Uday wishes all parishioners a grace filled Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2025. May God bless and fill our families with His love and graces.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Tatura Catholic Parish would like to wish all parishioners, teachers, staff and students a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and safe New Year and an enjoyable break over the school holidays.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Luke 1:42

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of the one reality of how God's plan has been revealed in Christ. This is revealed in every Mass and Sacrament we celebrate, and that Christ will be revealed in his glory, when he comes again at a time we do not know.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Micah, when he proclaimed your birth in Bethlehem of the land of Judah, so as to witness your Father's plan that the faithful remnant of Israel would be saved

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament, just as Hebrews emphasizes you were "...commanded in the scroll of the book..." as you pledged your covenant to obey your Father's will

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory in the fullness of your Father's plan, just as your Mother Mary accepted "be it done unto me according to [the] word of the angel Gabriel"

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

Sandhurst Appointments for 2025 Bishop Shane Mackinlay has appointed Mr Geoff Gowdie to the position of Assistant Director, Mission and Pastoral Life and Mrs Claire Spinelli to the position of Youth Ministry Team Leader. (See PDF for further information.)

Geoff and Claire will join the Office of Mission and Pastoral Life at the Chancery in Bendigo in a full-time capacity, commencing on Monday 20 January 2025.

CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we are invited to donate toys and toiletries for distribution locally by St Vincent de Paul. Please leave your donation under the Christmas tree in the church. It would be appreciated that the toys are not wrapped. Also, envelopes are available on the Christmas cash donations. Thank you for your generosity.



KYABRAM CHARITY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

1st Prize \$100 Three620

2nd Prize \$50 Open House

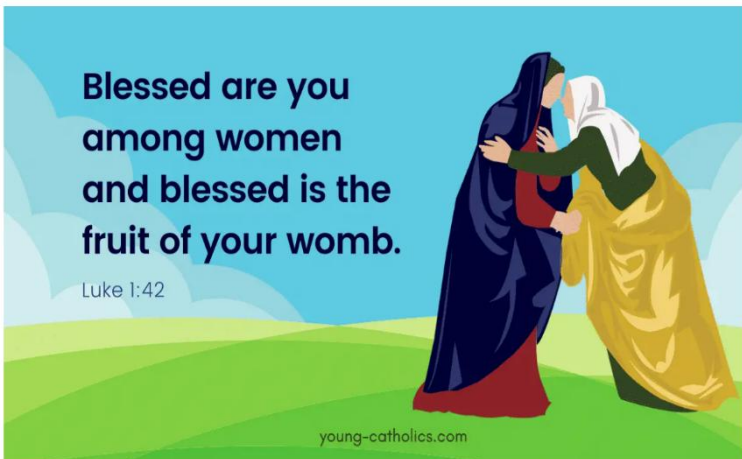
3rd Prize \$20 Open House

Tickets 3 for \$5.

Raffle drawn on Christmas Day in Kyabram.

**Blessed are you
among women
and blessed is the
fruit of your womb.**

Luke 1:42



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

The 4th Sunday of Advent Year C brings us closer to the birth of Jesus and invites us to reflect on important themes. Through the readings from Micah, Hebrews, and Luke, we learn about God's promise, the importance of humble beginnings, obedience to God's will, and recognizing Jesus in our lives. Reflecting on these readings helps prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to see Your presence in our daily lives. Guide us to be humble and obedient to Your will. May we recognize and welcome Jesus in every moment. Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

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