



# Sacred Heart Parish Preston



322 Bell St, Preston 3072  
Phone (03) 9480 3398 or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au  
Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

## Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -3pm

## Parish Priest

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

## Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
0478 963 248

**Parish Office:** Rachel Costa

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Coordinator:** TBA

## Safeguarding Committee:

**Safeguarding Officers:**

Robert Dullard

**Safeguarding Committee: Members:**

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

## Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Natalie Baran, Judeline Wadhvani and Joanne Verga

## Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

## St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)

## Parish Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 6:00pm

**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

### Weekday Masses:

**Monday to Friday:** 9:10am

**Healing Mass:** 1st Friday of February, May, August & November at 1:30pm

**Next Healing Mass:** Friday 2 February 2024

### Devotional Practices:

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Thursday at 7:30pm for 1 hour.  
(Excluding last Thursday of the month)



**NO adoration** on Thursday 28 December

**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English) after the 9:10am Mass

#### Reconciliation:

30 minutes before Mass or by appointment

**Baptisms & Weddings:** By appointment only

#### Breakfast with Fr Aloysius

1st Monday of the month, the next one is on **Monday 4 December** in the presbytery after 9:10am Mass.

Bulletin printed 1/12/2023

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*



## First Sunday of Advent (year B) Sunday 3 December 2023

### Stay Awake! - God Is with Us - Now!

From the end of October, we are well aware of Shopping Centres - draped in red, green, gold and silver tinsel inviting us to 'Buy! Buy! buy!' even if we only came to the place to buy a postage stamp. Our ears are filled with piped music about bells, snow sleds and a kind happy chimney surfer and only occasionally - if you're lucky-a song about something that happened to a family in Bethlehem - which was the point of Christmas in the first place.

In contrast to the reds, greens and shiny stuff around us, Advent is the colour of dawn - that deep purple that slowly lightens the dark night sky reminding us that Brother Sun, temporarily hidden by Earth's spin, is about to overcome 'our darkness and draw us into a new day. Time to brace ourselves, and participate in that new beginning and the Hope that it brings.

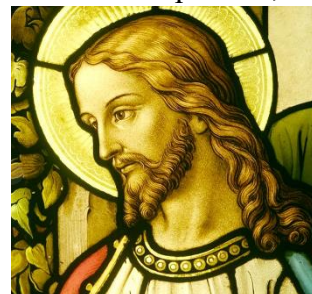
Advent- which means a 'coming' or 'arrival' - is about taking time to be still but alert. We hear in the scriptures the voices of prophets raising the hopes of an oppressed and exiled people assuring them that their ever- faithful God would continue to walk with them and lead them home. We will look back to the 'coming' of a displaced couple who, in desperation, found temporary refuge in an animal shelter for the birthing of their child- God's child and gift to the world - and whose life was about proclaiming the presence of God as Father to all. Then again, the scriptures remind us to stay alert for the final coming of Christ in our future. But most significantly, Advent is a season of hope, joy, peace and renewed sensitivity to the pervading presence and call of God with us now.

If we can open our eyes, ears, minds and especially our hearts we will discover "God with us" through our successes, the struggles, sadness, joy and relationships of daily living.

We'll sense God's presence beckoning us to be bearers of Goodnews to the poor and suffering of our world.

As we hear and reflect on the challenging and encouraging messages of the prophets of the past, St Paul and Jesus, let us be open also to recognise the prophets of our own time who alert or model the hurts and despair of so many in our midst. Let us respond to the call of Jesus today to "Stay awake!" and while celebrating the hope, joy, peace and love we have shared in our lives may we strive to be bearers of God's compassion, forgiveness and love to others.

Yes, Advent is a unique season. It never really begins or ends. It's what life and 'God With Us' is all about!



**"Be watchful!  
Be alert!"**  
Jesus tells his disciples.  
**"You do not know  
when the time will come."**  
Mark 13: 33-37

## Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

*Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Ministers of Communion</b>
02-Dec-23	Celia Lemos Teresa Dang	Mary Harb
09-Dec-23	Terry Murphy Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy
16-Dec-23	Mary Harb Marlene Vergou	Terry Murphy

	<b>Sunday 10:30AM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>
03-Dec-23	Jessica Suppiah Ophelia Swai	Giovanna D' Intino
10-Dec-23	Jessy Thambiraj Hannah Lopez	Eileen Stevens
17-Dec-23	Judeline Wadhvani Albert D'Souza	Tony Eley

	<b>Sunday 6:00PM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>
03-Dec-23	Joanne Verga Natalie Baran	Robert Dullard
10-Dec-23	Michelle Totawatte Tim Rankin	Robert Dullard
17-Dec-23	Joanne Verga Tim Rankin	Damian Casamento



### **WE PRAY FOR:**

#### The elderly and the sick

Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Ylenia Useli, Our Sacred Heart School student Samantha Corsi  
*Our parishioners, family members and friends, that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.*

#### Those who have died recently:

Angel Castro

Ivo Iannessa

Francesco Berton

Francesco Virgato

#### We Commemorate:

Domenico & Clara Sassini,

Giovanni, Filippina & Fedele Paoli

Raffaele & Elisabetta Ciancio

Veneranda Sofra

Deceased members of Ciancio, Maiolo, Monteleone & Zaffino families.

Guisepina Santini

Rachela Ciavarella

Pio Vigo

*O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May they rest in peace. Amen.*



#### Last Week's Collection: 26/11/23

1st Collection for our Church: \$880

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$729

Donation from the Tongan community: \$1,500

Thank you for your kind generosity!



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Sacred Heart Community Preston acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this Sacred land on which our Church stands.



We acknowledge their unique wisdom and ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



### ✠ Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week ✠

Monday 4 December St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor

Wednesday 6 December St Nicholas, Bishop

Thursday 7 December St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor

Friday 8 December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 9 December St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin



### THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



*Let us continue to pray for the serious situation in Israel and Palestine. It is the ordinary people who suffer. Those who wage war do not suffer. Let us ask for peace. And may we not forget the dear Ukrainian people, who are suffering so much and are still at war.*



### Advent Program (Thursdays) 7:30 – 8:30 pm

You are warmly invited to enter into the spirit of Advent when we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Weekly Advent-themed reflections will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:



- Thursday 30 November Stay Awake
- Thursday 7 December Make Straight the Path of the Lord
- Thursday 14 December There Stands among you the One who is coming after me.
- Thursday 21 December You will conceive and bear a Son.
- Tuesday 19 December 7.00 to 8.30 pm Penitential Service



### Advent Candles:

hope, peace, joy, love

The first week of Advent is all about hope.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

God’s mercies never come to an end;

“therefore let us hope in the Lord.” Lamentations 3: 21-24:

*One purple candle is lit.*

Gracious God, As the Advent season begins, we cry out to you. We come to you looking for hope. When everything else we rely on fails us, our only hope is in you. When we do not understand what has happened, we hope in you. We can hope for better days because we trust you. We know you and we know you are here with us no matter what we are facing.

Loving God, remind us that our hope is in you. Be with us on this journey. Amen.



### Sacrificial giving via QR code

To support our parish and priest, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to Sacred Heart Church, Preston.

It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps. The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer.

Kindly consider donating to both the Church and Presbytery accounts.

Many thanks for your continued generosity and support to Sacred Heart parish.



## Please take the bulletin home

## Volunteer End of Year Function

All parish volunteers and staff are invited to our End of Year "Thank You" BBQ Friday 15 December from 6:30 pm onwards in the Parish presbytery. Barbecue meats will be provided by the parish However, BYO drinks and plate to share E.g.: starters, salad, side dishes, bread, desert, fruit etc. Kindly RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or email Rachel at [preston@cam.org.au](mailto:preston@cam.org.au)



## Sacred Heart Giving Tree



Advent begins this week. Once again, we are asking for donations of Gift cards:

- \* Gift Cards of \$10 or more from Coles or Woolworths.
- \* Donations of a Kmart or other Gift Card are a second option.

Kindly take a token from the Giving Tree, purchase a gift card or place cash in the envelope and return it to the church by the third Sunday of Advent (17 Dec).

If you require a receipt, place the donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas gift appeal" with your contact details OR if you require us to collect your donation, Phone Pauline O'Day 9484 2445.

Thank you for your remarkable ongoing care for our neighbours in these difficult times.



## Let's have a CHERRY CHRISTMAS

We would like to thank the newly formed Sacred Heart Social Committee who organised a wonderful event of cherry picking in Coldstream and a visit to the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery on Saturday 25 November.

Here are quotes from some of those who attended:

"A gathering of our community to enjoy the fruits of the world" A.T.

"We'll cherish the cherries moment for a very long time" M.

"We had a wonderful day catching up, sharing stories, laughing together and enjoying a picnic lunch. A very fruitful way to celebrate the start of the festive season....and the cherries and chocolates were delicious" G.G.



## POPE FRANCIS ON COP28

Pope Francis has written an [urgent new message](#) to the world, warning that the climate crisis is approaching "breaking point" and we are running out of time to avoid even worse suffering as a result. The Holy Father had planned to travel to the international COP28 climate talks in Dubai to address world leaders from the Faith Pavilion but illness has prevented him from travel. Let us pray for Pope Francis' recovery and support his message for concrete action and systemic change to prevent ecosystem collapse. The decisions made in Dubai will be key to our planet's future! Please consider signing the Laudato Si' Movement [petition](#) and praying at home – the [Jesuits in Europe](#) have created a beautiful guide to support you in prayer.

Let us Pray: *Cosmic Christ, Risen Lord present in the midst of this crucified Creation, make us know, love and care for the Earth and for all its beings. Move the hearts of the COP28 negotiators so that nature-based solutions are found in order to protect and bless this cradle of life on our path towards your new Creation where you will be all in all. Amen*

## Sacred Heart School Christmas Carols

Venue: Sacred Heart School grounds  
Thursday 7th December, 6.00pm  
All parishioners are warmly invited



## Piety Shop

**Columban calendars** are now available in the Piety shop - \$10

The piety shop stocks small gifts and cards for all **Sacraments** as well as various religious items at reasonable prices. Please take the time to have a look after any of the weekend Masses.

Thank you.



## Christmas Craft Competition

Our 2023 Christmas Craft competition is now on and will culminate in a judging and award ceremony at the December Cuppa – 10th December 2023 after 10:30am Mass at the Sacred Heart Primary School Multi-purpose room.

To register please write your name on the entry sheet at the foyer and indicate which category you will compete for.

There are 3 categories to compete for:

- Christmas Card
  - Christmas Star
  - The Crib in the Nativity Scene
- Crafts will be judged on:
- Presentation
  - Creativity
  - Uniqueness
  - Originality



Let us have fun together preparing for Christmas!



## Children's activity pages

Please find in the foyer of the Church activity pages and pencils for young children to use quietly during Mass.



## Joke Corner

Because it's almost summer: ...

**Every summer, the aquatic centre struggles to keep a pool maintenance manager on staff.**

*We hear the work is draining.*

**Banana Boat sunscreen was hiring, but I didn't get the job.**

*They said I should reapply.*

**How did the swimmers stay clean on the beach?**

*They washed up on shore!*

**Dad was cooking and burned our lunch.**

*Mistakes were made.*

**What is a sheep's favourite summertime food?**

*Baa-baa-cue!*

**Did you hear about the ice cream delivery van's crash?**

*He couldn't handle the rocky road!*

**The hot dog family got to visit their sausage cousins over summer break.**

*Needless to say, they relished their time together!*



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens  
open and come down!

— at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy  
clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the  
wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19*

*The Response Is:*

***Lord, make us turn to you; let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help.

***Lord, make us turn to you; let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

***Lord, make us turn to you; let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.***

May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,

the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your  
name.

***Lord, make us turn to you; let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.***

## SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the  
graces you have received through Jesus  
Christ. I thank him that you have been  
enriched in so many ways, especially in  
your teachers and preachers; the  
witness to Christ has indeed been  
strong among you so that you will not  
be without any of the gifts of the Spirit  
while you are waiting for our Lord  
Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will  
keep you steady and without blame  
until the last day, the day of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, because God by calling  
you has joined you to his Son, Jesus  
Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel  
Acclamation.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

***Alleluia!***

## GOSPEL

*Mark 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your  
guard, stay awake, because you never  
know when the time will come. It is  
like a man travelling abroad: he has  
gone from home, and left his servants  
in charge, each with his own task; and  
he has told the doorkeeper to stay  
awake. So stay awake, because you do  
not know when the master of the house  
is coming, evening, midnight,  
cockcrow, dawn; if he comes  
unexpectedly, he must not find you  
asleep. And what I say to you I say to  
all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE NICENE CREED.

I believe in one God, the Father  
almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not  
made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he  
came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and  
including 'and became man', all bow.)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third  
day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead and his  
kingdom will have no end.

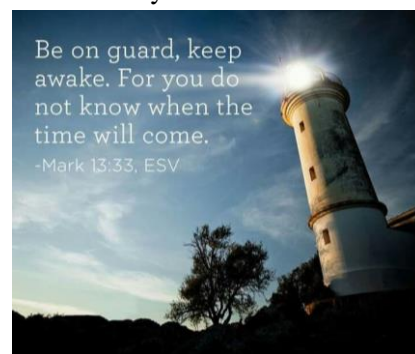
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father and the Son, who with the  
Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the  
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

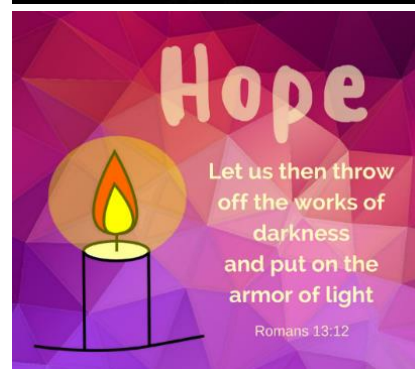
I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins and I look forward  
to the resurrection of the dead and the  
life of the world to come. Amen.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and  
our earth shall yield its increase.



Be on guard, keep  
awake. For you do  
not know when the  
time will come.  
-Mark 13:33. ESV



Hope

Let us then throw  
off the works of  
darkness  
and put on the  
armor of light

Romans 13:12