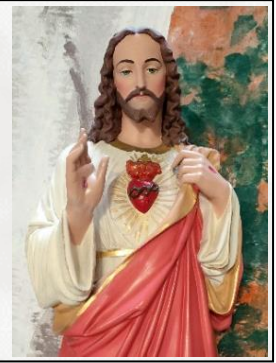




Sacred Heart Parish Preston



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: 10:30am -4pm

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 Officer: Robert Dullard

Safeguarding Committee: Members:

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members, Mark Tierney,

Natalie Baran, Judeline Wadhvani

Liturgy Committee:

Chair – Judeline Wadhvani

Coordinators:

Lectors and Audio Visual – Jessy Thambiraj

Music – Carolina Constable

Safeguarding – Pauline O'Day

Hospitality, Altar & Environment – Marilène

Fortuna

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Xavier Ndour (President) 0402 173 236

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 May 2025

Devotional Practices:

NEW TIME for Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday Morning after the
9:10am Mass for 30 minutes.

Commencing 26 February.



Holy Rosary: Thurs after the 9:10am Mass

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5:15pm

Baptisms & Weddings: By appointment only

Cuppa with Fr Aloysius

1st Monday of the month, the next one is on

Monday 3 March in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass. All welcome

Bulletin printed: 21/2/2025

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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) Sunday 23 February 2025

‘Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate’

The gospel today contains the most challenging of all the Christian commandments and probably the most difficult to keep: love your enemies and do good to those who hurt you.

In last week’s gospel, through the Beatitudes, the disciples learned that to be a faithful follower of Jesus, they must be committed to a new order at variance with ways of the world. This week’s text tells them how they must live in that new order; in a sense, it provides the practical details. What Jesus is suggesting should not be confused with passivity or simply inaction or resignation in the face of persecution and injustice. Quite the contrary! What Jesus is suggesting is radical action. It demands that we act towards others without being asked, that believers offer friendship and pardon constantly, without asking or hoping for anything in return. In Jesus is located God’s self-revelation, God’s actions in and for the world, a plan for salvation and its fulfilment. Followers of Jesus must act in these ways precisely because they are the ways of God – and God, as we are told, is Love which of its nature is open to see the potential good in others because they have discovered it in themselves and to act out of the goodness within oneself. Jesus goes on to elaborate: turn the other cheek; love your enemies. Do not retaliate as this serves to endorse wrong doing. Do good to those who hate you! Be agents of healing not retributive hurt. This may well seem an impossible ideal as a way of life - a huge challenge beyond the Beatitudes.

The first disciples of Jesus may well have made this judgement, had it not been for the memory of the life Jesus had lived in their midst. In the New Testament, these first followers shared how they came to recognise the central importance of the New Commandment of love, as they reflected on the selfless life of Jesus and its culmination in His tragic death. In Jesus' words through John the evangelist, “no greater love can there be than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 25:12-13). Clearly the Law of Love – proclaimed today, is an ideal that none of us may ever fully realise particularly on occasions when our survival or wellbeing is threatened by another and instinct can urge retaliation in us. But being Christian is about striving towards the ideal – not to retaliate in kind and to spread suffering but to model how we should behave towards each other as incited by our God Who Is the ground of all Being – who is Love. So how can we love others as Christ Himself has loved them in our daily interactions? It’s about compassion even for the most misguided. “Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate”. Jesus is teaching us not to set limits to the practical goodwill we bear towards our fellow human beings. The way of true happiness lies in celebrating and sharing the gifts of God’s Spirit that we have received through our faith in Christ Jesus and for this laid down His own life.

The Mystic Theologian Howard Thurman (1899 -1981) said:

“You don’t need anything to bring you to God... When I love people, then I find God in me ...and in them.”

*God, Ground of all being,
open our minds and our hearts
to recognise your Presence and Love
within and for All.*

Amen



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.

Sat 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers
08-Feb-	Marlene Vergou Mary Harb	Terry Murphy	
15-Feb-	Terry Murphy	Charlotte Bainy	
22-Feb-	Marlene Vergou Terry Murphy	Mary Harb	

Sun 10:30am Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection	Altar Servers
09-Feb-	Judeline Wadhvani Jessica Suppiah	Gerard Grant	Judeline	
16-Feb-	Judeline Wadhvani Marilène Fortuna	Eileen Stevens	Judeline	
23-Feb-	Jessica Suppiah Ophelia Swai	Mia Grant	Judeline	

Sun 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
09-Feb-	Snehita Antony Susan Bakani	Damian Casamento
16-Feb-	John Gaffney Jenifer Cahapay	Natalie Baran
23-Feb-	John Gaffney Shanthi Antony	Damian Casamento

A Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Volunteers

Attention Ministers of Communion and Lectors

NEW ROSTERS and updated phone lists will be emailed shortly. Please also check your junk mail folder if you haven't received yours in your inbox. For those who do not receive an email copy please check the Church foyer for your copy.

Thank you all for your faithful service to our Eucharistic Celebrations.



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Margaret Bannan, Charlene Apollos, Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Joan Bonwick, Oliver and James Mendis
Our parishioners, family members and friends, that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.

Those who have died recently:

Yannick Vergou, RIP 9/2

We Commemorate:

Mary Caruana 11th Anniv. - Sun 23/2 at 10:30am

O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Last week's Collection: 16.2.2025

1st Collection for our Church: \$859

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$746

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 †

Thursday 27 February St Gregory Narek, Abbot, Doctor



THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask the Lord to make our hearts humble and receptive to hear His Word and the cry of our brothers and sisters. May we recognise His presence in the weaknesses and wounds of our world.



SACRED HEART PARISH URGENTLY NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

- Slide Projection (All Masses)
- Ministers of Communion (6:00 pm Saturdays)
- Lectors (6:00 pm Saturdays)

Please consider giving some of your time to serve in Our Lord's vineyard here at Sacred Heart Parish.

The more volunteers we have, the fewer times you will be rostered. Thanking all parishioners in anticipation of your generosity. Contact Rachel Costa, Parish Secretary at 9480 3398.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Australian Catholic University is offering an excellent short online training course for current and prospective volunteers interested in this ministry. The parish will be happy to support volunteers by paying for the cost of the course. Please visit

www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training to get course details. Please speak to Rachel Costa, Parish Secretary at 9480 3398 about arranging payment for your attendance.



Volunteers Needed

Are you available to participate in our Ash Wednesday Masses?

Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Ashes, Altar servers, projectionists, are all needed.



If you can assist, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer or email Rachel at: preston@cam.org.au or phone 9480 3398. Thank you



NEW TIME for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Commencing Wednesday 26 February, Adoration will be every Wednesday after the 9:10am morning Mass for 30 Minutes.



All are welcome to spend a holy time with our Lord Jesus in adoration.

"Stay with Me, remain here with Me... Watch and pray..."
(Please note: NO Adoration Thursday 20 February)



Sacrificial giving via QR code

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



Dates to Remember

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

Masses: 9:10am & 7:00pm

Lenten Reflection

Every Wednesday in Lent.

Commencing Wednesday 12 March at 7pm in the Church

All Fridays during Lent –

Stations of the Cross – after 9:10am Mass in the Church



Characteristics of the Jubilee Pilgrimage

The jubilee calls for us to think about setting out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we not only change places physically, we also undergo a personal change. It is important to prepare ourselves well to plan the route and learn about our destination. The word pilgrimage comes from the Latin “per ager” meaning “across the fields” or from “per eger” meaning border crossing”.

In the Bible, Abraham undertakes a long journey, obeying God’s words “Go forth from your land, your relatives and from your father’s house” (Genesis 12:1). He ends up in the Promised Land where he is remembered as a “wandering Aramean” (Deuteronomy 26:5). Jesus’ ministry can also be seen as a journey from Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem. “As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51). Christ calls his disciples to walk this road and even today, Christians are those who follow him and set out after Him.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



Sacred Heart Primary School 2026 Enrolments

Enrolments for 2026 school year Foundation classes open Monday 3rd March.

For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website:

<http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make. Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.



Children’s activity pages

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



Parish Dance

The Social Committee of Sacred Heart Parish church are pleased to present to you the Parish Dance party that will take place on 1st of March at the Sacred Heart Hall at 7:00pm. Registration will be open from 6:30pm onwards.

DJ Starlight will be ensuring that you are on your toes. Games will see that you are entertained. Tea and coffee will be provided. BYO food and drink. The kitchen is inaccessible so heating of food and washing of dishes will not be possible.

Tickets are priced at

- \$15 for adults
- \$10 for children below 12

Discounts for group bookings are available.

- \$5 discount for groups of 5
- \$15 discount for groups of 10

We are going paperless this time, so for bookings please scan the QR code here or on the poster at the foyer or book your tickets on

<https://events.humanitix.com/sacred-heart-parish-dance>

Those interested to assist with preparation and other activities on the day, please contact the social committee to express your interest.



STRENGTH IN PRAYER

“Prayer is the most powerful means we have on earth to come closer to God.”

~ St. Padre Pio ~

In tough times, arming yourself with prayer means choosing to lean on God rather than your own strength. It’s taking a moment to pause, breathe and ask for wisdom and courage. Prayer brings clarity, helping you see the situation with fresh eyes. It reminds you that God’s guidance is always available. In moments of doubt, prayer strengthens your spirit, filling you with peace and assurance. It helps release worry and shifts your focus from fear to hope. Prayer encourages you to embrace faith, knowing that God is always present and at work, even when you can’t see it. It’s not always about changing your circumstances but about shifting your perspective, allowing you to face challenges with a renewed sense of strength. With each prayer, you are reminded that God’s wisdom and love are guiding you through every situation, enabling you to step forward with courage and trust.



Lord, thank You for Your constant love and grace. Help us to live with compassion, serve with humility and walk with faith. Let us reflect Your goodness in everything we do. Amen.

Sourced from www.majellan.media



Joke Corner

An elderly woman visited a grocery store and requested seven kilograms of potatoes. The owner was delighted to help and started packing the potatoes. However, the woman stopped him and requested that each potato be wrapped individually.

The man complied and asked if there was anything else he could help with. The woman then requested four kilograms of onions to be wrapped in a similar manner. The shop owner packed the onions and asked if there was anything else.

The woman then requested seven kilograms of carrots.

“Let me guess,” said the owner with a sour face, “you want them wrapped individually.”

“Oh, that would be wonderful.” she said.

The shop owner did as he was asked and packed all her items in a bag.

The woman then said, “What are in those crates behind you?”

The man flushed red and said, “Madam, these are grapes and they are not for sale!”

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He

called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

The Response Is:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who

slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

