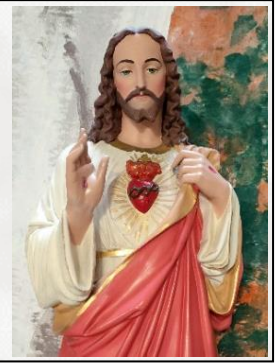




Sacred Heart Parish Preston



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 Officer: Robert Dullard

Safeguarding Committee: Members:

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Mark Tierney,

Ben Fortuna, Natalie Baran, Judeline

Wadhvani and Joanne Verga

Liturgy Committee:

Chair – Judeline Wadhvani

Secretary – (To Be Announced)

Coordinators:

Lectors and Audio Visual – Jessy Thambiraj

Music – Carolina Constable

Ministers of Communion – Tony Eley

Hospitality, Altar & Environment – Jessica

Stanley and Teresa Bernardini

Safeguarding – Pauline O'Day

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 7 Feb. 2025

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

No more Adoration for 2024. Adoration
will recommence in February 2025.



Holy Rosary: Thurs after the 9:10am Mass

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5:15pm

Baptisms & Weddings: By appointment only

Breakfast with Fr Aloysius

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

Monday 6 February in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass. All welcome

Bulletin printed: 20/12/2024

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Sunday 22 December 2024



Candles of God's Love for the World

Throughout biblical history, God has been doing wondrous things through small and unlikely people in places that we would not expect. The prophet Micah lived around the time of Isaiah. His was a message of hope uttered in the midst of despair to the people of God. Judah's king had been deposed by the invader but through Micah, God promises a successor who will be a bearer of peace. The linking events: a woman will give birth to a child - to a king - who will be a shepherd of his people.

The gospel today is the story of a young pregnant woman, Mary of Nazareth, who travels in haste from her home town to the hill country of Judea, to be with an older woman - her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was not only old but also six months pregnant. Being pregnant at that age is not easy. Elizabeth's life could be incredibly difficult. Mary's visit and help was a blessing. She made a difference in the lives of her cousin Elizabeth and of her unborn child, John. When John had grown up, he helped Mary's Son to transform the history of humankind by preparing and walking the Way of the Messiah. Both encourage us to make a difference in others' lives. Both convince us that the work we do or service we offer, no matter how unimportant or small, can benefit others.

The joyful unity of the two women - the older, soon to be the mother of a prophet, with a teenager whose future son will be the incarnation of God's love within humanity - is a celebration of God's supreme gift of Life to be shared. They are models for every Christian.

As we near the celebration of God with us, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God in the lives of those who manifest mercy in our world. We might think of medics bringing relief to men, women and children afflicted by disease and malnutrition. We might think of those in our neighbourhood and families who help out a neighbour in difficult circumstances, who welcome and befriend a refugee family or include an elderly neighbour living alone in our own family celebrations.

We might give thanks for many local groups who put aside individual interests to joyfully work together to support struggling families, victims of drought, fires and floods - and who by their compassion and optimism share and celebrate the gift of God's love for every person. We also give thanks to those of our community their friends and colleagues who have generously given towards our Advent giving tree to bring joy, respect and hope to our neighbours and families who are struggling in so many ways over these times.

The lesson we learn from these and the story of Mary and Elizabeth is that God has pitched His tent among us and is constantly revealing His presence -not through the powerful and mighty of this world but through the most unassuming of prophets. This is what we are preparing to celebrate, share through our families, relatives, friends and communities: God's compassionate pouring out of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to ALL.

**“If only one broken relationship could be mended,
our Christmas - our ‘God with us’ - would be real for one other person.”**
(Sr Clare Condon SGS)



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
21-Dec-	Marlene Vergou Mary Harb	Terry Murphy	
28-Dec-	Marlene Vergou Terry Murphy	Mary Harb	
04-Jan-	Mary Harb Teresa Dang	Charlotte Bainy	

Sun 10:30am Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection	Altar Servers
22-Dec-	Judeline Wadhvani Eileen Stevens	Gerard Grant	Judeline	
29-Dec-	Ophelia Swai Marilène Fortuna	Giovanna D'Intino	Jessy	
05-Jan-	Jessy Thambiraj Jessica Suppiah	Tony Eley	Jessy	

Sun 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
22-Dec-	Jenifer Cahapay John Gaffney	Judith Pimentel
29-Dec-	John Gaffney Jenifer Cahapay	Natalie Baran
05-Jan-	Shanthy Antony Snehita Antony	Robert Dullard

† † † Thanks to All Our Volunteers † † †

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Charlene Apollos, Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Joan Bonwick, 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:

Fr Leonard (Len) Thomas PE - RIP Tue 17/12

We Commemorate:

Chiara Buso, 6th Anniv.. – Sat 21/12 at 6pm

Raffaele De Luca, 1st Anniv. Sun 22/12 at 9am Italian

Frank Mendolicchio - Sun 22/12 at 9am Italian

O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

† † †

Please note:

There is **NO** morning Mass on Friday 27 December.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

There will be Mass on this day at St Luke's church in Lalor at 9am.

† † †

Last Week's Collection: 15.12.2024

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,004

(electronic contributions for November: \$ 2,149)

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$821

(electronic contributions for November: \$220)

Donation from Bible Study Group: \$120

Thank you for your kind generosity!

† † †

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.



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 23 December St John of Kęty, Priest

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

Thursday 26 December St Stephen, the First Christian Martyr

Friday 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday 28 December Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

† † †



THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus' genealogy makes us think about our own ancestors, grandparents, and the value of all elderly people. They are a gift from God, and we should be grateful and cherish them. We should not let them spend the upcoming Christmas holidays alone.

† † †



Advent Candles:

hope, peace, joy, love

In this **final week of Advent**, our attention is on **love**. In The Gospel of Matthew Jesus says “‘You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall **love** your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Three purple candles and one pink candle are lit.

God, we have learned to **love** from being **loved** by you.

And so today, let us enact that **love**. Let us live that **love**.

We know that what the world needs now is more **love**. We need to remember how much you **love** each one of us and we must share that **love** with others. Amen.

† † †



We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support. Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised **\$811,178** including **\$365** contributed by Sacred Heart Parish, Preston.

These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives.

Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.

2024 Christmas Mass times

at Sacred Heart Church

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm Family Mass

9:30pm Carols before 10pm Mass

10:00pm (in lieu of midnight) Mass

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

9:00am Italian Mass - Nativity

10:30am Parish Mass - Nativity

UNDERSTANDING JUBILEE 2025

The most striking part of the logo is the cross. It bends towards humanity and forms an anchor. It depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19)

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love and one that carries us together in the pilgrimage towards heaven.



Sacred Heart

Christmas Gift Appeal 2024

Advent begins this week and the Giving Tree will once again appear in the Church foyer.

This year once again parishioners are invited to:

- * **Take a labelled gift token** from the giving tree to:
- * **Donate a food gift card** of \$10 or more (Coles Woolworths or Aldi) for a family to purchase Christmas food items or
- * **A Kmart, Toys R Us or other Card** as a gift for a family member to purchase for another or
- * **Give a cash donation** for us purchase a gift card on your behalf. If so, please place your donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details if you require a receipt. You may either:
- * Return the envelope to the Church and place in a secure labelled box or
- * Deliver your gift to the Presbytery or
- * Contact Moira McMahon 0439 619 623 or Pauline O'Day 0497 935 593 to arrange collection of your donation.
- * We are not specifying gifts of toys or items. But if you or members of the family would like to donate a small gift for a child or young person, please feel free to leave it in the large box by the giving tree and we will deliver it. Thank you.



🎄 CHRISTMAS DAY 🎄

"Let us not forget to thank God for the gift of Jesus, the greatest gift of Christmas."

~ Pope Francis ~

Christmas Day is a time for families to come together, sharing moments of joy, love and laughter. It's about enjoying meals, telling stories and simply being with those who make us feel at home. Family isn't just about who we are related to, it's anyone who brings love and happiness into our lives.

If you are spending Christmas on your own, please remember being alone doesn't mean you're not in people's thoughts. This season reminds us that the heart of Christmas is about care, understanding and reaching out to one another, no matter how near or far.

Christmas also highlights the absence of those we have lost, the loved ones who are no longer with us, leaving an empty place at the table and in our hearts. Yet, the memories they have left behind bring comfort and keep them close, even when they can't be here.

This Christmas, let's appreciate the love we share with those around us and remember the ones we miss. Their love is still a part of our lives, making this special day brighter and more meaningful.

"Lord, on this holy day, we thank You for the gift of Jesus.

*May His love fill our hearts with joy,
our homes with love and our lives with hope.*

Amen."

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Christmas Roster

	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
24/12 - 6pm Family Mass	Carolina Constable Peter Constable	Terry Murphy Ivana Lo Bello
24/12 - 10pm Vigil Mass	Jessy Thambiraj Jenifer Cahapay	Judith Pimentel Jessy Thambiraj
25/12 - 10:30am Christmas Day Mass	Judeline Wadhvani Marilène Fortuna	Giovanna D'Intino Tony Eley



Christmas Eve Family Mass 6pm 24 December

Families are very welcome to participate in this Mass in various ways. Children may come dressed as Nativity Characters and help present the Gospel Story.

Parents also will be welcome to assist. Other ways to participate might include procession of Offertory gifts, ringing of bells etc.

Please contact the parish office or Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 or 0497 935 593 if you wish to participate or for more information on how our children and families will be included this year.



Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties.

There are hundreds of people have been injured or trapped under rubble and at least 14 people deceased with the death toll expected to continue to rise. People remain fearful of further disaster, as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis.

This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts.

Please **Donate today:** <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>



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.



CTC 2025 Enrolments are open

Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality

- Introductory or further studies available
- Face-to-face or online modes available
- Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information:

[view our 2025 Prospectus](http://view.our.2025.Prospectus)

ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/



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 😊

How is Christmas exactly like your job?

You do all the work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.

How do you know when Santa's around?

You can always sense his presents.

What's every parent's favourite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsil-itis!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.

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

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give
birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his
God.

They will live secure, for from then on
he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

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

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into
the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or
oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll
of the book,

‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will.’

Notice that he says first: You did not
want what the Law lays down as the
things to be offered, that is: the
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts
and the sacrifices for sin, and you took
no pleasure in them; and then he says:
Here I am! I am coming to obey your
will. He is abolishing the first sort to
replace it with the second. And this will
was for us to be made holy by the
offering of his body made once and for
all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand for the Gospel
Acclamation.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of
Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house
and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as
Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the
child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth
was filled with the Holy Spirit. She
gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women
you are the most blessed, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb. Why should I
be honoured with a visit from the
mother of my Lord? For the moment
your greeting reached my ears, the
child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,
blessed is she who believed that the
promise made her by the Lord would be
fulfilled.’

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and
bear a son;

and his name will be called Emmanuel.

