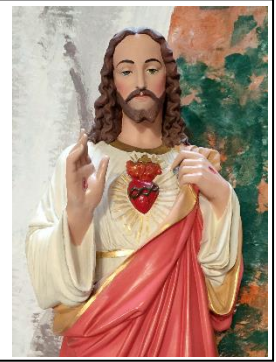




Sacred Heart Parish Preston



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 5 February** in the presbytery after 9:10am Mass.

Bulletin printed 22/12/2023

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (year B) Sunday 24 December 2023

"Glory to God"

The theme that runs through today's readings is giving Glory to God. King David builds a temple to the glory of God. St Paul exhorts us to give glory to God; and in the gospel, Mary gives glory to God by accepting His plan for her and dedicating her entire life to God.

How can we give glory to God?

Following the examples of King David and Mary in today's readings, we can glorify God by recognising our own lowly beginnings, recognising that who and what we are, we attained by God's grace and for this we are grateful to Him. David recognised that he was a simple shepherd of his father's flock, before God chose him to be the great king of Israel. And looking at Mary, she acknowledged before the angel Gabriel that she was the 'handmaid' of the Lord.

Accepting God's plan for us and allowing Him to work in and through us is another way of glorifying God. When the angel announced to Mary that God chose her to become the mother of his Son, not fully understanding what this message meant, but fully trusting God, she responded: 'Let it be done to me according to your word'. And so, she availed herself like an instrument in God's hand.

We can give glory to God by using our resources for the works of God. King David decided to use the riches of his kingdom to build a temple to honour God. Of course, God does not need our material resources, but to use them or contribute them to help spreading the Good News, to promote worship of God, to help those in need, etc., we give glory to God.

Another example of glorifying God we can learn from David and Mary, is believing that God can do more than we expect. While God empowered the young David to kill lions and bears, he believed that God would empower him to defeat the feared by all, Goliath. Mary, in turn, in accepting the assurance of angel Gabriel that 'with God nothing is impossible'. She believed that she would conceive without knowing a man and give birth to the Son of God!

We also give God glory when we believe that He can do more in our lives than we ask for or can dream of, for nothing is impossible with God! When we lead our lives to the glory of God, he glorifies us even more. Therefore, in all circumstances, good or bad, let us give glory to God who gives us the strength to live according to the Good News.

*Glory be to the Father,
glory be to the Son,
glory be to the Spirit,
all glory to our God.*



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.

	Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers	Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Ministers of Communion
23-Dec-23	Terry Murphy Mary Harb	Charlotte Bainy
30-Dec-23	Marlene Vergou Mary Harb	Terry Murphy
06-Jan-24	Teresa Dang Terry Murphy	Mary Harb

	Sunday 10:30AM Mass - Readers	Sunday 10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion
24-Dec-23	Hannah Lopez Marilene Fortuna	Giovanna D' Intino
31-Dec-23	Jessica Suppiah Ophelia Swai	Eileen Stevens
07-Jan-24	Jessy Thambiraj Judeline Wadhvani	Tony Eley

	Sunday 6:00PM Mass - Readers	Sunday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion
24-Dec-23	Christmas roster	Christmas roster
31-Dec-23	Volunteer	Damian Casamento
07-Jan-24	Michelle Totawatte Natalie Baran	Robert Dullard

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Sandra Bishop, John Storrie
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:

Agnes Fernandez
Sr Sheila Thompson FMM
George McBrien (RIP 17/12. Rosary - Wed 27/12 at 7pm.
Funeral - Thurs 28/12 at 11am)

We Commemorate:

Frank Mendolicchio
Amelia & Hugo Tassone
*O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Last Week's Collection: 17/12/23

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,109
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$854
Advent Ukraine Appeal: \$602
Thank you for your kind generosity!

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next batch of thanksgiving envelopes are in the foyer ready for collection.
Kindly collect yours if you haven't already.
Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

Please note:

There is NO morning Mass on Tuesday 26 December.
We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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 25 December Christmas Day
Tuesday 26 December St Stephen, the First Christian Martyr
Wednesday 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday 28 December Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday 29 December St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr



THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



May we not forget people suffering the evils of war. Let us think about children in war and the things they see. May we draw near to the Nativity Scene to ask Jesus for peace. He is the Prince of Peace.



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.



SAFE PARKING PRACTICE AT SACRED HEART PARISH

All visitors and parishioners are reminded **not to park** vehicles in the driveways around the church building, including

1. The straight driveway leading to the rear car park.
 2. The curved shaped driveway in front of the church entrance.
- Parking in these driveways is a safety risk and restricts access for emergency services such as ambulances in the event of a medical emergency which could have serious consequences. Parking in these areas is also a safety risk for people, including children. Thank you for being considerate and looking after each other in true Sacred Heart community spirit.



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

2023 Christmas Mass times
at Sacred Heart Church

Sunday 24 December
Christmas Eve

6:00pm Family Mass
9:00pm Carols before 10pm Mass
10:00pm (in lieu of midnight) Mass

Monday 25 December
Christmas Day

9:00am Italian Mass - Nativity
10:30am Parish Mass – Nativity



Christmas Family Mass: Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December at 6pm

Children are welcome to come dressed as crib characters and will be involved in various ways.

As in past years, currently listed Parish Readers or Ministers of Eucharist are welcome to sign up -as also are parents for their children-on the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Church Foyer. Please include a contact number.



Sacred Heart
Giving Tree



Sincere thanks to all who have supported our parish giving tree. Over the past weeks our St Vincent de Paul Team have, on your behalf been delivering the generous gifts of our parish and school individuals, families, friends and other groups to families who have received them with much joy and gratitude.

All donations received will continue to go towards supporting our local families and neighbours struggling over the holiday period to meet everyday essential and back to school expenses.

Our Giving tree appeal and individually designated donations has raised over \$2500.

May the peace and love of Christ whose humble birth we celebrate at this time be ever with you and your Families. Thank you all!

The St Vincent de Paul team.



Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.'

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413



Children's activity pages

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



CHRISTMAS

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.” – Pope Francis

Christmas is a time of joy and inspiration, celebrating the birth of Jesus, a symbol of love and hope. As we exchange gifts and enjoy festivities, let's remember the true spirit, Christ's message of kindness, compassion and selflessness. During our celebrations, why not extend a helping hand to those in need, for that generosity transforms those moments into opportunities for shared warmth and solidarity, fostering a sense of unity that transcends the joy of the season.

Let this Christmas strengthen our faith and values and guide us towards a purposeful life. May the coming year inspire us to see the beauty in every moment, find joy in the smallest gestures and embrace all situations with optimism. ♥

Dear God, this Christmas we come before You with hearts full of gratitude. Thank You for the gift of Your love, symbolised by the birth of Jesus Christ. In the midst of festivities, help us remember the true essence of Christmas - love, compassion and the joy of giving. Bless our homes with warmth, our gatherings with laughter and our hearts with the spirit of kindness. Thank You for the hope and joy that Christmas brings. Amen.

Sourced from www.majellan.media

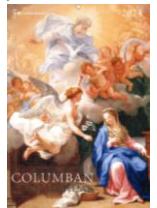


Piety Shop

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.



Joke Corner

Why don't you ever see Santa in the hospital? Because he has private elf care!

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has No-el.es

My husband cooks for me on Christmas Day like I'm a goddess by placing burnt offerings before me.

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

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

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

What kind of photos do elves take? Elfies!

What's the best thing to put in your Christmas dinner?
Your teeth!



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

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house
and the Lord had given him rest from
all the enemies surrounding him, the
king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look,
I am living in a house of cedar while the
ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan
said to the king, 'Go and do all that is
in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'
But that very night the word of the Lord
came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus
the Lord speaks: Are you the man to
build me a house to dwell in? I took you
from the pasture, from following the
sheep, to be leader of my people Israel;
I have been with you on all your
expeditions; I have cut off all your
enemies before you. I will give you
fame as great as the fame of the greatest
on earth. I will provide a place for my
people Israel; I will plant them there
and they shall dwell in that place and
never be disturbed again; nor shall the
wicked continue to oppress them as
they did, in the days when I appointed
judges over my people Israel; I will
give them rest from all their enemies.
The Lord will make you great; the Lord
will make you a House. And when your
days are ended and you are laid to rest
with your ancestors, I will preserve the
offspring of your body after you and
make his sovereignty secure. I will be a
father to him and he a son to me; if he
does evil, I will punish him with the rod
such as men use, with strokes such as
mankind gives. Your House and your
sovereignty will always stand secure
before me and your throne be
established for ever.'"

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

The Response Is:

***For ever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.***

I will sing for ever of your love, O
Lord; through all ages my mouth will
proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts
for ever, that your truth is firmly
established as the heavens.

***For ever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.***

'I have made a covenant with my
chosen one;

I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

***For ever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.***

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."

I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.'

***For ever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.***

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you
the strength to live according to the
Good News I preach, and in which I
proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of
a mystery kept secret for endless ages,
but now so clear that it must be
broadcast to pagans everywhere to
bring them to the obedience of faith.
This is only what scripture has
predicted, and it is all part of the way
the eternal God wants things to be. He
alone is wisdom; give glory therefore
to him through Jesus Christ for ever
and ever. Amen.

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 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a
town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a
virgin betrothed to a man named
Joseph, of the House of David; and the
virgin's name was Mary. He went in
and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly
favoured! The Lord is with you.' She
was deeply disturbed by these words
and asked herself what this greeting
could mean, but the angel said to her,

'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won
God's favour. Listen! You are to
conceive and bear a son, and you must
name him Jesus. He will be great and
will be called Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne
of his ancestor David; he will rule over
the House of Jacob for ever and his
reign will have no end.' Mary said to
the angel, 'But how can this come
about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy
Spirit will come upon you' the angel
answered 'and the power of the Most
High will cover you with its shadow.
And so the child will be holy and will
be called Son of God. Know this too:
your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her
old age, herself conceived a son, and
she whom people called barren is now
in her sixth month, for nothing is
impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid
of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you
have said be done to me.' And the angel
left her.

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.

